

The Great Commission

**What is the
Great Commission?**

**Jesus Christ's command
to preach the gospel
worldwide.**

**The Bible does not call it
the Great Commission.**

Men gave it the name.

The Great Commission

The Great Commission

Does it Depend on You?

The Great Commission

Or Has It Been Fulfilled?

A Very Serious Matter

- Either ... souls are going to hell you could save ... or not.
- Either ... this is Christ's greatest duty for you ... or not.
- Either ... this is your church's greatest mission ... or not.
- Either ... we are very confused about truth ... or not.
- Either ... Jesus needs help to get men saved ... or not.

If It Depends on You ...

- What are you doing here? ... go into all the world!
- You cannot satisfy it by giving ... because it says go!
- Why do you have a nice home ... while souls perish?
- Take an online course ... and be a missionary ... today!
- Any comfort/pleasure in your life ... sends men to hell.

If It Is Fulfilled ...

- The apostles were great men that did a great job!
- You should observe all the things the apostles taught!
- You should focus on the duties their epistles teach.
- You should exalt Bible soul winning and witnessing.
- You should rejoice God got the gospel to you (1 Ti 3:16).

Why this Subject?

- Confirm preaching about election and predestination.
- We want God's truth without manmade distractions.
- To exalt the glory of the apostles' accomplishments.
- To have right priorities and remove wrongful guilt.
- To exalt Jesus Christ as a totally successful Saviour!

What this Study is Not

- It is not ... criticism of true Bible evangelism.
- It is not ... condemnation of men's motives.
- It is not ... to promote foolish sensationalism.
- It is not ... condemnation of Christian witnessing.
- It is not ... criticism of a Bible text or event.
- It is not ... reduction in duties to Jesus Christ.

Should You Care?

- Indeed! ... It is a repeated command of Jesus Christ.
- Indeed! ... Other churches make it their top priority.
- Indeed! ... if souls are going to hell while you relax.
- Indeed! ... if we are to earnestly covet the best gifts.
- Indeed! ... since it reflects your doctrine of salvation.

**What is the
Great Commission?**

**Jesus Christ's command
to preach the gospel
worldwide.**

How Is the Commission Abused?

- It is applied to ordinary church members today.
- It is esteemed the greatest duty for the believer.
- Many say neglecting it is evidence of carnal believers.
- Full-time Christian service becomes the great goal.
- Ordinary vocations and jobs are unkindly slighted.
- Terrible guilt and bondage are created for the sincere.

Here It Is - Matthew

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations ...”

Matthew 28:19

Here It Is - Mark

“Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

Here It Is - Luke

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:47-48

Here It Is - Acts

“And ye shall be witnesses unto me ...
unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

The Commission Defined

- Given by Jesus just before His ascension.
- Jesus had preached to Israel only (Matt 15:24).
- Jesus had sent His apostles to Israel only (Matt 10:1-7).
- The Commission now sent the apostles worldwide.
- The Commission included great signs and wonders.
- It was to be completed before 70 A.D. (Matt 24:14).

To Whom Was It Given? - Matthew

“The eleven disciples went away into Galilee ... and Jesus came and spake unto them ... Go ye therefore ...”

Matthew 28:16-20

To Whom Was It Given? - Mark

“Afterward He appeared unto the eleven ... and He said unto them, Go ye into all the world.”

Mark 16:14-15

To Whom Was It Given? - Luke

“And found the eleven gathered together ... and as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them ... ye are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24:33-48

To Whom Was It Given? - Acts

“... after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen ... he said unto them ... ye shall be witnesses unto me ...”

Acts 1:2-8



This is not hard.

The commission
was given to the
apostles.

It Included Signs and Wonders

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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.”

Mark 16:17-18

It Included Signs and Wonders

- As you read, Mark specifically listed great miracles.
- Matthew's account mentioned Jesus Christ's power.
- Acts promised needed power before their witnessing.
- Signs and wonders are part of the Commission.
- You cannot truly fulfill the Commission without them.

Did the Apostles Do Miracles?

“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

Hebrews 2:4

Did the Apostles Do Miracles?

- They cast out devils in Jesus' name!
- They spoke in new languages!
- They took up serpents!
- They healed the sick!
- They even raised the dead!



This is not hard.

The commission
included great
miracles.

