**What is the mission of the church?**

 **Matthew 28:16-20 -***“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.  And Jesus came and said to them,****“All authority****in heaven and on earth has been given to me.****Go*** *therefore and****make disciples*** *of****all nations****,****baptizing*** *them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit****, teaching them****to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold,****I am with you*** *always, to the end of the age.”*

The mission of the church is the Great Commission of Jesus!

**A few elements of this commission to consider:**

* Jesus has ALL authority (sovereign rule)
	+ Dominion over the nations
	+ He has the power to grant salvation to those who believe
* BECAUSE of this authority…he commands them to GO to the nations
	+ How will they hear unless they are told **(Rom. 10:13-15)?**
	+ There are those he intends to save all over the world…must GO!
* WHEN they GO…they must make DISCIPLES
	+ Calling sinners to faith in Christ
	+ No just converts
* These new believers must be DISCIPLED
	+ Baptize them in the name of the Triune God
	+ Baptism = 1) sign/seal of redemption 2) sign of entrance into the covenant community/church
	+ The mission of the church is to plant other churches and disciple them
* Once they are in the church…we are to TEACH them
	+ They are to be trained in righteousness/sanctification
	+ They must learn to obey all that Jesus taught, including what he taught through his disciples
* What is their comfort/encouragement to do this?
	+ Jesus will be them/us to the end of the age
	+ Emmanuel – “God with us”

**God’s heart for the nations!!**

* The bible is a book about the glory of God among the nations
* Man exists for God’s glory…but in sin…he continually seeks to glorify himself
* Salvation of the nations was God’s plan from the beginning
	+ OT saints/Israel failed to perfectly display his glory to the world
	+ Jesus would do it perfectly
* Jesus gave the Great Commission
	+ Begins with disciples: **Acts 1:8** – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth.”*
	+ Still continues with us today and will continue until the end when we see the fulfillment of **Revelation 7** (every tribe, tongue, nation…praising God)
* This is God’s story…the story of his glory among the nations
	+ What part will YOU play????
	+ Are you a sender or a go-er???