

Operation Saturation

Matthew 28:16-20

Introduction:

- It took 4500 years for the human population to reach 3 billion (1960) but only _____ years to add 3 billion more (1999). Today, 7.8 billion people populate the globe.
 - God's plan
 1. To save people who are from every t_____, tongue, nation, and class of people (Rev 5:9,10). Once this is done, Jesus will return (Matt 24:14).
 2. To use b_____ to accomplish His plan.
 - God's strategy – operation saturation (Matthew 28:19,20)
 1. In verse 19 word “therefore” points to the previous verse concerning Jesus's a_____.
 - a. Prior to the resurrection, Jesus had limited authority
 - 1) As a child, He was under the authority of His p_____ (Lk 2:51)
 - 2) As a human being, He was under the authority of the g_____ and the Mosaic Law (Jn 19:11; Gal 4:4).
 - 3) On the cross, He put Himself under the authority of d_____.
 - b. Once Jesus rose from the dead, a_____ authority had been given to Him (in heaven and on earth)
 2. As we carry out God's strategy, we carry with us the a_____ of Jesus and He promises to be continually with us until He returns (see verse 20).
 3. Operation saturation - partnering with God in carrying out His mission of saving people from every walk of life.
 - a. The command is to make d_____ (the Greek word is the verb form of the word for disciple)
 - b. Fulfilling that command requires three activities, g_____, baptizing, and t_____.
 - Will you join the Lord in His work?
- Go – Saturate the world with w_____**
- Believers must not wait for unbelievers to come to them, we must go to unbelievers.
 1. Personally go to the unbelievers a_____ you.

- a. Intentionally i_____ with unbelievers (at work, in public, your neighbors, friends, etc.)
 - b. Take every opportunity to do g_____ to them (Matt 5:16)
 - c. This leads to witnessing opportunities.
2. Corporately go to the unbelievers b_____ you by giving to missions, which supports m_____ around the world (Southern Baptists salary over 3600 foreign missionaries through cooperative giving; over 5000 home missionaries).
- Will you join the Lord in making disciples by going?

Baptize – Saturate converts with w_____

- The word baptism is a Greek word that was adopted into the English language, but it has a meaning.
1. Baptize means to d_____ or immerse.
 2. The word was translated in Mk 7:4 in referring to the Jews w_____ their hands before eating and washing pots that they got from the market place. The NLT reads:

*They don't eat anything from the market until they **immerse** their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to-- such as their **ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.** (see also Lk 11:38).*
- Baptism by immersion was the practice of:
1. The Catholic church all the way up to the _____'s
 2. The founder of the L_____ denomination – Martin Luther taught this as the only proper mode (*A Treatise on Baptism*).
 3. The founder of the M_____ church – John Wesley refused to baptize any other way but later in life added sprinkling (*John Wesley's Journal Condensed*, Kelly, London 1903).
 4. The early church under the leadership of the apostles – John Calvin (founder of the Presbyterian Church) wrote in his *Institutes* that the word baptism meant immersion and was no doubt the practice of the early church (Book IV, chapter 15).
- Why immersion is so important (Rom 6:3,4)
1. It pictures the g_____ of Jesus Christ: His d_____ for our sins (falling into the water); His burial (underneath the water); His resurrection (coming up out of the water).
 2. It pictures the new l_____ of the disciple: the old self that served sin has d_____ (falling into the water); all

sins have been forgiven (underneath the water); the new self has emerged to live the new life in Christ (coming up out of the water).

- We are not to baptize babies or just anyone, only those who are ready to publicly c_____ their faith in Christ and to publicly c_____ to living Jesus's way.
 1. Encourage new believers to confess Christ in baptism.
 2. Attend every baptism and affirm every person baptized.
- Will you join the Lord in making disciples by baptizing?

Teach – Saturate believers with God's w_____

- The goal is not to get believers to know about Jesus's commands but to o_____ or practice them.
 1. A_____ His commands are to be observed.
 2. The New Testament is a record of Jesus's teachings which He said was God's word; and Jesus taught that the Old Testament was God's word. Therefore the entire Bible is what we are to teach.
- The church must be strong on teaching with a_____.
 1. Sermons
 2. Bible study groups
- Individual Christians must actively encourage others to live in obedience to Christ.
 1. Through discussion in small groups
 2. Through fellowship
 3. Through holding others accountable
- Will you join the Lord in making disciples by teaching?

Conclusion – on the last page, place a check mark in the ones you actively do and resolve to actively do those you did not check.

GO

Personal

- Interact with the lost you know
- Do good to them
- Witness to them

Corporate

- Give to missions
- Send missionaries

BAPTIZE

Personal

- Encourage new believers to publicly confess their faith and publicly commit to living Jesus's way.

Corporate

- Attend their baptism and affirm them.

TEACH

Personal

- Fellowship
- Discussion
- Holding others accountable

Corporate

- Sermons
- Group Bible Studies