Jesus Gave a Deadline for It

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Matthew 24:14

Jesus Gave a Completion Date

- Matthew 24:14 clearly states worldwide preaching.
- Jesus said ... *gospel preaching ... in all the world.*
- Jesus said ... *to all nations ... for a witness.*
- The end here is Jerusalem's ruin in 70 AD (Luke 21:20-24).
- It was fulfilled during Jesus' generation (Matt 24:34).



This is not hard.

The commission
was for Jesus'
generation.

**It is heresy to say Jesus
cannot come again until
the whole world hears.**

**The end Jesus intended
was Jerusalem's ruin
by Titus in 70 A.D.**



What have you
learned so far?

This is not hard.

- To the apostles
- With miracles
- By 70 A.D.

Did the Apostles Do It?

“So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

Mark 16:19-20

Did the Apostles Do It?

- The context in Mark 16 says they did do it! Amen!
- The apostles indeed preached everywhere.
- The Lord worked with them in many ways.
- They performed great signs and wonders.
- These inspired facts are nearly always ignored today.
- Modern Bible versions question or deny Mark 16:9-20.

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD?

- Jesus promised it would be! (Matt 24:14,34)
- Jesus charged the apostles to do it! (Mark 16:15-18)
- They did obey their Lord's command! (Mark 16:19-20)
- Paul repeatedly confirmed it had been fulfilled!
- The enemies of the gospel said it had been done!

These Places Are Mentioned

Jerusalem

Around Corinth

Rome

Judea

Beyond Corinth

Italy

Samaria

Asia

Greece

Spain

Far Hence

Crete

Illyricum (Yugoslavia)

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #1

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

Romans 1:8

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #2

“But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

Romans 10:18

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #3

“For your obedience is come abroad unto all men.”

Romans 16:19

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #4

“But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”

Romans 16:26

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #5

“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye hear of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:”

Colossians 1:5-6

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #6

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”

Colossians 1:23

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #7

“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;”

Acts 17:6

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #8

“Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.”

Acts 21:28

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #9

“For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:”

