

Ye Shall Be Witnesses— 06/27/21

TEXT- 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.*

INTRO –

This is called the “Great Commission”

In Scripture we read the dying words of many. For example,

The repentant thief on the cross beside Jesus said, **Luke 23:42** *And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

Stephen’s final words while being stoned to death he cried out, “**Acts 7:60** *And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

The apostle Paul **2 Ti 4:6-8** *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Jesus final words -

Mat 28:19-20 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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.*

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

Luk 24:46-48 *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.*

Joh 20:21-22 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

Hudson Taylor either said or wrote: “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered, but it is a command to be obeyed.”

The term Great Commission is not found in the Bible the use of the word is very accurate.

But what makes the Great Commission so great? When it comes to evangelism, we cite here five reasons why the Great Commission is actually so very great.

I. Its Source

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Jesus Christ is the source of the Great Commission. To say it precisely, every single word He ever spoke is great because He cannot say anything less. Every question, every response, and every command, carries with it the stamp of His authority. As spoken in our verse above, His words are Spirit, and they are life. His words are not random thoughts and surmising; they are divine truth.

II. Its Substance

What is the message of the Great Commission? The underlying truth behind the Great Commission is that all are lost and in need of a Savior. The message is an urgent call and command for every blood-washed child of God to go. The actual command is to “make disciples,” that is, to cause all men to become followers of Christ. We find the message, or the substance, stated in three powerful facts spoken by Paul:

1 Co 15:1-4 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Rom 10:9-10 *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. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Millions have been saved over the course of several hundred years, by placing faith in Christ and what He has done.

III. Its Supremacy

Throughout the missionary life of Paul the apostle, he demonstrated just how great he knew Jesus’ words to be. Christ actually gave Paul his own personal commission which reinforces Christ’s original command to his disciples:

Acts 26:15-18 *And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they*

may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Christ was Paul's life; everything he did revolved around Christ, His command, and the urgency he felt to preach the gospel. Paul told the Corinthians:

1 Co 2:1-2 *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

IV. Its Scope

When carrying out Christ's command to "therefore go," it is important to understand that it is for everyone. Since all are sinners, all need and deserve to hear the gospel message. Matthew and Mark speak about taking the gospel to all the world, to all nations, and to every creature; this is all inclusive and no one is to be excluded. Every race, color and ethnicity are to be the recipients of the Great Commission.

V. Its Special Promise

Mat 28:20 . . . *and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

The Lord promises us that He will be with us. And that is all the assurance that we need. Without hesitation, we should boldly commit our efforts to Him, relying totally on Him, knowing that His presence abides with us. As we preach, teach, make disciples, and baptize, we are guaranteed the power of His promise.

While it is an awesome responsibility, may we all proceed with the same passion possessed by the early Church, in making Christ's command supreme in our lives and ministries.

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