# This Great Battle

The World Death Rate is Estimated to be More Than 67 Million People this Year

Robert Brincat

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#### Introduction

For more than two thousand years, billions of souls have been entering eternity destined for Heaven or Hell. It is estimated that the world death rate will climb to 67 million people this year. This is equivalent to seven cities the size of New York perishing in one year. How many will be lost? How many have already been lost since Christ arose?

This book takes a hard look at the Christian's state of preparedness in facing man's greatest enemies, death, and the devil. We will examine the Devil's weapons, tools, and God's resources that He has freely given us to fight the good fight of faith.

If I were to tell you that the Bible lays out a way for believers to reach whole nations with the Gospel of Christ; thus, literally reaching billions of people every day; would you follow God's plan and do what it says?

The Bible says that we should, "Commit these things to faithful men, who are able to teach others also". Only you and I can decide whether we shall be faithful or faithless in living out Christ's Great Commission.

Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gatherest not with me scattereth abroad." (Matt. 12:30).

Throughout this book, I will give you information on how you can be a part of this great army and how you can be fully engaged in *This Great Battle*!

May God bless you!

# Eight Billion People on Earth

Today's world population has reached eight billion people. Unfortunately, billions of people are lost and without Christ. This is not an arrogant statement. It is a fact! God is and has been reaching people with His new covenant of grace through faith in Jesus Christ for two thousand years now. However, man continues to reject this free gift of God and is willfully and deceptively following a path to eternal destruction.

The United Nations desire for world peace cannot happen apart from the Prince of Peace. Plans such as: Wealth redistribution, land for peace, disarming and punishing national leaders and terrorists, are only temporary solutions to the problem. Even standardizing the world economy, politics and religion will end up in utter failure.

Christians agree with God and understand that the root of the world's problems lies in the heart of man. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). But where does the solution lie?

The final solution lies with God creating a new heaven and a new earth. Even with Christ's return, a remnant of men will go through the millennial reign of Christ and once again be tempted by Satan to rebel against God's rule as stated in the Book of Revelations (Rev. 21-22). In the meantime, we are engaged in a great battle and God has a specific plan for us to follow.

The biblical plan for reaching the world for Christ is already revealed in the Bible. It's up to us to implement the plan and do what Christ has instructed us to do. And in one day, we would reach billions of people for Christ. This is not an exaggeration! It is possible to dramatically affect the world and reach that many people. It's simply a matter of doing what God has called us to do and to act in the manner He has instructed us to As churches continue to disciple people within their walls, the number of unsaved people continues to grow. With this in mind, it is

imperative that believers focus on and apply effective biblical principles when reaching the lost for Christ. Though these methods may be new to modern Christians, they were commonplace to the believers of biblical times. And, as you will see, these methods were the most effective then and will be now.

## Our Enemy's Weapons and Tools

First, we should not be ignorant of our enemy's plan, weapons and tools. This great battle has and will take the lives of billions of people. We must therefore proceed with the realization that all of our efforts, actions and inactions have eternal consequences.

#### "Blinding the minds of men" (2 Cor. 4:3,4)

The Bible tells us that our enemy blinds the minds of men and has been deceiving mankind ever since the days of Adam and Eve. This deception comes in many forms:

1.	False Brethren	2 Cor. 11:26
2.	False Teachers	2 Pet. 2:1
3.	False Prophets	Mth. 7:15
4.	False Apostles	2 Cor. 11:13
5.	Falso Christs	Mt. 24:24
6.	False Gospels	2 Cor. 11:4
7.	Deceiving Spirts	1 Tim. 4:1
8.	Doctrines of Demons	1 Ti. 4:1
9.	False Angels from Heaven	Gal. 1:6-8

"And no wonder, for even Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light, so it is no wonder that his servants do the same."

As you have just read, our enemy uses deceptive tactics and people to divert others from the truth. He has continually spread false doctrines, gospels, brethren, teachers, prophets, Apostles and Christs within churches, denominations, and our world, to lead others away from Jesus. He has even manifested angels to start corrupt religions in the world.

The Bible warns all of mankind that the climax of Satan's deception will culminate in the empowering of the Anti- Christ. And that all who will receive the mark of the Beast (Anti-Christ) will be forever doomed to the Lake of Fire (Rev. 14:9-11).

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him (The Anti-Christ), whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie; That all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thes. 2:7-12).

Like the Apostle Paul said to the Galatians, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accused" (Gal. 1:6-8).

Mohammed, Joseph Smith and all their followers should have heeded the warning found in God's word before they believed the false angelic messengers that came to them. So, be warned, any departure from the Living God and His living Word will have grave consequences.