Acts 24:5

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD? - #10

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

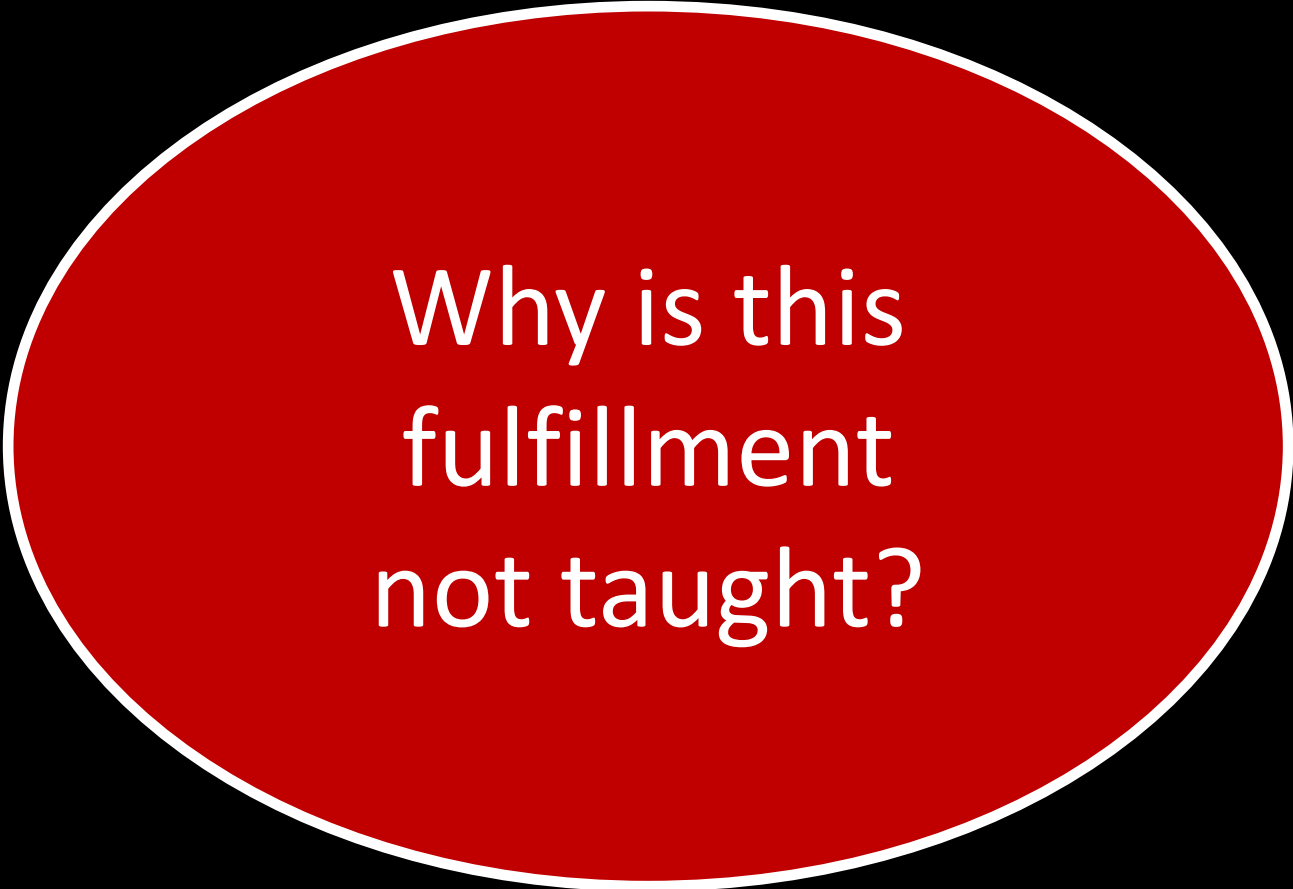
I Timothy 3:16

Was It Fulfilled by 70 AD?

- Jesus promised it would be! (Matt 24:14,34)
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- They did obey their Lord's command! (Mark 16:19-20)
- Paul repeatedly confirmed it had been fulfilled!
- The enemies of the gospel said it had been done!



Do you believe
the Bible?



Why is this
fulfillment
not taught?



Bible believers
will rejoice at
the fulfillment!

Could the Apostles Cover the World?

- Remember how much area Paul himself covered.
- Philip, an evangelist, traveled faster than a plane.

“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea” (Acts 8:39-40).

- The “world” only has to be as big as Jesus intended.

Could Apostles Speak other Languages?

- Remember that Jesus promised them other tongues.
- On Pentecost they spoke over 15 different languages.

“And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:8-11)

This is not hard.

- Travel by God
- Tongues by God

This is not hard.

Apostles fulfilled
it, and we know
how!

But Aren't We Still Responsible?

- The Commission was given only to the apostles.
- The apostles fulfilled it exactly and fully as given.
- No one today can keep the several specified terms.
- The N.T. epistles never repeat the Great Commission.
- The N.T. epistles emphasize many other duties for us.

We Cannot Keep Its Terms

- God removed the miracle power of the apostles.
- They used no language school – they had tongues.
- The apostles never did deputation work (Matt 10:9-10).
- We are 1,945 years too late for the 70 A.D. deadline.
- Required order – Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, earth!

The N.T. Epistles Never Repeat It

- If the most important duty ... why deafening silence?
- If epistles are for church life ... why no Commission?
- If full-time Christian service is key ... why so ignored?
- Why did Paul push faithfulness in secular vocations?
- Why no mention of church members signing up, etc.?

The N.T. Epistles Stress Other Duties

Fathers to train children	Citizens to submit to rulers
Mothers to love children	Members to honor pastors
Husbands to love wives	Pastors to serve members
Wives to obey husbands	Members to one another
Children to honor parents	Families care for widows
Servants to obey masters	Older women teach younger
Masters faithful to servants	Younger women to marry

The N.T. Epistles Stress Other Duties

- The apostles' epistles are very detailed and specific.
- But they do not mention the Commission anywhere.
- They stress growing in grace and walking with God.
- They stress holy living and putting off lusts of the flesh.
- They stress spiritual progress ... but no worldwide duty.

This is not hard.

**We cannot keep its terms.
The N.T. never repeated it.
The N.T. has other duties.**

Commission Becomes a Distraction

- Satan loves to distract Christians from godly living.
- Secular jobs God considers noble are made vain.
- Discipleship and spirituality measured by missions.
- Preaching, rather than feeding, begs for missionaries.
- Churches exalt missions over Bible one-another duties.
- Win the lost at any cost breeds inventions/heresies.

