

PREACH THE  
**GOSPEL**



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Martin Rizley



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*Preach the Gospel*

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## Foreword

This brief work by Martin Rizley presents a thoroughly biblical view of the preeminent missionary task—the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The biblical truths contained in this simple discourse function as a subordinate standard to judge our missionary orthodoxy, a compass to guide our missionary activities, and a scale or rule to measure the eternal value of our missionary labor.

The Great Commission is a doctrinal endeavor. It is about the communication of God’s inerrant and immutable truth to men. Although this truth can be communicated to some degree through personal relationships, dialog, and even good works, the principal means of communicating the gospel is through preaching. The apostle Paul wrote, “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). Preaching is the preeminent task of the missionary, and the foremost subject of that preaching is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Again, Paul writes to the church in Corinth, “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3–4).

Dear brethren, most ministers, missionaries, and laymen know and affirm these truths when they hear them,

but how often do we forget them in the midst of the battle when so many other worthy needs are set before us? Nevertheless, like the apostles, we must recognize that “it is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables,” but we must “give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2, 4).

The preeminence of gospel preaching at home and abroad demands that the foundational truths in this brief discourse not only be taught to the young but also be set before the seasoned missionary so that he does not forget his primary task of preaching. How astute is our enemy to send us on errands that the Lord of the harvest never commissioned? How willing is our enemy to engage us in “good things” if he can keep us from doing the greatest thing—proclaiming, heralding, expounding, and explaining the gospel of our Lord? None of us are immune to these distractions.

For this reason, this brief work by a veteran missionary, pastor, preacher, and teacher is worthy of being read time and time again. If you are a young aspiring missionary, then I plead with you to take the truths communicated in this booklet and “bind them as a sign on your hand” and “as frontlets between your eyes” until they become a part of you (Deut. 6:8). If you are a seasoned missionary who has made gospel proclamation your cause, then let the large truths contained in this small work affirm your obedience and encourage you. If you have strayed from preaching, then let this work call you back to the primary task for which you were sent—preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Woe to us if we preach not the gospel (1 Cor. 9:16).

—Paul David Washer