### What We Know and Where we are Today

Since we are involved in this great battle let us remind ourselves of what we know already:

#### What We Know

1.	This battle started in Heaven	Isa.14:12-20
2.	Man is fallen	Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12
3.	Man lives once and then comes the	Heb. 9:27
	judgment	
4.	God sent His Son as a sin offering	Isa. 53:10
5.	What the gospel of Christ is	1 Cor. 15:3
6.	What the purpose of the gospel is	Rom. 1:16
7.	Who's responsible to preach the	Mth. 8:19
	gospel	
8.	That we shall give an account of our	Mth. 25:14-30
	actions to Christ	

#### Where are we today in this battle?

- 1. The Great Commission
- 2. The reality of judgement and an Eternal Hell
- 3. Our role as a soldier and ambassador
- 4. Our inadequate training in churches
- 5. Christs' return and our accountability to Him
- **1. The Great Commission**: "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 things that I have commanded you: and Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age (Matthew 28:19).

The sad reality is that many Christians are treating this commandment as optional and not as a requirement to be fulfilled. The Apostle Paul brings the subject of discipleship to mind by asking the questions, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of

whom they have not heard? (Rom. 10:14). Discipleship cannot happen apart from the Word of God. People can't believe in Jesus if they know nothing about him. With this in mind, I find it amazing that most believers fail to even carry scripture with them so that others may learn about Christ. We miss untold opportunities every day to allow God's Word to work in the lives of others.

Is it really that difficult to carry scriptures daily with the goal of sharing the gospel and making disciples? Are we letting the cares of this world and the delight in riches choke us, so that we become unfruitful as stated in the Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13). Many churches do not even have evangelism teams or a Bible distribution outreach in place.

Unfortunately, the laborers are still few in comparison to the number of professing Christians. Many Christians are just ignoring the lesson taught by Jesus in the Parable of the Great Supper; where the master of the feast instructs his servants, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:23). We must take a hard look at our Christian culture and ask, "Why aren't we heeding Christ's obvious instruction to go out and compel people to come in?" Like Jesus said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

#### 2. The Reality of an Eternal Hell and Judgment (Rev. 20:11-

15): Many Christians in our modern world have lost the sense of urgency with regard to reaching others for Christ. Unfortunately, there are several reasons for this: First, the word "Hell" has become extremely common in our culture, with no regard to the destiny of the damned. Second, the reality of Hell is played down and even ignored altogether in our modern churches. Christians are failing to preach the finality and torment of Hell to the masses. It has been said that Jesus preached more about Hell than he did about Heaven. Yet, we hardly hear sermons on this anymore. Our view of eternity has become extremely lopsided. We tend to hear messages of grace apart from hell so much that we are seeing more and more licentious living within the church and less people outside the church wanting to come in.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire "(Rev. 20:11-15).

# 3. Christians are failing to realize their role as a soldier and ambassador for Christ (2 Tim. 2:3,4; 2 Cor. 5:20).

The Apostle Paul used the illustration of Christians as soldiers in a great battle; instructing them not to get entangled in the affairs of this world (2 Tim. 2:3). In addition, Pauls' reference to his fellow workers as soldiers reflected the seriousness of our responsibilities in this life. This then begs the question, "If the Bible refers to believers as soldiers, then what do you call a soldier that will not enter into the battle?" Yes, a coward. And the Lord has no pleasure in cowards. In fact, they top the list in Rev. 21:7-8; of those who will not enter the kingdom of God. And we remember the words of Jesus who said, "He who is ashamed of me and my words of him will the Son of man be ashamed of" (Mark 8:38). Therefore, we need to recognize our role as soldiers in this world and the effects of the gospel upon the unsaved.

The Bible also refers to Christians as Ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20). But have you ever heard of an ambassador that would not leave the embassy? You have to leave the embassy and make yourself available to the people if you are going to be God's representative here on earth. Otherwise, you are not fulfilling your God given role.

Jesus made it quite clear when he said, "He who is not with me is against me and he who does not gather with me scatters" (Matt. 12:30).

As you can see, we are already soldiers and ambassadors, therefore it would be wise to begin training as such.

"For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).

