

CHAPTER FIVE

WORLD VISION

God is concerned individually for all mankind. With the billions of people in the world today, you might wonder how it is possible to have an effective part in communicating God’s love to so many. God’s way for us to do this is to make disciples who will multiply and penetrate all the world.

GOD’S CONCERN FOR THE WORLD

“World vision is getting on your heart what is on God’s heart—the world.”

—DAWSON TROTSMAN

1. How does John 3:16 show the breadth of God’s concern for men?

2. To whom was Jesus’ ministry directed?
John 8:12 _____
Matthew 5:14 _____
3. Jesus spoke of sowing good seed (Christians) in a field. What field was this? *Matthew 13:38*

4. In what different ways did Jesus state his “Great Commission” in these verses:

Matthew 28:19-20 _____

Mark 16:15 _____

Luke 24:47 _____

John 17:18 and 20:21 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

It is certainly commendable to have the vision for reaching a neighborhood or community for Christ, or a factory, campus, military base—even an entire nation. But the Lord’s concern is for the whole world, and this should be our concern as well. In the Great Commission Jesus gives Christians the responsibility of reaching every person of every nation in every generation with the gospel. All our major decisions in life should be made with the whole world in view.

THE WORLD TODAY

5. From these passages write summaries of how the Bible describes world conditions in the last days:

1 Timothy 4:1-3 _____

2 Timothy 3:1-5 _____

2 Peter 3:3-5

Circle the conditions you listed which seem to be evident today.

6. What awaits those who reject the gospel of Jesus Christ?
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:12, 15

Every second, several babies are born somewhere in the world—hundreds of thousands of them each day. Most of them will live out their entire lives without Christ. Hundreds of thousands of people also die each day, and most of them pass into a Christless eternity.

7. What is God's concern for all mankind? 2 Peter 3:9

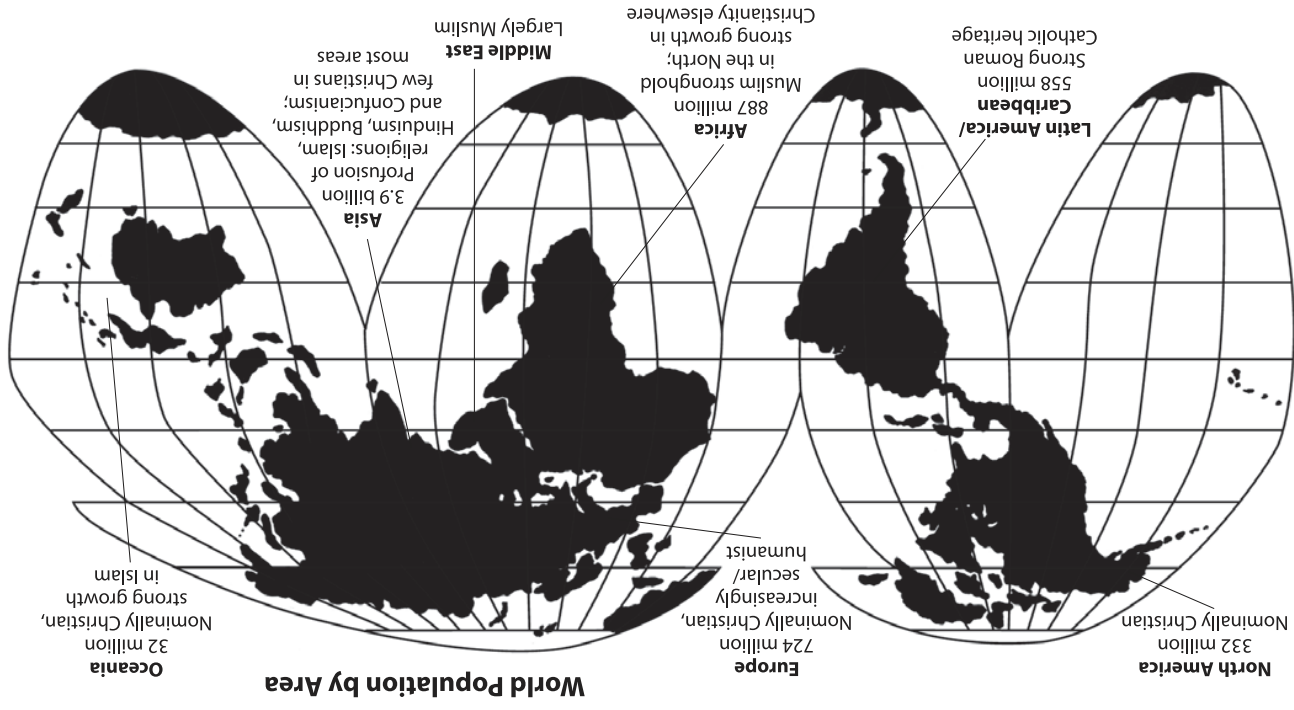
Explain in your own words what this means to you.

