

The Great Commission

We only have one set of marching orders and that is called the Great Commission. It is given in all the 4 Gospels and given unto us in the New Testament. The scope of our Commission is nothing less than World Conquest:

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 20:23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

John is simply saying whoever you get will be saved and whoever you miss will be lost.

This is serious business ... the eternal salvation of billions of souls are at stake ...

II Corinthians 4: 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [*give*] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us

Our job is so vital so glorious Angels desire to do this work that is entrusted unto us alone for of the Old Testament prophets Peter says

I Peter 1: 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into ...

Matthew's Account of the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The word "teach" in the clause "teach all nations" is math-ayt-yoo-o and it means "disciple ye" or make disciples of all nations. A disciple is both a believer and a learner.

Note we are to "baptize in the name" singular ... there is one God manifested in 3 persons

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

After they are baptized we are to "teach" different Greek word them "to observe all things" in the New testament revelation for Jesus promised the Apostles the Holy Spirit would:

John 16: 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [*that*] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Mark's Account of the Great Commission

Mark 16:9 Now when [*Jesus*] was risen early the first [*day*] of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Now when he had risen. The remainder of the chapter is not found in the Vatican or Siniatic Greek MSS., but is found in the Alexandrian. These are the three oldest and most reliable MSS. Some non-believers hold these verses to be a later addition, but as they are found in all the most ancient versions they must have been a part of Mark's Gospel when the first century ended. Schaff, Plumptre, Olshausen, Lochman and others regard them genuine, while some critics consider them doubtful. A circumstance in their favor is that the Vatican MS. has a vacant space for them and it was quoted by Clement of Rome by 90 AD. It seems probable that in an early copy, Vaticanus was copied from they were

omitted for some cause by a copyist who left space for them, but he did not afterwards fill it, and that the Siniatic MS. was made from the mutilated Vaticanus copy. It is clear that verse 8 was not designed to conclude Mark's narrative. There is not one thing taught in the long ending to Mark that is not taught elsewhere in the New Testament.

Mark 16:10 [And] she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

And she went. While she was going to tell the disciples, Jesus appeared to the other women, who had started before on the same errand (Matt. 28:9, 10).

Mark 16:11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

They . . . believed not. Their disbelief was overruled for good, for it furnishes abundant proof that they did not *invent* the story of the resurrection.

Mark 16:12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

Jesus next appeared to Peter (1 Cor. 15:5). After that. On the afternoon of the same day (Sunday) (Luke 24:13-32). He appeared in another form. Luke explains this by saying that their eyes were holden. If their eyes were influenced, of course, optically speaking, Jesus would appear *in another form*.

Mark 16:13 And they went and told [it] unto the residue: neither believed they them.

And they went. Back to Jerusalem, to the upper room where the ten disciples were assembled (Luke 24:33). And told it.

Mark 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

He appeared to the eleven themselves. Compare Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

He said unto them. The Lord appeared many times during the forty days. These words may have been spoken at the great meeting in Galilee (verse 7; Matt. 28:18-20). Go into all the world. Jesus is the world's Savior; he died for all; the gospel must be preached to all. In the first commission (Matt. 10:6) they were sent only to Jews. Preach the gospel. The good news of salvation through Christ; the way of life. To every creature. To every mortal. None are denied the Savior if they will have Him.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

He that believeth. Believeth the gospel message; believes in Christ as his Savior. And is baptized. These are the conditions of pardon; faith in Christ and obedience to his command. If any one has not faith enough in Christ to obey him he has not faith enough to be saved. He that believeth not. Remains in a state of unbelief. Such have no promise. See John 3:18.

Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

These signs shall follow them that believe. This is a promise limited to the apostolic age and to a few of the disciples of that age. Perhaps the plural *them* does not have for its antecedent the singular *he* in verse 16, but the plural *them* in verse 14. If it does not, why is the number changed in verses 15 and 16? The grammatical construction requires us to look to verse 14 for the antecedent of *them* in verse 17. In verse 14 the apostles are "upbraided for their unbelief because they believed not them who had seen him after he had arisen." They are commanded to go and tell the glad story, and assured that miraculous credentials shall be given to those of "them who believe" and tell the wonderful tidings. In my name shall they cast out devils, etc. See Acts 2:4; 5:16; 8:7; 16:18; 28:3.

Mark 16:18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

This evidence of their being continually under the power and protection of God, and that all nature is subject to him. This also was literally fulfilled in the case of Paul, Acts 28:5.

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

After the Lord had spoken unto them. The words above, and other words recorded in the other Gospels. He was received up into heaven. In Acts it says, "a cloud received him out of their sight." He did not fade away from sight, but a cloud came as a veil between him and the eyes of the gazing disciples. The cloud can be pierced by the eye of faith, and our Lord seen interceding for us at the right hand of God.

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

They went forth, and preached everywhere. Acts of the Apostles is the history of their preaching. It should be studied to see how the Apostles understood and preached the Commission of the Lord. The Commission of Christ is to his Church; its field is the world; its work is to preach the gospel; its congregation embraces every creature; its offer is a free and full salvation; the conditions of salvation are faith in Christ, and obedience to him; the consequence of rejecting Christ's salvation is eternal condemnation.

Luke's Account of the Great Commission

Luke 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Luke 24:37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

Luke 24:38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Luke 24:40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

Luke 24:41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

Luke 24:42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

Luke 24:43 And he took it, and did eat before them.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Luke 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Luke 24:46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (“behoved “ Christ to fulfill The Gospel Story)

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

The two things to be preached in the coming first Gospel sermon are: “repentance and remission of sins”. So if Peter did his job we will find those two elements in his sermon on Pentecost in Acts 2.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

You might be saying: ”what’s all this talk about baptism how did the thief on the cross go to heaven without being baptized?” Let’s look at that:

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

How do you know the thief on the cross was not baptized? After all cf:

Mark 1:4-5 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

Have you ever known a backslider? How do you know he was not baptized by John?

How did the thief on the cross know Jesus was sinless if he had not previously known about Jesus saying: V:41 “this man hath done nothing amiss”

How did the thief on the cross know about the coming Kingdom of God or the Church if he had not been baptized? Saying: V:42 “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”

The thief on the cross died under the Law of Moses where baptism was not required except to become ritualistically clean or to enter the temple.

Furthermore, Jesus had not yet given the Great Commission we are studying which commands “baptism for the remission of sins”

Luke 24:48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Luke 24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

Luke 24:51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

Acts 1:1-9 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Acts 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

John 3:3-5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **3:4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **3:5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

I Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, B.W. Johnson , Clarke, and Coffman Commentaries