- 4. Our inadequate training in churches: Unfortunately, many churches don't adequately train and equip believers to do the work of an evangelist. The two words most associated with the gospel are: preach and believe. Most Christians hear the same message of believing in Jesus Christ (John 3:16) over and over again. Rarely do we ever hear that we are commanded to preach the gospel. The message of "salvation and believing in Christ" should be directed to the unsaved more than the saved. The saved already believe the gospel. They need to be told to "preach the gospel". But our modern Christian culture tends to do more to paralyze the church than to rally the church. This may seem hard but look at the state of Christianity today. What's the percentage of Christian's actively involved in reaching others outside the embassy? How many churches have evangelism teams? How many people are on them? How much of the church budget is used for evangelism? How many churches provide ongoing evangelism training classes for Christians? And how many Christians are on the street corners giving away Bibles and preaching the Kingdom of God?
- **5. Our Accountability to Christ (Rev. 22:12, Matt. 25:14-30, Luke 17:10)**: Christians today sometimes fail to realize that we will have to give an account of ourselves to Christ. Jesus taught about accountability when he told the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30). The ones who exercised their faith being a good steward of God's resources were rewarded. But the man who hid his talent in the ground lost his reward. Are we burying our gifts and responsibilities that God has given us?

# The Sword of the Spirit

As we examine some of the great preachers of God's word, we find men reaching thousands of people simply and in just a few minutes. Men like the Apostle Peter who preached to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 souls were saved in a day. And Jonah who warned a city of God's impending judgment and many thousands were spared. The list is extensive of those who changed the world by speaking publicly in the face of opposition or apathy. And when we think of evangelists, we think of men like the Apostle Paul, John the Baptist, Philip the Evangelist, and others. But many people fail to recognize the greatest evangelist of them all, Jesus Christ.

People forget that Jesus came to preach the Gospel. He declared in the synagogue that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And again, when the crowds surrounded the house of Simon after receiving healing from Jesus, He withdrew himself and told the disciples, "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also, for therefore I am sent" (Luke 4:43). The Apostle Paul also states that, He made it his aim to preach the Gospel" (Rom. 15:20).

Now, the Bible says that we are being changed glory by glory into the image of Christ. If we are being transformed into his image, then we have the ability to minister to people as he did. Encounters like Jesus and the woman at the well or Jesus preaching to the crowds from a boat are examples of Christ's ability to minister to people on a one to one and a one-to-many basis. In Jesus' life we see Him giving us an example to follow and the secret of reaching souls by the thousands.

The Bible reveals to us two methods of reaching others with the gospel. You can fish with a hook, and you can fish with a net. Fishing with a hook is equivalent to reaching people on an individual basis (one on one). Publicly reading the scriptures and proclaiming the gospel to the crowds is equivalent to fishing with a net (one to many).

The Bible is full of examples where people publicly read the scriptures and preached about the kingdom of God. And now it's your turn. But remember, we have a lot in common with the fishermen that Jesus sent to preach. First, we both are not guaranteed a catch, which means we are not guaranteed that men will repent and receive Christ's forgiveness when we preach. So don't let that fact stop you from doing God's will. And second like fishermen, we should go out in the strength of His Spirit and in the strength of hope. For God's Word will not return unto Him void, but it will accomplish that which he sent it (Is. 55:11).

Think in terms of a Sower, spreading seeds, as in the Parable of the Sower. Seeds fall on several different types of soil and take time to grow. The patient farmer knows to expect a harvest when the time is right. Seeds require ground preparation, periodic watering, and time. Farmers live by sightless faith and don't get easily discouraged because they don't reap a harvest immediately. So, the successful believer is one who is consistent and patient. Like the Bible says, "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality and eternal life" (Rom. 2:7).

Remember to let the Word do the work! It's God's responsibility to save people through His Word. It's our responsibility to preach it. Most Christians think that they have to be a degreed theologian before they can share the gospel with someone. The gospel is so simple that a child can share it. And Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). So, preaching the gospel is a matter of faith, determination, and patience. We already know that it is God's will that none should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). And, that Christ has appointed us to make disciples (Matt. 28:19). Of these facts there is no doubt. So, the question is, "Are we willing to reach people God's way and be the soldiers and ambassadors He has called us to be, or are we still going to shrink back and deceive ourselves into thinking we will hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant", when we are burying our talents?

As you can see, I am taking a no holds barred approach to motivating you to fully use your God given talents and abilities in reaching the lost for Christ. When I was first approached about publicly reading God's Word, I was apprehensive to say the least. You can find this story in my booklet entitled *Street Evangelism, Unleash the Power*. But then I started thinking, "What do I have to be ashamed of? I know what God has done for me and how much He loves the world. Why shouldn't I proclaim the gospel and help others come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior?" So, I started publicly reading the scriptures and giving away Bibles. And God has made this ministry to others a great joy and privilege in my life, and it will be for you as well.

# Winning People on a National Scale

The Bible reveals that it is possible to witness to people on a city wide and nationwide scale, touching the lives of thousands and even millions. As I briefly mentioned before, both the Old and New Testaments give us examples of men who publicly proclaimed the Word of God and thousands of lives were changed. In 2 Chronicles 17:8-9; we see King Jehoshaphat sending out the Levites and priests into all the cities of Judah to read the Word of God and teach the people. And in the reign of King Josiah, we see the Levites again being referred to as the ones who taught all Israel..." (2 Chr. 35:3). In addition, we see Jesus himself preaching the gospel, sending out the seventy to preach and training the twelve Apostles.

