

# **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

## **The Basis for World-wide**

### **Missionary Work- Lecture 1**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

**Mark 16:15-16**

**Luke 24:46-48**

**John 20:28**

**Acts 1:8**

#### **Introduction:**

Since all of the work of the Lord must have a good foundation, it is important for us to have a solid Scriptural foundation for our emphasis on world-wide mission work. This is found in the closing chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John and the first Chapter of the Book of Acts. Here we have given to us in five places what we know as the Great Commission.

These five passages of Scripture give us the full details of the Great Commission.

These are not five different commissions, but one commission, given to the Church by our resurrected Lord. It is His LAST COMMAND, and therefore should be our FIRST CONCERN.

Mark 16:15, teaches us that God wants every creature to have a preacher.

#### **Mark 16:15**

*15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

GO and PREACH are both in what we call in Greek the imperative mode.

1. We need to determine if the Great Commission is a choice or is it a commandment.

Let's look at the little two letter word "Go".

Any group of people may call themselves a church, but if they ignore the responsibility of the Great Commission they are no more than a social club or civic organization.

While they may be doing good things, they are missing the command of our Commander-in-chief, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Note:**

In military rules, when the Commander-in-chief issues an order, one of three things must be done with it.

(1)

(2)

(3)

A close look at the world today will reveal the Great Commission has not been carried out fully. A close study of the Scriptures does not reveal any evidence that the Lord has rescinded or withdrawn His order.

The responsibility of the New Testament Church, and the missionary as an extension of the sending churches, is to

(1) evangelize,

(2) baptize

(3) stabilize. It is important that we spend some time looking at these three parts of our Lord's Commission.

In this study we will look at the Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:18-20. In verse 18 the resurrected Lord has given to His church GREAT RESOURCES, "all power..."

The word "power" means \_\_\_\_\_. As the Father delegated all authority to the Son, the Son now delegates that authority to His Church. As His church, we have all the resources of God at our disposal to carry out His commission.

**I. Go WHO?**

Who is to be involved in carrying out this Great Commission? The Scripture says, "GO YE...." Of whom is our Lord speaking to?

The word ye is not in singular form, speaking only one person, but a collective pronoun speaking of all God saints.

Compare Matt.21:28 and Luke 14:23.

Since all of us who are saved are saints of God, sons of God and should be servants of God, God commands every saved person to be involved in carrying out this Great Commission.

## II. Go WHERE?

Where are we to be going? In Matthew we are told to “teach all nations.” In Mark, we are told to “go into all the world.” “Nations”=people groups.

In Luke 14:21 and 23, we are told to go “into the streets and lanes of the city” and “into the highways and hedges.”

A careful study of these Scriptures will reveal that you cannot preach the gospel in the wrong place nor to the wrong person.

## III. Go WHAT?

What are we commanded to do as we “go into all the world?”

Basically, the contents of the Great Commission can be divided up into three categories.

The responsibility of the New Testament Church is:

- 1- to evangelize the sinners,
- 2- to baptize the saved
- 3- to stabilize them in the Scriptures for service. In other words, lead them to Christ, baptize them, and disciple them. It is important that we spend some time looking at these three parts of our Lord's Commission.

### A. EVANGELIZE

In plain Bible language, to evangelize is to find the sinner and reach him with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are two words that are used in these verses that tell us how to reach sinners. In Matthew 28:19, our Lord uses the word teach. In Mark 16:15, He uses the word preach.

These two words do not contradict but rather they complement each other. Both must be used.

What is one of the main differences between teaching and preaching?

\_\_\_\_\_enlightens the intellect, while preaching you \_\_\_\_\_.

Sinners will never be saved, until they are brought to the knowledge of the truth that they are sinners. They must know they need a Saviour, who that Saviour is, and how to get to Him.

I am persuaded that real Bible preaching will contain an element of teaching, and real Bible teaching will contain an element of preaching.

**Note:**

Someone has used the following to explain evangelism. When you take the word preach and drop the first letter you have the word reach, then when you take the word reach and drop the first letter you have the word each.

Evangelism then is teaching and preaching the gospel to reach each individual with the Gospel of Christ.

