



CITY CHAPEL  
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

**MINISTRY SCHOOL**  
**Lesson 1 – The World Context**

**INTRODUCTION**

Watching the opening sequence of the film Saving Private Ryan was a brutal experience. The Director Steven Spielberg sort to capture the reality of war and boy, did he capture it! We are in a spiritual war and the enemy is taking no prisoners. The battle for the souls of men is intense.

Paul captures this reality through Scripture, and he is very graphic in his description.

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall ever separate us from the love of <sup>[d]</sup>Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written and forever remains written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;*

*WE ARE REGARDED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER."<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].*

*Romans 8:35-37*

He goes further by the Spirit in his letter to the Ephesian church with more spiritual warfare language using imagery that they could relate to:

*<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].*

*Ephesians 6:12-13*



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### THE “GO INTO THE WORLD” MISSION

As Believers, we are in enemy territory spiritually and we need to be aware of this and live in the knowledge of this ‘clear and present danger’. Despite this challenge, our Lord said this to His Disciples and to us by extension:

*<sup>16</sup> “Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves [have no self-serving agenda]. <sup>17</sup> Beware of men [whose nature is to act in opposition to God], for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup> and you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you within that [very] hour; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

*Matthew 10:16-20*

The Lord considers us His hands and feet and mouthpiece to a world that is lost, depraved and in need of salvation. This can be confusing to Believers who sometimes cannot fathom how to navigate or balance spiritual reality with physical and material tangibility.

The world is full of beautiful and wonderful things that God has created so it does seem odd that Jesus and the Scriptures would imply that we are in hostile territory. The teaching that we need to forsake the world and hate it seems contrary to the fact that God so loved the World, He even gave up His Son for it?

This has created some confusion amongst Christians. Some approach this from a point of worldview that the material world and everything in it is evil. Some even sing the song “the Cross before me the World behind me...”. On the opposite side are Believers who teach that we need to embrace our planet, care for it and understand that we are coming back to live here forever. Some will quote the scriptures “occupy until I come...” as the premise to embed oneself within the world, prosper in it and be the head and not the tail in all things.



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### IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD

In creating you, God made a masterpiece. So, as you manifest who you are in Him, you will automatically witness to the existence of God and His intelligent and intentional design. You are replete with a unique blend of personality, temperament, gifts and ethnicity and culture.

Some Christians live with an inner tension of HOW to discharge their ministry and calling. They hear the phrase 'called to the ministry' and feel that perhaps they have to leave their jobs and serve God in 'fulltime' ministry.

Some authors and leaders in recent decades have sought to address this by coining the phrase 'marketplace ministry' and purport theories such as the Seven Mountains of Society. The intentions are good in most cases, but their teachings will leave many believers lopsided in my humble opinion. Some Christians have veered away from sound doctrine and embraced something close to New Age Humanism and Dominion theology.

Anything that takes You away from the primary source of Christ and The Cross is false teaching. In some countries of the world, Christians have attempted to 'take over' the nation, influence the culture and establish some sort of Christendom. Our Lord told us to make Disciples OF all nations and NOT make nations into disciples.

### Jesus prayed in John 17

*<sup>14</sup> I have given to them Your word [the message You gave Me]; and the **world** has hated them because they are not of the **world** and do not belong to the **world**, just as I am not of the **world** and do not belong to it. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask You to take them out of the **world**, but that You keep them and protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the **world**, just as I am not of the **world**. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> Just as You commissioned and sent Me into the **world**, I also have commissioned and sent them (believers) into the **world**.*



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Just from this prayer, we can deduce some key principles and understanding

- Jesus has given His disciples a commission and message
- The world 'reacts' to the message and messengers
- We are NOT of the world
- We do NOT belong to the World just like Jesus did not belong
- We are not to be taken out of the world
- We are protected through prayer from the evil one
- We are sent into the world with a Message.

### YOU ARE LIGHT!

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount illustrates what we are to the world:

*<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of [Christ to] the **world**. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; <sup>15</sup> nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let **your** light shine before men in such a way that they may see **your** good deeds and moral excellence, and [recognize and honour and] glorify **your** Father who is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:13-16*

The YOU in these passages is the general Christian. Not the Apostles, nor the special leaders but the myriad of Saints across the world. This is evidenced by Jesus' audience...it was a crowd!

*Arise, shine; For **your** light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon **you**. <sup>2</sup> For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over **you**, And His glory will be seen upon **you**. <sup>3</sup> The Gentiles shall come to **your** light, And kings to the brightness of **your** rising. Isaiah 60:1-3*

*<sup>8</sup> For **you** were once darkness, but now **you** are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light  
Ephesians 5:8*



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<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7

From these passages we can see the following principles and reality:

- We as Christ's messengers and Disciples are LIGHT to the World
- The world and its people are in darkness, even deep darkness
- Our lives act as beacons drawing those in darkness to the Light
- Our actions and deeds and behaviour act as a Witness to the Truth
- Our fellowship with Christ enables His Blood and atonement to continually enable and cleanse us to be light
- Now that we are no longer in darkness, we should willingly shed dark deeds and act as those in the Light.
- Our Witness is to the world (humanity) not exclusive to the church.

### THE MINISTRY

<sup>18</sup> Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled **us** to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given **us** the **ministry of reconciliation**, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not <sup>im</sup>imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to **us** the **word of reconciliation**. <sup>20</sup> Now then, **we** are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were pleading through **us**:" ...we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God".

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints **for the work of ministry**, for the <sup>ed</sup>edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-13



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Let us reflect together what these passages mean:

- God has one mission and it is to reconcile (bring people back) to Him
- God in His Grace and Mercy reached us and made us His Children
- God now asks that we join Him in reaching others for Him
- This is called the Ministry and it involves everyone in Christ
- Wherever we live on Earth, we are Ambassadors of Christ
- All we need to do is 'switch on' our light
- God has chosen and anointed certain 'coaches' to help
- They train, equip and edify the Saints to enable them for Ministry
- The work of the Ministry is for everyone and these 'life coaches' act as a support mechanism so that everyone is empowered.
- These life coaches are called Apostles, Evangelists, Prophets, Teachers and Pastors.
- When everyone is doing their jobs, the Body of Christ grows and flourishes and transforms into a clone of Christ.

### **CONCLUSION**

Every Believer has been called by God into the Ministry which is primarily about reconciling people back to God. The most productive way to do this is by going into all the world and shining our light through good deeds and sharing the message of Christ.

To many Christians do not have a clear understanding of what ministry is and that is what the purpose of this school is for. These series of bible studies will help to clarify how each Believer can serve God and humanity through their callings and gifts and personalities.

**Footnote – Disciples Homework and Bible Reading habit.**