Now the Bible refers to Christians as a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). We are commanded by Christ to go and preach. "What I tell you in the darkness, that speak ye in the light; and what ye hear in the ear, that <u>preach ye</u> upon the house tops. And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell... Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:27-33). As you can see, the gospel was meant to be preached and believed on.

Paul instructs Timothy, a young man of God, "Attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have...Practice these duties, devote yourself to them..." (1 Tim. 4:13-15 RSV).

Imagine what this country and world would be like if every Christian attended to the public reading of scripture like the Bible says to do. Millions of Christians proclaiming the scriptures would reach the world in one day with the gospel of Christ. That's how you win a world to Christ. You brave the doubts, fears, apathy and everything that stands in the way of proclaiming the gospel and you live out God's Great Commission daily.

Now if you want to get started, let me suggest that you get the following free resources: Gospels from Absolutely Free Inc., (livingwater.org) or The Pocket Testament League (readcarryshare.org) and scripture booklets from World Missionary Press, Inc. (wmpress.org). In addition, training material from Free Word Ministries, Inc., (freewordministries.org), and The Gideons International (Gideons.org).

Next, you should plan on starting as soon as possible. Every day you delay only allows reasons for not preaching the gospel to pile up. And as you can see, there are ministries that stand ready to equip you and help you get started.

I recommend my *Street Evangelism, Unleash The Power* booklet and *A Bible In Every Home* booklet as training material. These resources answer some of the questions you will have in getting started. In addition, there are several Holidays that are perfect opportunities to share the gospel publicly: Christmas, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, and any of the Jewish feast days, which focus on the mighty works of God.

So, what's it going to be? Do you have ears to hear the Holy Spirit calling you to lift up Christ? This holiday season, read the Christmas story publicly and encourage as many believers as you can to proclaim the gospel this Easter Season as well. But don't just wait for these holidays, "Today is the day of salvation. Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily and follow me."

Set up that table in a park, give out scripture freely, proclaim the gospel, with love and boldness... Commit to making yourself available daily to share the gospel, and God will do a great work in your life and the lives of others.

## Being a Better Soldier

#### Here are some basic truths to help you overcome the obstacles:

1.	Know you have been appointed by Christ.	John 15:16
2.	Know that you are an ambassador for	2 Cor. 5:20
	Christ.	
3.	Know that God's Word will bear fruit.	Isa. 55:11
4.	Keep Christs' commandments.	Luk. 6:47-49
5.	Love the Lord and your neighbor.	Mat. 22:37-40

#### The Basics

- 1. Sign up with the following ministries and get free literature: Absolutely Free, Inc. (<u>livingwater.org</u>), World Missionary Press, Inc. (<u>wmpress.org</u>), The Pocket Testament League (<u>readcarryshare.org</u>), The Gideons International (Gideons.org), Free Word Ministries (<u>freeword.org</u>).
- 2. Commit to carrying scripture with you at all times and teach others to do the same.
- 3. Put a display rack with free literature in your church and business.
- 4. Ensure that every home around your church has a Bible in it. Get the *A Bible in Every Home*" booklet.
- 5. Put on the whole armor of God.
- 6. Commit to starting an evangelism team in your church and joining an organization that will help equip and train you and others.
- 7. Attend to the public reading of scriptures daily (possibly during your lunchtime).
- 8. Prayerfully and financially support those organizations that minister to others freely.

# Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant

It is an incredible time to be alive and to be engaged in this great battle. This is the only time that we will ever have to live by sightless faith. For when Christ returns, we will see him as he is and we will no longer have this wonderful sightless, faith filled opportunity. Remember what Jesus said to Thomas concerning you and I brethren. "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29b). We are blessed who have believed without seeing!

Our enemy is strong, but our King is stronger. Our enemy goes about like a roaring lion. Our enemy has weapons and tools (people, doctrines, angels, etc.) aimed at us, but God is with us; who can be against us? Are we really going to focus our attention on our enemy only and ignore our Kings' commands? Of course not! The time is now. "Today is the day of salvation." Today we have an opportunity to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

Are you ready to win this world for Christ? Are you ready to do what the Bible is clearly showing us to do? Will you be the one who will help win whole cities and nations to the Lord?

My brethren, I leave you with these final three questions to answer: Do you really believe the Bible is the Word of God? Are you willing to do whatever it takes to place it into the hands of the lost? And

"When the Son of Man returns to the earth, will he find faith?" (Luke 18:8).