



THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN THE WORLD

by John Piper

Never, never, never forget that Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all the peoples on this planet — the *whole* planet ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). This is the greatest challenge in the world.



Let the emphasis fall on “all the peoples” — Greek, *panta ta ethne* (all ethnic groups in the world).

Jesus bought men “from *every* tribe and language and people and nation” ([Revelation 5:9](#)). Not some, but *every*.

The point is not that we can draw sharp boundaries between all the peoples (tribes, languages, nations).

The point is that the scope of Jesus’s command is wider and amazingly more diverse than we think.

REMEMBER THE MISSION

What a wonderful day we live in when we consider the sacrificial, rigorous, extensive research that is being done to help us know the progress of Jesus’s mission!

Perhaps the most accessible, clear, and thorough accumulation of these facts is at [Joshuaproject.net](#). I think Jesus would be very pleased if you were familiar with this site for the sake of His name.

They estimate that the total number of people groups in the world is 9,736 — if you don’t count any group twice for being in different countries (16,067 if you do).

Then they estimate that 4,067 of those 9,736 are unreached [An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group without outside assistance.].

This is the challenge of the church globally — the greatest challenge in the world.

In [Luke 24:46-47](#) Jesus said His commission was written in the Old Testament: “It is written that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name *to all nations*, beginning from Jerusalem.”

In [John 17:18](#) and [John 20:21](#) Jesus said His command is a continuation of His own mission to earth — He was the perfect cross-cultural missionary. He *bought* the redemption. We *take* it to the world. Without us they don’t have it.

“As you sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” “As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.”

(Continued on page 2)

November Calendar

Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

(Classes: see pg. 3—new Adult Class begins November 11th)

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Gospel of Matthew

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship*

II Thessalonians

*Note: No PM Service

November 11th or 25th.

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Sun 11/11 Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Sun 11/11 **Community Thanksgiving Service, 4:00 p.m. at St. Simons First Baptist Ch. (details pg. 4)**

Wed 11/14, 11/28 Midweek Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Brown home

Sun 11/18 **Christmas Shoeboxes for Sacred Road due (pg. 4).**

Thu 11/22 **Thanksgiving Holiday (The Church Office will be closed 11/22 and 11/23.)**

Mon 11/26 Stated Session Meeting

See page 3 for additional Calendar details.

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THE GREATEST CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 1)

And in [Acts 1:8](#) Jesus said to the disciples that he sent the Holy Spirit specifically for the empowering of this mission.

“The Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Your life is too small if it is not connected to this great challenge. Not all Christians are missionaries. But all care about the mission. All are connected. And want to be connected.

No Christian should go for months and never think about this greatest of all enterprises.

THE CHALLENGE AND THE GREATNESS

World missions is greater than any other challenge in the world.

- It is vastly greater than the challenge of stamping out all disease, for the consequences of our failure are infinitely worse than that failure would be.
- It is vastly greater than the challenge of bringing literacy to all the peoples because it includes that (since one goal of discipleship is reading the Bible) and goes beyond it to the infinite results of believing what is read.
- It is vastly greater than the challenge of ending all war, because there are greater and worse hostilities against mankind than come from armed combat.
- It is vastly greater than the challenge of feeding all the hungry of the world because it addresses that and goes beyond it to the hunger that leads to starvation beyond death.

Why is it the greatest?

- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it carries the greatest news in the world: There is salvation from God’s judgment only through faith in Christ’s death and resurrection.
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it involves the most complex task of embedding the Christian faith authentically in thousands of diverse cultures without diluting the saving message.
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it will require the greatest sacrifice of any other challenge not only because of the greatest complexity, but also because of the greatest opposition. Jesus promised it. “You will be hated by all nations” ([Matthew 24:9](#)).
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it was given by the greatest person in the world, Jesus Christ.
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it has the greatest authority behind it, namely “all authority in heaven and on earth” ([Matthew 28:18](#)).
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because it is backed by the greatest promise in the world: “I — the creator and sustainer and redeemer of all — will be with you to the end of the age.”
- It is the greatest challenge in the world because Jesus has given us supernatural power that comes to its fullest enjoyment when actualized in world missions ([Acts 1:8](#)).

