

Finishing the Task

Biblical theological reflections on the Church's role in God's mission

Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Tedder, APM 14.4.2023

Finishing the Task

Seeking clarity and deeper convictions concerning the theological vision about the Church's role in God's mission, and prophetic perspective on the African church's missional destiny

GOD WILL FINISH
WHAT HE HAS
PLANNED

Missions is about God's mission

WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL
WE ARE CALLED TO JOIN IN!

What is the task?

What can we finish?

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The task that we **CANNOT** finish

- *God's ultimate purpose for God's Kingdom being fully realised in all creation*

Revelation 21-22

- Creation renewed and glorified
- Culture purified and glorified
- Community of the redeemed together with all reality in the immediate presence and glory of God!

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The task that we **CANNOT** finish

- Only **GOD** can finish the the task of bringing the fulness of His Kingdom
- But **WE** have a role to witness about God's ultimate purpose
 - We care for the creation, because we witness of God's plan for its renewal
 - We work towards peace and justice, because we witness of the ultimate purpose of God for humanity
- With this task we have the responsibility to represent GOD and the privilege to bring HOPE!

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The task that we CAN finish

- God's purpose to redeem people from all people groups into His Kingdom and glory

Revelation 5:9-10

- God has made it possible by the “blood of the Lamb” — redemption in Christ
- God will fulfil His redemptive purpose
- We have our task in this that we can finish

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The task that we CAN finish

2. Peter 3:9-13

- God wants no-one to be lost but that all could come to repentance and life
- We not only wait for the coming of the Lord, but can also “hasten the day”
- There is a task that we have, that God waits for us to finish!

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The task that we **CAN** finish

Matthew 24:14	Mark 13:10
<p>“And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world <u>as a testimony</u> to all nations, and then the end will come”</p>	<p>“And the Gospel must first be preached to all nations”</p>

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The task that we CAN finish

- Paul adds details to the finishing of our task and the finishing of God's redemptive plan

Romans 11:25-26; 11-15

- **First** the fulness of the Gentiles will be gathered (full representation of all the people groups)
- **Then** all Israel will be saved (partial hardening of natural Israel will be lifted)
- And this will mark the time of the coming of the Lord and the day of resurrection!

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Working faithfully on what we can and cannot finish

- Paul worked BOTH to bring the fulness of the Gentiles, AND also to save his fellow Jews, even though he knew that only God would bring salvation to all Israel by His sovereign act of mercy
- We need to have the same mindset:
 - Work to finish the task of taking the witness of the Gospel to all the people groups
 - and also to work in line with God's purposes on the tasks that we cannot finish

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The ongoing task

Matthew 28:18-20

- Making disciples is an ongoing task that CANNOT be finished by us
- Making disciples is about bringing people to Christ and teaching them to follow the way of Christ in every area of their lives — whole life shaped by the Gospel!

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The both-and

- We need to be **moving forward** with the Gospel to reach all people groups

AND

- We need to be **going deeper** by engaging in holistic disciple making, and holistic work and witness in the world

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“Prophetic” perspective

- I believe moving forward with the Gospel to reach all people groups must be our top priority
- I believe the African churches are being called into the global arena to finish this task, while at the same time they are addressing great needs and challenges in their own churches and communities
- I believe this task will not be finished without the African churches
- I believe the African churches will be the runners that take us over the finishing line! (team running)

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Encouragement and advice

1. Corinthians 3:5-9

- We need to recognise individually our part, our gifts, in the tasks entrusted to us
- We need to honour each other's gifts and contributions
 - Those with a vision and passion to go/lead the move forward to reach the unreached
 - Those with a vision and passion to teach and make disciples
 - Those with a vision and passion to work in the world/society as representatives of the Kingdom of God

God will finish what He has planned

**We will finish the task of taking the Gospel to
all the peoples**

**Will you be running to take us over the
finishing line?**