

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission is to be distinguished from the Limited Commission; one is local and the other universal. One involved the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matt. 10:6). The other involved the whole world (Mark 16:15). One was more likely for the training of the apostles. The Great Commission implies several significant things. It is our intent to examine these implications.

Men Are Lost Without The Gospel

Paul says “it was God’s good pleasure through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21). The Greek word (soteria) denotes “deliverance, preservation, salvation.” The word is used of material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension (Vine). It is also used of the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted by God (ibid). To be saved implies that we have been rescued from something that is threatening the salvation of our soul. No one can be saved **from** sin until he acknowledges the fact that he is lost **in** sin and separated from God (Isa. 59:2). Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15).

Amenability

Amenability means accountability. All men are thus amenable to the law of Christ. Men cannot obey a law to which they are not responsible, for “sin is not imputed when there is no law” (Rom. 5:13). There are many troubling things in the brotherhood that would be immediately resolved if it were admitted that all men are amenable to the law of Christ. When Paul comes to Athens, Greece he saw a city filled with idols and idol worship (Acts 17). The worship of idols is wrong, but not according to Athenian law. Athenian law did not prohibit the worship of idols. However, idolatry is a

violation of the law of Christ. It is condemned as a work of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. Another case that demonstrates amenability is the example of the Corinthians. Some of them had been engaged in sinful practices. Paul said to them, “but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified” (1 Cor. 6:11). The sins in which the Corinthians had previously engaged violated the law of Christ which would not be possible unless they were amenable to Christ’s law (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Paul said, “And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified” (v. 11).

Repent Or Stay Lost

It is sometimes said that men “will be lost” if they do not repent. More correctly stated it is “men will stay lost if they do not repent.” They are already lost and must repent to be saved (Acts 17:30). The people on Pentecost were separated from God by the guilt of their sin, especially the sin of murdering Jesus Christ. Peter told them, “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins” (Acts 2:38). Jesus articulated the same truth: “except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish” (Luke 13:3).

No One Should Perish

The Great Commission demonstrates the fact that the Lord does not wish anyone to lose his soul (perish). “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).

Knowledge Of God

Jesus said, “And they shall all be taught of God” (John 6:45). God has always been “knowable.” There has never been a time in the history of the world when God could

not be known (Rom. 1:20). Concerning the Gentiles who lived anterior to the Christian age, Paul said, “because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks” (Rom. 1:21). They also “refused to have God in their knowledge” (Rom. 1:28). The Great Commission indicates that God wants men to know about Him, and such cannot be without instruction.

Conclusion

There is so much more to the Great Commission than the baptism of penitent believers for the remission of sins. All the above things are implied in the evangelism of humanity, and all of them can be effectively accomplished in the execution of the Great Commission. The need for the gospel is universal.

Noah Hackworth

Be here for each lesson of our
Fall Gospel Meeting

“The Christian Family”

Jack Williams

Of Independence, Missouri

October 7-11, 2007

Sunday: 9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday Ladies Class: 10:00 am

ANNIVERSARY

Jim and Wanda Wilson, 10-11.

BIRTHDAY

Kathleen Camp, 10-13.

ILL

Sunday: Kathleen Camp; Millie Robertson (PM). Jamal Abyad continues to have difficulties with cancer.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Debra Gragg was visiting relatives last weekend. George Thomas was in Arizona on business last week. John and Barbara James were on vacation in New England.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING

Our Fall Gospel Meeting, "*The Christian Family*" with Jack Williams begins today! Pray for our meeting and invite others to attend with you. Our Pot Luck Dinner will be held following our Sunday AM worship.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Jack Williams will be speaking to the Ladies Class this Wednesday. Both men and women are invited to attend this class. A taco salad luncheon will follow the class.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, October 14, following our AM worship.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, NA; Wednesday PM, 32.

Those To Serve

October 7, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek

PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter

ASSIST..... George Thomas

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards

CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson

INVITATION Gospel Meeting

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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