

A GREAT COMMISSION

19 January 2024

Some Christians debate whether the Great Commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ is for the Church. Their objection is often just an alibi to justify their not wanting to witness. Today, we will examine the bible carefully and determine what Jesus Christ wants His Church to do.

Matt 28:19-20 Jesus told His disciples to “**Go...and teach all nations...whatsoever things I have commanded you.**” He told them this after He rose from the dead.

John 6:47 One of the things Jesus taught was “**He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**”

Mark 8:31 Another thing Jesus taught was that He would suffer, die, and rise again. He taught the gospel.

Jesus’ Last Communication with His Disciples:

- Read Luke 24:44-49
- Read Acts 1:4-9
- Read Luke 24:50-52

Luke 24

Vs 44 Everything that Jesus taught about His death, burial, and resurrection (**vs 46**) had been previously written in the Old Testament Scriptures.

- Everything that was dependent upon **God** has already been accomplished:
 - Death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - Opening men’s understanding by the Holy Spirit so they can discern spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:14).
- One thing was left for **man** to accomplish:
 - Tell people what God’s Son, Jesus Christ did for them.
 - Start locally and move outward to more distant lands (**vs 47**, Acts 1:8).
 - Don’t let anyone die without knowing that Jesus Christ died for them and was resurrected.
- The Old Testament Scriptures reveal that it was always God’s intention to save sinners by the sacrificial offering of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Other events come and go, but what Jesus Christ did is what still matters today.
 - Jesus Christ is still saving lives and changing lives today. We praise His name every day.

Vs 45 “**Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.**”

- God made sure that we would not struggle to find and to know His truths. He sent the Holy Spirit to give us understanding of the scriptures.
- We are exposed to Christianity all our lives, but until the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, we don’t see our need to receive the Lord.
- The bible would make no sense to you if the Holy Spirit didn’t give you understanding.
- Many “Christian” religions are full of unsaved people because they are trying to find salvation on their own without the Lord’s help. They need to ask God to show them the way (Acts 16:30).

Vs 47

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

- After Jesus reminded His disciples that He died for their sins, rose from the dead, and gave them understanding of spiritual things, He told them to go show others what He showed them.
- What did He want them to preach? **“Repentance and remission of sins.”** Who were they to preach to? Everybody. **“All nations.”**
 - This is an unpopular, negative message, but it is absolutely essential.
 - If you are not repentant, you won’t desire the love of Jesus.
 - Knowing that Jesus died and rose again is not enough. You must understand that the purpose of it is to remit your sins.
 - You need to understand that you need the Savior because you are a sinner who needs your sins washed away.
 - Good works/deeds won’t do it.
 - The love of God alone won’t do it.
 - Jesus died because nobody is good enough to go to heaven. He needed to pay for your sins with his own blood.

Vs 48

“And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Vs 49

“...tarry...until ye be endued with power from on high.”

- When Jesus Christ gives us a command to do something, He also gives us the power to be able to accomplish it.
- To be a minister of the word of God requires the power of God to enable you to maintain your normal family relationships while you study, prepare, and spend time ministering the word.
- The title “Disciple” indicates discipline. It takes discipline to maintain a steady routine of bible study, preparation, and service for the Lord.

Acts 1

Vs 6

“Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

- This has nothing to do with what Jesus told them to do. Bringing in the kingdom is Jesus’ responsibility, and He will accomplish it in His time.
- Their responsibility is to tell people how they can go to heaven and how they can have a wonderful life in the meantime. Preach the gospel.
 - Stay focused on what Jesus wants you to do. Don’t get sidetracked.

9-11

When Jesus ascended to heaven, His disciples stood there gazing up into heaven. They were quickly reminded by angels that they should not be standing around looking for Jesus to return.

- Instead, we should busy ourselves doing what He told us to do: telling others about His sacrifice on the cross.

Luke 24:50-53 “...with great joy.”

- The Christian life is not meant to be a life of drudgery, but of great joy.
- The Christian life is life more abundant (John 10:10).