ST. PAUL’S CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGIES AS REVEALED IN SELECTED PASSAGES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

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Abstract

Seeking to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-20; Lk. 24:47-49; Jn. 21:21-23; Acts 1:8) without the planting of local churches is like giving birth to a baby without a family. Church planting establishes a base for making and multiplying disciples among various people groups in the world. In other words, the Great Commission finds fulfillment in the context of the local church. C. Peter Wagner, Win Arn and Elmer Towns wrote, “The Great Commission implies that church planting is the primary method to evangelize the world.” Similarly, C. Peter Wagner confirmed, “The single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches.” While the Great Commission does not categorically mention church planting, it implies it by the very nature of the command to “make disciples.” The local church is the divine agency empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel and to make disciples for the Lord and His kingdom.

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Did he start churches while he was in Tarsus? Acts does mention churches in Syria (Acts 15:40-41) could it be that some of these started before he was sent from Antioch? Did Paul go to Spain? When Paul left earth in the end of his life he not only left some church plants, he left the DNA of a movement that would eventually spread to the extent that even the Roman Empire itself would surrender to Christianity (for better or worse). History was changed in dramatic fashion through this one man’s obedience. Certainly more powerful than any program or strategy. In a day where we Christians are already educated beyond obedience, I find that what we need is not more education but simple obedience to what we already know. Follow Jesus today. A look at Paul's church planting strategy in Philippi from Acts 16:9-15. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. Joey Shaw is a global disciple making practitioner. He's the author of the book, All Authority: How the Authority of Christ Upholds the Great Commission (B&H, Feb. 1, 2016), https://goo.gl/mx9pvw.