**B. BAPTIZE**

The second part of the Great Commission teaches us that the church is to baptize those who are saved. This is not a part of their being saved, but is an act of obedience.

It is "The answer of a good conscience toward God," I Peter 3:21. Baptism is not the responsibility of the new convert, but the responsibility of the Church and its designated agent, the missionary.

A careful study of the Word of God reveals that scriptural Baptism is by immersion only. It is to be administered by the authority of the local church, and is to be done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. It is for born-again believers only.

**C. STABILIZE**

We are taught in the Matthew 28:20 that after we have reached sinners with the gospel in evangelization, after we have baptized them in obedience to the command of our Lord; then we are to begin "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

This is the ministry of the Church that we call \_\_\_\_\_. It is an establishing ministry in which the Church teaches the new converts the basic concepts of the Word of God, the ways of God, and the will of God.

Most churches today suffer greatly in two ways because we have not disciplined those who are saved.

1- First, many that are saved are no longer in church because we failed to disciple them.

2- Second, most of those who do stay in church never bring a soul to the Lord Jesus Christ because we have not taught them and trained them to do so.

Since that is true, evangelism and baptism suffers because of our failure in discipling those that are saved.

#### **IV. Go WHEN?**

When are we to carry out this Great Commission? Even though we are not given an exact time frame in the Great Commission, the Bible does teach us the answer to this question.

In Luke 14:21, the lord commanded the servant to “go out quickly.”

In Matthew 21:28, the father said to the son, “Go work today in my vineyard.”

In II Corinthians 6:2, we are taught “behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.”

#### **V. Go WHY?**

##### **Romans 10:13-15**

In order for a sinner to be saved, he must “call upon the name of the Lord,” Vs 13. In order for him to call upon the name of the Lord, he first must \_\_\_\_\_,

Vs 14a. In order for him to believe, he first must \_\_\_\_\_, Vs 14b.

In order for him to hear, there first must be a \_\_\_\_\_, V 14c.

In order for him to preach, he first must be \_\_\_\_\_ V 15a.

As you study these verses you come to the following conclusion.

God calls preachers.

The church sends them.

The Preacher preaches the Word of God.

The sinner hears the preaching of the Word.

The preaching of the Word produces faith in the heart of the hearing sinner, (Romans 10:17).

Faith in the heart of a sinner causes the sinner to call upon the name Lord to be saved, (Romans 1:16).

##### **Romans 1:16**

When the sinner calls by faith, God will save him.

**Misunderstandings About  
Missionaries  
(Mureau)**

**1- Missionaries Are Super Spiritual**

**2- Misunderstanding-Missionaries are mis fits in their own cultures.**

**3- Misunderstanding-Missionaries are little more than adventure seekers.**

The glory of adventure seeking often fades quickly in the face of several things:

^ ^ learning a difficult language,

^ ^ adjusting to a new culture

^ ^ working with teammates who can be as cantankerous as they are loving.

**4- Misunderstanding-Missionaries are always good with languages.**

**5- Misunderstanding- Missionaries always have a very strong call from God.**

**6- Misunderstanding-Missionaries are (bigoted) cultural imperialists.**

**7- Misunderstanding-Missionaries are no longer needed.**

**8- Misunderstanding-Missionaries always go overseas.**

**9- Misunderstanding-Missionaries live in "the bush."**

Soon more than half of the world's population will live in cities.

**10- Misunderstanding-Missionaries sign their lives away forever.**

Some people think that once you become a missionary, you are stuck for life, and for them, the idea of making a lifetime commitment is too overwhelming to contemplate.

Although a permanent missionary commitment perhaps was truer of the missionaries of previous centuries, it certainly does not hold in the same way today.

Those who seek to follow God's leading into cross-cultural missionary service face a more rapidly changing and dangerous world than ever before. This is a time in North America when the willingness to sacrifice in the service of Christ is harder to find than in centuries past.

There also are greater opportunities than ever before. Missionaries know of and can have access to literally millions of people who have yet to hear the claims of Christ through a variety of means—radio, satellite, Internet, video—that the apostle Paul never could have imagined.