

WHAT DOES THE GREAT COMMISSION MEAN TO OUR CHURCH

Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction: On New Year's day I issued the challenge that our church pass out ten thousand church invitation to our Jerusalem. This is able to be done. First of all, this is exactly what the passage that we see in our text says. The passage is called the Great Commission. A commission is a change from an authority above you. Our authority is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

These words are among some of the last ones spoke by the Lord Jesus before He ascended back into heaven. One person said that many times the last words that some one ever speaks are some of the most important. The last words of our Saviour was in regards to souls.

Ten thousand church flyers seems to be an impossible tasks. I must remind you that Philippians chapter four and verse thirteen is still in the Bible and is just as powerful and true as the day that Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit penned those words to the church of Philippi,'

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

I did the math. It means that we must pass out eight hundred and thirty-three flyers every month for the next twelve months. This time of year is cold and that is a large task but winter does not last all year. Summer will be hard too but ***"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*** Now is not the time to be discourage but to trust our Lord. You may not be able to come to Smithfield and pass out church flyers. Go to you neighborhood. Go to people's home and give them a church flyer and invite them to the church. This is a job we all can do. It is a job that we can train our children to do. It should be normal for us to do so.

Today I want to give you three truths from this passage in regards to the Great Commission.

I. BRING SOULS TO CHRIST Vs. 19

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations"

This is how we got to Christ. Some one taught us about the Lord Jesus. Someone brought us to Jesus. Here is a Bible example of this. Andrew brought folks to Jesus. We will look at the first one in some depth but let me give you the other two from the book of John. In John chapter six, Andrew brought a lad to Christ. In chapter twelve, Andrew brought the Greeks to Christ. But Andrew's best soul that he brought to Jesus was his own brother, Peter. Let's look at this together.

John 1:37-41

"And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus." "Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?" "He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour." "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother." "He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."

Andrew found out that Jesus was the Messiah. He is was the Lamb of God. When he had spent this time with Jesus, he wanted his brother to know Jesus also. So he brought Peter to Jesus. Peter's life was never the same. If Andrew had not brought Peter to Jesus, we might not have gotten saved. But he did bring Peter to Jesus.

Bring souls to Jesus is really bringing to some Bible facts. First of all they must realize they are a sinner.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

Everyone is born a sinner. That is because we were born from the seed of Adam.

Secondly, since we are sinners, we are on our way to Hell.

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

No one in their right mind wants to go to hell. So we must warn them of this place called hell.

Thirdly, they must realize that the Lord Jesus Christ could save them if they asked Him to do so.

Romans 10:9, 13

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I know that there are more scriptures that we need to use but this message is about the entire Great Commission. You can not see someone saved if you don't bring them to Jesus.

I think of some of the souls that I brought to Jesus. When we get to heaven we will be both glad and sad. We will be glad because we brought folks to heaven. We will be sad that we did not do more.

II. BAPTIZING SOULS FOR CHRIST

Vs. 19

"baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"

The next part of Great Commission is that we baptize folks. I remember the day I was baptized. It was my mother's birthday in 1972. Baptism is a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It is one of the two ordinances. The other one is observing of the Lord's Supper.

Getting baptized is the first step of obedience. As parents, we should want our children to be baptized to follow the Lord in this first act of obedience.

Romans 6:3-4

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Many times we look at the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and that is very important but we tend to forget the last part of verse four. That newness of life is picture of a changed life. An unchanged life is an unsaved life.

2nd Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

III. BUILDING SOULS UP IN CHRIST

Vs. 20

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

How do we build souls in Christ? It is by teaching. What do we need to teach new believers? I could take a lot of time here but I want to bring it down to four simple truths. Everything I learn in my life as a Christian is seen in these four simple truths.

A. I need to read my Bible daily. It is the Lord speaking to me.

B. I need to pray every day. It is me speaking to my Lord.

C. I need to be in church every time I can so I can learn more about the Lord.

D. I need to tell others about Christ.

We don't have time to explore this further. But you can not grow or be built up in Christ without these truths in your life.

Conclusion: So these three truths what will help us to increase our church.

Sunday Evening January 8, 2012

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