Oh, take hold of this! Never let it go. Stay connected to this. Let this be in your prayers without ceasing. Don’t drift away from this.

Yes, by all means give yourself to many causes. But remember this cause sums them all up, because this cause carries the possibility of all good causes to all the nations.

Love the mission of Jesus. Because you love Jesus. And because you love the lost. Yes you do. You are Christian.

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John Piper is founder and teacher of [desiringGod.org](#) and chancellor of Bethlehem College and Seminary. For more than thirty years, he served as pastor of

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis. He is author of more than fifty books, and his sermons, articles, books, and more are available free of charge at: [desiringGod.org](#).



The Japanese are the 2nd largest people group considered to be “unreached” - those lacking enough followers of Christ and resources to evangelize their own people.
(Joshua Project)

In 2014 on average 70 **Japanese** people committed **suicide** every day, and the vast majority were men.

GIPC supports the work of Mission to the World (MTW) in Japan through the church-planting ministries of the Nagoya Team ([Peter and Diane Bakelaar](#)).

Announcements & Updates

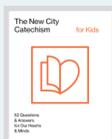
Children's Discipleship

Sunday School Classes (9:15 a.m.):

K-2nd Grade: *The Gospel Project*

3rd Grade and older: *Catechism Class*

The Catechism Class is based on *The New City Catechism* (52 short questions and answers based on Calvin's Geneva Catechism, The Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Heidelberg Catechism).



> Copies of "The New City Catechism for Kids" are available at the Book Stall in the foyer.

World Missions Conference

Messages preached by Dr. Karl Dortzbach on Friday evening and Sunday morning are available at www.gipc-pca.org/sermons.



Faith Promise Commitment Cards for 2019 will be collected through the end of November.

The World Missions Committee establishes a yearly budget based on Commitment Cards received.

Display tables will remain up for a few weeks—take this opportunity to learn more about GIPC's Faith Promise partners and where they serve!

Men's Discipleship

"2nd Saturday" Men's Bible Study

November 10th, 8:30 a.m. | Brown home

Current study: *Discipleship Explored*
(based on Philippians)

Each Tuesday: Young Men's Bible Study

7:00 a.m.—Wake Up Coffee, St. Simons



New Adult Sunday School Class

Sunday, November 11 | 9:15 a.m.

(Room 201, South Hallway)

Women's Discipleship

Women's Monday Prayer Group

1st & 3rd Monday: 9:00 a.m., Parrish home

2nd & 4th Monday: 10:00 a.m., Parrish home

Morning Bible Study (Topic: *I John*)

1st & 3rd Monday: 10:00 a.m., Parrish home

Evening Bible Study (Topic: *I John*)

2nd & 4th Tuesday: 7:00 p.m., Chilton home

"1st Wednesday" Dinner

December 5, 2018

Christmas Dinner at GIPC

Watch for details!

"Beyond the Pages" Book Group

"Open to all those who enjoy reading and discussing books"

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, November 13th (note revised date) to discuss "These Honored Dead: A Lincoln and Speed Mystery Paperback," by Jonathan F. Putnam.

The group meets at Magnolia Manor on St. Simons Island at 1:00 p.m. in the second floor lounge of the large building beside the water fountain.

December selection: "Skipping Christmas," by John Grisham.

Book Group Contact: Sharon Bolin



GIPC Christmas Gift Box Project

Each year, GIPC participates in [Sacred Road's](#) "Shoebox Christmas Gifts" Drive to benefit the more than 300 children of the Yakama Indian Nation who attend Hope Fellowship and Kids Clubs. (Sacred Road has also been reaching out to 5 other housing projects on the Reservation.)

The boxes are handed out at the Youth Christmas Party in early December, or hand-delivered to homes. (Last year 500 Christmas shoeboxes were distributed.)



- Information sheets with details regarding what to pack, along with empty shoebox-size containers, are available at a table located in the back of the sanctuary.
- If you prefer, you may choose to send a [Walmart gift card](#) instead.

Please bring shoeboxes and gift cards to GIPC on or before
Sunday, November 18th.

(Gift Cards should be handed to Sharon Bolin.)

