



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

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16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Matthew 28:16-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have
commanded you. And behold, I am with you
always, to the end of the age.”

Theme: Christians can accomplish the Great Commission by the protection of Christ's authority and the comfort of His presence

I. Christ's Claim (vs. 18)

John 5:27-29

27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

“Before giving the commission, Jesus first established His absolute, pervasive authority, because otherwise the command would have seemed hopelessly impossible for the disciples to fulfill, and they might have ignored it. Were it not for knowing they had the Lord’s sovereign demand as well as His resources to guide and empower them, those five hundred nondescript, powerless disciples would have been totally overwhelmed by the inconceivable task of making disciples for their Lord from among every nation on earth.”

-John F. MacArthur Jr., Matthew, vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary

“Unable to bear the sight of a congregation of a thousand or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security, while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual pain; and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to God for this service...”

...All at once came the thought—If you are simply obeying the LORD, all the responsibility will rest on Him, not on you! What a relief!! Well, I cried to God—‘Thou, Lord, shalt have all the burden! At Thy bidding, as Thy servant I go forward, leaving results with Thee. You shall be responsible for them, and for me too!’”

-Hudson Taylor

I. Christ's Claim (vs. 18)

II. Christ's Command (vs. 19-20a)

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I have
commanded you.

I. Christ's Claim (vs. 18)

II. Christ's Command (vs. 19-20a)

III. Christ's Comfort (vs. 20b)

Matthew 28:20b

20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“The disciple is not going to be left to serve God as well as he can in the light of what he has learned from the things Jesus has commanded. The disciple will find that he has a great companion as he goes on his way through life. This tells us something about Jesus. The Jesus of whom Matthew writes is no small Palestinian figure, but a mighty Person who is with his followers wherever they may be...”

And this, he says, will last through time. He is not speaking of a temporary residence with first-century disciples, but of a presence among his followers to the very end of time. This Gospel opened with the assurance that in the coming of Jesus God was with his people (1:23), and it closes with the promise that the very presence of Jesus Christ will never be lacking to his faithful follower.”

-Leon Morris, The Gospel According to Matthew