The Commission Was Apostolic

- Jesus gave it only to the apostles.
- Its deadline was during their lives.
- Believing the Bible, they fulfilled it.
- It was fulfilled with stated miracles.
- The apostles had signs and wonders.
- They had means of language/travel.
- It progressed out from Jerusalem.
- It was not repeated to anyone else.
- There are no more apostles today.
- It cannot be fulfilled today by us.

This is not hard.

**The great commission was
fulfilled by the special
men Jesus gave it to.**



But what about
souls of men?



Are any souls
at risk?

If We Do Not Do It – Are Souls at Risk?

- Will anyone go to hell because we treat it as fulfilled?
- Either ... souls are going to hell you could save ... or not.
- Either ... this is Christ's great duty for you ... or not.
- Either ... this should be your church mission ... or not.
- Either ... we are very confused about truth ... or not.

**Only one
soul winner
gives eternal life!**

**He cannot ...
He will not ...
lose a single soul!**

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #1

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”

John 6:39

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #2

“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”

John 17:2

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #3

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:30-31

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #4

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth.”

Romans 8:33

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #5

“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”

Romans 9:15-16

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #6

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,”

Ephesians 1:4-5

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #7

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”

II Timothy 1:9

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #8

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

II Timothy 2:19

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #9

“And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.”