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 11, 2018

4:00 p.m. at St. Simons
First Baptist Church
729 Ocean Blvd., SSI

The Community Thanksgiving Service, facilitated by the churches of St. Simons Island, will be hosted this year at St. Simons First Baptist Church.

Rev. Tom Jones, Senior Minister, St. Simons United Methodist Church, is scheduled to preach.

Special music will be provided by a Community Choir (arrive at 3:00 p.m. to rehearse) and The Coastal Brass Choir.

The GIPC congregation is encouraged to attend; there will be no Evening Service at GIPC on November 11th.

A Personal Note of Thanks

To Golden Isles Presbyterian Church

To My Communion of Saints:

Thank you for welcoming me into Golden Isles Presbyterian Church, and giving me the wonderful and warm love and caring when my husband, George King, joined our Lord August 20. Your prayers lifted me up when I most needed it, and I will always be grateful.

Thank you for attending George's Remembrance service on October 6, when you had never met George, but came in support of me and our family. The service was a beautiful tribute to a special man, and reminded us of promises to come.

So many people to thank – Alex for his wonderful Homily, Becky for the beautiful solos, Dorothy for ALL her great help with the program and all the details, John with the sound system, Bill with crowd control, Cornealia, Dana, Ada, Becky, Charlotte, Gail, Sharon, Mary Ellyn, for providing, and serving all the yummy refreshments after the service!

I always feel blessed when I walk through the doors, and love you all so much!

—Joan Wrenn



Sermon Podcasts

Subscribe to our sermon podcast by searching "Golden Isles Presbyterian Church" wherever you get your podcasts.

Missed a week? Sermons are available at:

gipc-pca.org/sermons

GOLDEN ISLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

48 Hampton Point Drive
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

Phone: 912.638.2563

E-Mail: office@gipc-pca.org

www.gipc-pca.org



Westminster Shorter Catechism

1 year plan—Q & A to review/study:

Week of November 4: 91, 92, 93

Week of November 11: 94, 95

Week of November 18: 96, 97

Week of November 25: 98, 99

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #91

Question: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him who administers them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in those who receive them by faith.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #92

Question:
What is a sacrament?

Answer:
A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #93

Question:
Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

Answer:
The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's supper.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #94

Question: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, signifies and seals our ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #95

Question:
To whom is baptism to be administered?

Answer: Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to Him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #96

Question: What is the Lord's supper?

Answer: The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, His death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #97

Question: What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?

Answer: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon Him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #98

Question:
What is prayer?

Answer:
Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of His mercies.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question #99

Question:
What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

Answer: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called *The Lord's prayer*.

NOVEMBER

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	II Kings	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	I Chronicles	1,2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		7,8	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		9,10	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		19,20	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		24,25	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		26,27	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		28	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOVEMBER

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

Family Worship

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	II Timothy	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Titus	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Philemon	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Hebrews	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	James	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	I Peter	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	II Peter	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		2	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOVEMBER

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Hosea	7	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Joel	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Amos	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Obadiah	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Jonah	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Micah	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		5	<input type="checkbox"/>

NOVEMBER

"As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." (I Peter 2:2)

Private

Psalms & New Testament

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Psalms	120-122	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		123-125	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		126-128	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		129-131	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		132-134	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		135,136	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		137,138	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		139	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		140,141	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		142	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		143	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		144	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		145	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		146,147	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		148-150	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Luke	1:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		1:39-80	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		14	<input type="checkbox"/>

 **Week beginning NOVEMBER 4**

II Corinthians 4:17-18 "Suffering"

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

 **Week beginning NOVEMBER 11**

Galatians 2:20 "Life in Christ"

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

 **Week beginning NOVEMBER 18**

Romans 3:23-24 "Gospel"

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

 **Week beginning NOVEMBER 25**

Hebrews 11:6 "Trusting God"

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.



TIP: Download the Fighter Verse app (\$2.99)— available for iPhone/iPad and Android devices.

This tool allows you to memorize and review verses at your own pace and is suitable for children and adults.

Options include listening to the verse, reciting the verse, and reviewing, using a number of different fun quizzes.

Select verses by topic or set (there are 5 sets—GIPC is currently working through Set 2); or use the "Extended Memory Collection" to memorize whole books of the Bible, 2-3 verses at a time.