8. As Jesus looked on the needs around him, what did he ask his disciples to pray? Matthew 9:36-38

"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

—JOHN 4:35

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:19)



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United States Secretariat, *World Population Prospects, The 2001 Revision*, The 2002 Revision and *Urbanization Prospects, The 2001 Revision*.

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9. For what ministry does the Holy Spirit empower us?
Acts 1:8

Of course, the world will not be reached by the witness of a single individual. God wants us to reach the world in the same way it is populated—by multiplication. Man has carried out God’s command to Noah in Genesis 9:1—to multiply physically. In the same way, it is possible to multiply spiritually.

10. Read Paul’s instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2.

a. What did Paul tell Timothy to do?

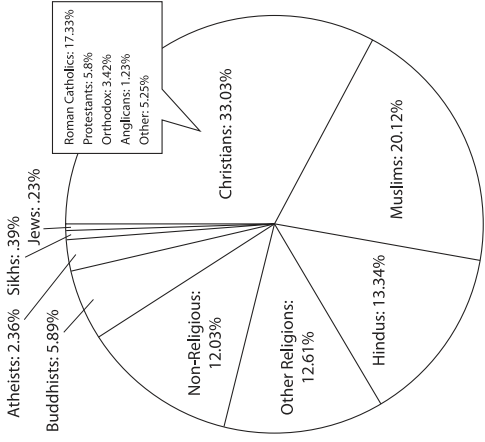
b. What kind of man did Paul tell Timothy to invest his life in?

Communication passes from one person to another. In this verse, Paul’s instruction was passed to Timothy, who was to pass it on to reliable men, who would pass it on to others.

As you invest your life in one man and then see him invest his life in the life of another, you will become part of the spiritual multiplication process.

11. None of us knows how long we are going to live. But for the moment, suppose you will live until you are seventy years old. If this were so, how many years do you have left to invest your life in the lives of others?

A Christian should be able to help a younger believer grow at such a pace that in two years the person being helped is ready to help another grow as well. Every two years you would help someone else reach this point. Do you think this is reasonable for your life?



Source: The World Factbook, "People" (<http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/htmlfiles/people.html>) (revised February 22, 2006).

Total world population: about 4.7 billion

SOME PRACTICAL WAYS TO “LOOK AT THE FIELDS”

- Use a world map and *pray* for countries around the world—that the people living there would come to Christ.
- *Correspond* with missionaries. Learn of various mission fields and agencies.
- *Read* missionary biographies, books on missions, and missionary periodicals.
- Be alert to your own *daily contacts* with non-Christians.
- *Give* financially to a Christian worker in another country.

MULTIPLICATION

Praying and giving are two important ways of helping reach the world for Jesus Christ with his gospel. An even more direct way we can be involved is through our personal witness. Now is the time to begin reaching the world for Christ. We must not wait until we think we are fully trained, or even until we feel a personal call. As Christians we have already been called to this task!

If it is, then in two years you and another person can have started the multiplication process.

- In four years there would be four people.
- In six years there would be eight people.
- In eight years there would be sixteen people.

Considering how many years you anticipate you can minister, calculate how many people you can affect during the rest of your life.

HOW DO YOU FIT IN?

Jesus loved the world and helped thousands, *but he closely trained only twelve men*. The ministry of multiplying disciples comes through ministry to individuals. This is the way Paul communicated his life to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 3:10). We reach the masses through the man.

12. Have you asked God to give you one person with whom you can put 2 Timothy 2:2 into action? You can help change the world for Jesus Christ by allowing God to reproduce his life through you in the life of another. Specifically, how will you allow God to use you in his plan of spiritual multiplication?

13. Are you investing your life, time, and money with the world in view? What can you do to become more involved in reaching the world with the good news of Jesus Christ?

Remember to pray. Many of us cannot reach other nations on our feet, but we can reach them on our knees.

14. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–4:8. Relate what Paul says here to your life and to world vision.

Remember These Points

Using the chapter subtopics as an outline, write your own summary of this chapter.