Hebrews 2:13

Are Any Souls at Risk? - #10

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

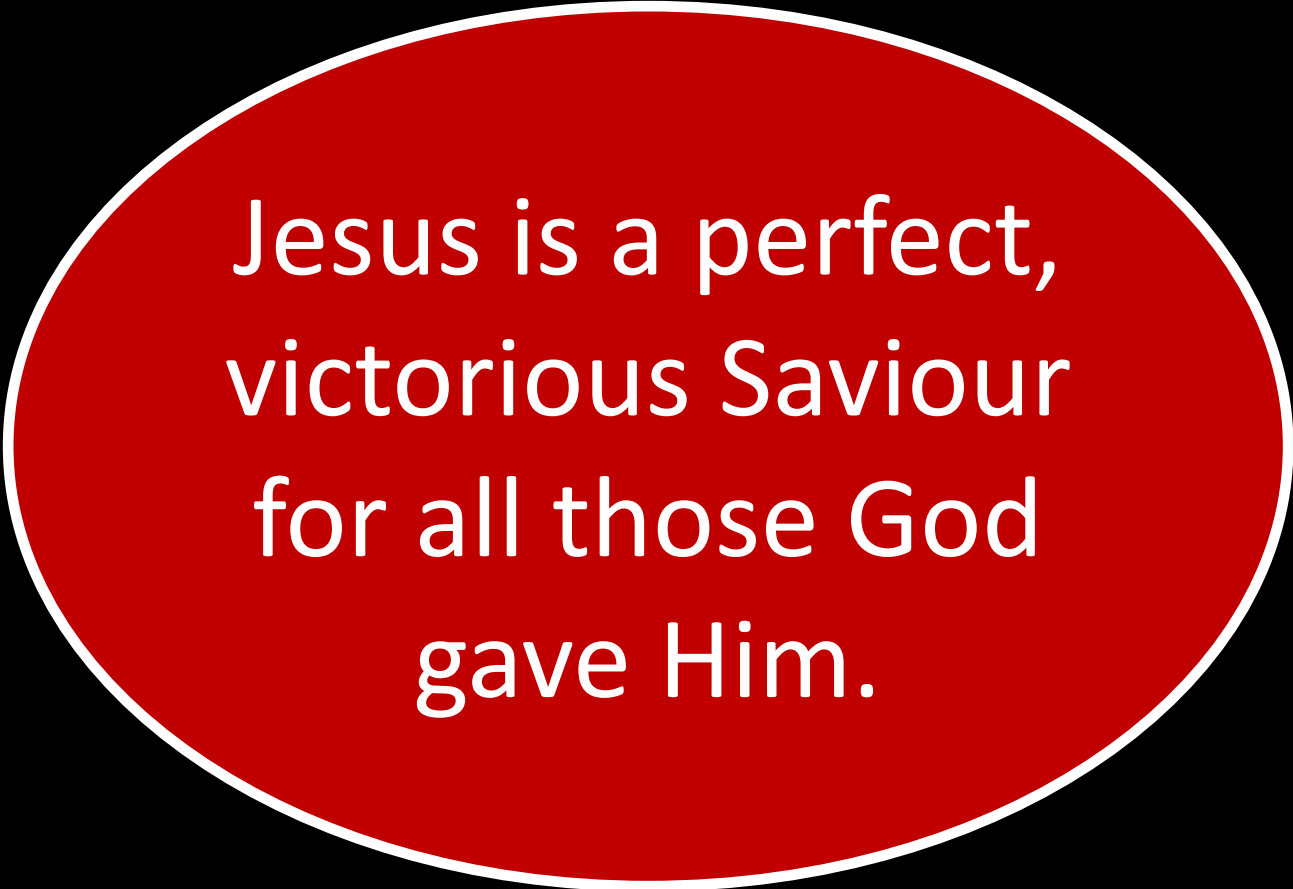
Matthew 1:21



Are any souls
at risk?



No!



Jesus is a perfect,
victorious Saviour
for all those God
gave Him.

Are Any Souls at Risk? - 1

- Election and predestination are God's sure purpose to save all His chosen ones according to His will.
- Jesus is the only Mediator between God and men, and as the second Adam He obeyed for them.
- Regeneration is by the voice of Jesus Christ and Holy Ghost power without any human cooperation.

Are Any Souls at Risk? - 2

- The gospel only brings life and immortality to light for the elect only; it is foolishness to all others.
- Ministers perfect saints; they cannot turn goats into sheep or vessels of wrath into vessels of mercy.
- God will never have a soul in heaven by virtue of silver or gold, man's obedience, or human help.

**For much more
information about
certain salvation for the
elect, see links at end.**

What Is Bible Soul Winning? - 1

- It is converting elect from error/ignorance to truth.

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20

- James is emphatic about this form of soul winning, but he wrote nothing about the Commission.

What Is Bible Soul Winning? - 2

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim 4:16).

- It is a minister carefully guarding his personal life and apostolic doctrine to save himself and his church.
- This is the practical salvation commonly intended in the New Testament. See the five phases of salvation.

What Is Bible Soul Winning? - 3

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise” (Pr 11:30).

“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life” (Pr 15:4).

“The lips of the righteous feed many” (Pr 10:21).

“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell” (Pr 23:13-14).

What about Evangelism? - 1

- *Evangelist* was a N.T. office preaching to strangers.
- They did miracles, but they were not apostles.
- Philip was an evangelist – to Samaria/eunuch (Acts 21:8).
- The office, along with apostles and prophets, is gone.
- Pastors now do the work of an evangelist (II Tim 4:5).
- The modern “evangelist” is man’s invention/heresy.

What about Evangelism? - 2

- *God loves you, and has a wonderful plan for your life.*
- Did Noah pass out such tracts before the Flood?
- The apostles in Acts never mentioned God's love.
- But they sure did mention repentance and judgment!
- They never fed or clothed anyone to get a decision.
- They never disturbed the peace by street preaching.

What about Paul's Evangelism? - 1

- Paul labored to locate and educate the elect. He never tried to give eternal life to reprobates.

“Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

II Timothy 2:10

- Why is this verse not used at missions conferences?
- Paul knew God would save all the elect and no more.

What about Paul's Evangelism? - 2

- Paul chose venues where there was the greatest probability of finding some elect.

“Now when they ... came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,”

Acts 17:1-2

- The apostle to Gentiles – synagogues were his venue.
- He wanted hearers that already feared the true God.

What about Missionaries?

- Jesus had this to say about Jewish missionaries:

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”

Matthew 23:15

- It is a manmade office unknown in the New Testament.
- Some have good motives, but could be better taught.

What about Matthew 28:20?

- Some say Jesus' conclusion makes it perpetual:

“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.” (Matthew 28:20).

- The word “alway” does not alter any part of this study.
- Apostles went to “end of the world” (Rom 10:18; Ps 19:4).
- If for church, Jesus is with us, but not the commission.


Should we witness?

Of course!

**It was recently taught
again as a trait of higher
ground for this church.**

Should We Witness?

