

**“...In New England And Beyond.”**  
**November 4, 2007 \* Jeremiah 18:1-12**

“Our dream is to joyfully become a growing Christian church, that reaches tens of thousands, teaches thousands, unleashes hundreds **in New England and beyond.**” (Grace Baptist’s Vision Statement)

I. *What’s the Bible’s strategy for reaching the world?*

*What’s the true idea behind the Great Commission? Is it “Go” and make disciples?*

II. *Can revival come again to New England?*

III. *Making disciples of our ‘Jerusalem’*

“Seek the peace of the city to which I have carried you...Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” ~ Jer.29:7

*How are we to ‘seek the peace’ of our city?*

A. *The best way to help our city is to create more real*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*1. If there were more real Christians, what would be the impact on our town?*

*2. What is it that makes real Christians different?*

*3. Who are laws really for?*

B. *Another good way to seek the peace of our city - \_\_\_\_\_.*

“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” ~ 1 Tim.2:1-4

*1. What’s the chain of Paul’s logic here?*

*2. How do we get to put this into practice this month?*

*3. Before we can be Christ’s witnesses, what must we have?*

C. *To seek the peace of our city we must also be involved*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*1. Should Christians be involved politically, etc?*

*2. When it comes to Christianity & Politics, what important proviso must we keep in mind?*

**GOD’S KINGDOM MUST NEVER BE LINKED WITH ONE POLITICAL \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Why not?*

*1. No political party can represent all the \_\_\_\_\_ that Christians should be concerned about.*

*2. The Church is meant by God to offer a prophetic voice from \_\_\_\_\_ the political world.*

*3. God’s Kingdom is not a political dominion but a \_\_\_\_\_ one.*

IV. *Why Should I Be Concerned For Any Of This?*

**“...In New England And Beyond.”**  
**November 4, 2007 \* Jeremiah 18:1-12**

“Our dream is to joyfully become a growing Christian church, that reaches tens of thousands, teaches thousands, unleashes hundreds *in New England and beyond.*” (Grace Baptist’s Vision Statement)

*I. What’s the Bible’s strategy for reaching the world?*

**Start with where you are at, and work your way out from there. Begin with your Jerusalem, then branch out to your Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8)**

*What’s the true idea behind the Great Commission? Is it “Go” and make disciples?*

**The command in the Great Commission is to “make disciples”. The Greek word translated “go” in our English Bibles is actually a participle; it more accurately should be translated, “Going”. In other words, what Jesus was more literally saying was, “As you’re going about – doing your thing, living your life, going to school, going to work – make disciples.” Start where you’re at, then work out from there, until you reach all the nations.**

*II. Can revival come again to New England?*

**If Jeremiah 18:1-12 is true, then yes.**

*III. Making disciples of our ‘Jerusalem’*

“Seek the peace of the city to which I have carried you...Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” ~ Jer.29:7

*How are we to ‘seek the peace’ of our city?*

*A. The best way to help our city is to create more real real Christians.*

*1. If there were more real Christians, what would be the impact on our town?*

**If more and more people became real followers of Jesus Christ it would transform our city. Think of it – you wouldn’t need to lock your doors anymore, you could let your kids walk to school alone and not give it a second thought, people wouldn’t be turning to**

**drugs or gangs or sex to fill up their emptiness, you could trust everyone you did business with.**

*2. What is it that makes real Christians different?*

**Real Christians are people who are led by an inner law – the law of Christ, the law Jesus gave us to love others as he loved us. Jesus is in the hearts of real Christians, and Jesus is helping them become better men and women. They’re not perfect, but they’re working on it. And that’s huge. Because if you have a bunch of people who are led by the inner law of the love of Christ, then you don’t need outer laws to rein them in, to keep them in check.**

*3. Who are laws really for?*

**They’re for the lawless. Those who have nothing in their heart but selfishness and greed and lust. 1 Timothy 1:9 – “The law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers”.**

*B. Another good way to seek the peace of our city - Pray.*

“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” ~ 1 Tim.2:1-4

*1. What’s the chain of Paul’s logic here?*

**We pray for kings, mayors, governors, those in authority so that we may live peaceful and quiet lives so that more and more people can be saved. Because if my city’s falling apart, crumbling at the seams, experiencing social unrest, economic upheaval, and people are running for cover – well, it’s awful tough to grow a church under those conditions. So many times in his missionary travels, Paul would start to get a foothold somewhere in planting a church, inevitably opposition would arise, and he’d have to run for his life. And some of those churches survived. And some didn’t. We need to pray for God to give us some breathing room, is what Paul is saying.**

2. *How do we get to put this into practice this month?*

**In our remembering to pray for the Persecuted Church.**

3. *Before we can be Christ's witnesses, what must we have?*

**"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses..." Without the power of the Holy Spirit upon us, we'll never make new disciples. So how do we get that power? We ask for it. We pray. We plead. We weep. We fast. We storm the gates of heaven.**

*C. To seek the peace of our city we must also be involved socially.*

1. *Should Christians be involved politically, etc?*  
**Absolutely.**

2. *When it comes to Christianity & Politics, what important proviso must we keep in mind?*

**GOD'S KINGDOM MUST NEVER BE LINKED WITH ONE POLITICAL PARTY.**

*Why not?*

1. *No political party can represent all the issues that Christians should be concerned about.*

**The evangelical world has been greatly alarmed of late with gay marriage and abortion - as though these were the only items that are front and center on God's mind. These are indeed areas of grave concern for a child of God - but what about the AIDS epidemic in Africa? What about Darfur? What about sexual trafficking in the third world? What about issues of poverty and race? And the environment? You see, God is concerned for it all.**

2. *The Church is meant by God to offer a prophetic voice from outside the political world.*

**There are weaknesses and blindspots in every political party. There are forces of compromise and corruption that infect the whole political beast (and politics has 'beastly' qualities if you recall your Daniel and Revelation.) Once the Church aligns itself with one side or the other, it loses that prophetic perspective it so desperately needs.**

3. *God's Kingdom is not a political dominion but a spiritual one.*

**Politics can never bring in the kingdom of God. It is but one tool of many God can use. What brought slavery to an end in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - politics only? Far from it - Christian people were praying, and protesting and mobilizing against slavery long before it was so ever brought to a vote. In the ongoing fight against abortion, it's important to win votes, but far more effective is the pregnancy clinic quietly doing its work, or the church that provides clothing and support to unwed mothers desperately looking for hope. And so in the end, prayer and evangelism and servanthood are our primary weapons. Winning votes is great, but if we do not win hearts and minds and souls, then ultimately those votes will be lost as society drifts further and further away from God. And I find it a tragedy that more and more, Christians in our culture are perceived as angry, rather than loving; as violent rather than peaceful; as unintelligent rather than the most discerning of citizens. We need to get our groove back, church.**

*IV. Why Should I Be Concerned For Any Of This?*

**Because instead of winds of revival blowing across our land, winds of judgment are beginning to blow, as surely as we felt the winds of Hurricane Noel yesterday. These droughts in the southeast, these wildfires in the west, the weakening dollar, the quivering economy, this endless war - you think all of these things are merely random events. I see something else at work here friends. We thumbed our nose at God after 9-11. The words of Jeremiah 18 are coming to pass right before our eyes:**

*11 "Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'  
12 But they will reply, 'It's no use. We will continue with our own plans; each of us will follow the stubbornness of his evil heart.' "*

