SPEEDING UP CHRIST'S COMING

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The preaching of the gospel cannot "hasten the day" of Christ's return or "bring back the King" as has sometimes been invoked in missionary literature and hymnody. This would clearly violate the missio dei, which underscores God's initiative in revealing the "signs" that will accompany the end and the return of His Son.
Category: Observations

> *In chapters 24 and 25, Matthew records the fifth and final major discourse in his gospel. This last discourse focuses on the end times. After discussing many of the tumultuous signs that will accompany the end, such as War, famines, earthquakes, false prophets, and the increase of wickedness, Jesus encourages His disciples to "stand firm to the end." Then, in verse 14, Jesus declares, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." The expanded reference to the gospel of the kingdom "marks the move from the ministry of Jesus to the post-resurrection ministry of the disciples." Â Verse 14 is a statement of optimism about the final outcome, as Jesus reveals the full, universalistic mission of His church to "all nations." The lordship of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed to all nations. The universal preaching of the gospel should be seen, within the context of the chapter, as yet another sign of the end. It is not the final event that will cause the parousia, or return of Christ.* ***The preaching of the gospel cannot "hasten the day" of Christ's return or "bring back the King" as has sometimes been invoked in missionary literature and hymnody.*** *This would clearly violate the missio dei, which underscores God's initiative in revealing the "signs" that will accompany the end and the return of His Son. Nevertheless, the dramatic rise of preaching all over the world to thousands of new people groups is an important and dramatic "sign" of the approaching end when Christ will return.*

This quoteÂ emphasises the importance of reading passages in the light of the whole narrative of Scripture. You can't simply take one of Jesus' discourses out of context and build a missionary theology upon it. The passage needs to be read within the context of the whole Gospel and the Gospel in the light of the whole of Scripture.

FromÂ Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-first CenturyÂ by Timothy Tennenet p. 136 (emphasis mine). You might want to get the Kindle edition of this book or hope that it comes out in paperback. It is absolutely excellent, but it certainly isn't cheap.