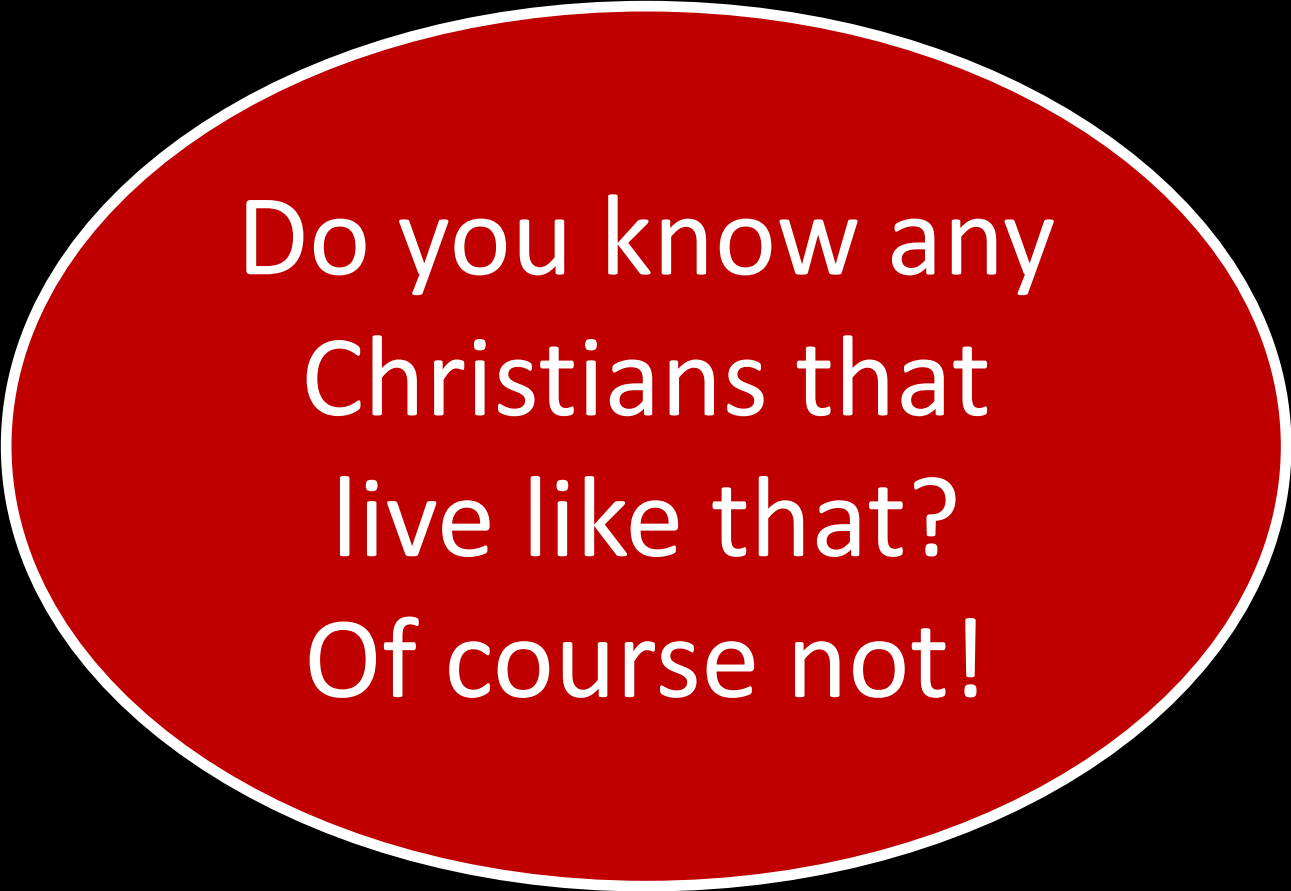
- **By lives** (Matt 5:16; I Pet 2:12; 3:1-2; Phil 1:27; 2:15; I Thess 4:12).
- **Be ready** (I Pet 3:15; Col 4:6; Pr 15:28; 22:17-21; Ps 119:98-100).
- **Be able** (Ac 18:24-26; Heb 5:12-14; I Thes 5:14; Ro 15:14; Jas 5:19-20).
- **Be looking** (Jn 1:37-51; 4:28-30; Acts 13:42-44; 18:24-28; I Cor 7:16).
- **Your family** (De 6:1-9; Ps 34:11; 78:1-8; Eph 6:4; I Cor 14:35; Joel 1:3).



You likely have
not met a person
that truly believes
the Commission.

If You Really Believe the Commission

- You would be a single missionary ... starting today.
- You would reject any comfort that costs any money.
- You would sell all your assets to give to missions.
- You would only sleep 5 hours a night to be witnessing.
- You would talk to every stranger you met anywhere.
- You would press every conversation to get 'em saved!



Do you know any
Christians that
live like that?
Of course not!



They must believe
our conclusion!

Or be hypocrites!

**Commission theology
distorts the truth.**

**Learn to read the Bible
without its confusion.**

Observations & Thoughts - #1

- “Missionary” is not in the Bible. There are four offices with only pastor-teacher left (Eph 4:11; II Tim 4:5).
- Clearest “soul winning” verse is of brethren (Jas 5:19-20).
- Clearest “full-time Christian service” is jobs (Col 3:24).
- The “missionary” verse Rev 3:20 is not for the lost!

Observations & Thoughts - #2

- Pure religion is visiting widows and living holy (Jas 1:27).
- Commission theology invented decisional salvation.
- It panders to flesh with food, clothes, medicine, etc.
- The apostles preached to those wanting to hear.
- It is hypocrisy to be comfortable while the lost perish.

Observations & Thoughts - #3

- What is our growth plan? – to grow in grace (II Pet 3:18).
- Why children programs? – they are not accountable!
- Paul applied Romans ... in 12:1-2 ... with no replication!
- BJU has \$50M of Catholic art, but uses Commission!
- Commission ... observe all things ... not commission!

Observations & Thoughts - #4

- Why emphasis on children? ... the apostles did not! Is it for the ease to extract decisions from the foolish?
- Make your theology consistent with the Commission – will Jesus save all He came to save, or not?
- If you have been disgusted with modern “soul winning” methods, look no further than Finney and Commission.

Conclusion - #1

- Thank God for the apostles (Eph 2:20)!
- They fulfilled the “Great Commission”!
- It was not transferred to you or me.
- We have obvious practical duties.
- Secular jobs are honorable and godly.

Conclusion - #2

- Let us always seek to rightly apply scripture.
- Let us seek to always have Bible priorities.
- Let us live in such a way to be living epistles.
- Answer any that ask a reason of your hope.
- Be ready to share the truth with those seeking.

For Further Study - 1

Unconditional Salvation ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/unconditional-salvation/sermon.php>.

Five Phases of Salvation ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/five-phases-of-salvation/sermon.php>.

Age of Accountability ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/heresy/age-of-accountability/sermon.php>.

Why Preach the Gospel? ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/why-preach-the-gospel.pdf>.

Why No Invitation? ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/why-no-invitation.pdf>.

The Two Adams ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/two-adams.pdf>.

Once Saved, Always Saved ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/heresy/once-saved-always-saved/sermon.php>.

Proverbs 11:30 ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/proverbs/commentaries/11_30.php.

Love of a Soul ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-of-a-soul.pdf>.

Does God Love Everybody? ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/does-god-love-everybody.pdf>.

The Distinguishing Love of God ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/distinguishing-love-of-god.pdf>.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com

For Further Study - 2

When Was Cornelius Saved? ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/when-was-cornelius-saved/sermon.php>.

Questions for Arminians ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/questions-for-arminians.pdf>.

Limited Atonement ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/limited-atonement.pdf>.

Before the World Began ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/before-the-world-began.pdf>.

John 3:16 Revisited ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/john-3-16-revisited.pdf>.

Revelation 3:20 Reclaimed ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/heresies/rev3-20.php>.

Eternal Life is a Gift ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/eternal-life-is-a-gift.pdf>.

Calvinism & Arminianism ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/calvinism-arminianism/sermon.php>.

Small-Pill Evangelism ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/evangelism-small-pill-table.pdf>.

Evangelism – One Soul at a Time ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/evangelism-one-at-a-time.pdf>.

BJU Art Museum Exposed ... <http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/bju/gallery.htm>.

www.LetGodBeTrue.com

Final Note about this Church

- We have a worldwide website like Athens' market.
- We promote Proverb commentaries in 230 countries.
- We sound out the word of God like Thessalonica (1:8).
- We support pastors in other continents and countries.
- We preach personal witnessing for every member.