

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Read Matthew 28: 18-20
2. Regarding the Text:
  - (1) The passage is set in the context of a post-resurrection discourse.
  - (2) The apostles were just coming to grips with the reports of Christ resurrection.
  - (3) The women – Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early Sunday morning to the tomb with the intention to complete the anointing of the body of Jesus. They find an empty tomb and are told by an Angel that Jesus is risen from the dead and they are to return and tell the disciples that Jesus will meet them in Galilee.
  - (4) On their way back Jesus appears to them, calm their fears and sends them to the brothers with the good news.
  - (5) Jesus meets the disciples in Galilee.
  - (6) When the disciples see Jesus, they worship Him, but some doubted.
  - (7) Jesus gives them their mission – to convert the world.
3. Let us at this time take a close look at this commission and its relevance for us today.

DISCUSSION: In the Great Commission, we see that –

- I. There is much fear and unbelief among the disciples.
  1. Some of the apostles did not believe that Jesus rose from the dead.
    - (1) The women were joyous and afraid - Matt. 28:8; Mark 16:8; Luke
    - (2) The apostles worshiped him; but some doubted - Matt. 28:17; Mark
    - (3) Some did not believe – MK. 16:11-13
    - (4) Jesus rebukes them for their unbelief, MK. 16:14; Luke 24:25
    - (5) Luke's account, Luke 24:36-43
  2. The great commission is linked to the resurrection story

(1) Luke 24:44-48

(2) The commission is recorded according to the theme of each gospel account.

II. The Commission according to Matthew, Matt. 28:18-20

1. There is the authority of Jesus, vs. 18

(1) He taught as a person of authority, Matt. 7:29

(2) Here He has not just ultimate authority, but the only one with authority.

2. There is the scope of the commission – this makes it great

(1) Into all the world

(2) This is what makes it great

(3) Peasants are to become world travelers preaching and teaching a message of hope and reconciliation.

3. They are to make disciples, how? Teaching and baptizing.

(1) Teach to obey the teachings of Jesus

i. Matt. 7:24 – wise or foolish

ii. Matt. 8:27 – the winds obey Him

iii. For Matthew the teachings are to be obeyed

(2) Baptizing them into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

i. A fellowship with the Godhead, the Trinity

ii. Matt. 3:16 – Patterns the baptism of Jesus

iii. Confirmation of membership in the family of God

iv. The disciples made by teaching and baptizing, are Christians, Acts 11:26.

(3) The commission is to all Christians for all times

i. To the ends of the world

ii. To the Church in Chelmsford and wherever Churches of Christ are to be found.

- iii. When we obey the commands of Christ, we must include the command of the great commission.

### III. The commission according to Mark, Mark 16:14-16

1. Like Matthew the scope is into all the world.
2. Preaching is the method; Mark sees Jesus as a preacher, for Matthew he is a teacher.
  - (1) Mark 1:1, 38-39.
3. Belief precedes Baptism and baptism precedes salvation.
  - (1) Mark 16:16 – whoever believes and is baptized will be saved
  - (2) This is the gospel of Christ.
  - (3) Preach anything else and it is a different gospel, Gal. 1:8-9.
  - (4) Acts 18:8 – hearing, believed and are baptized – that is **the** pattern.
4. Condemnation for all who reject the gospel.
  - (1) The commission in Mark makes it absolutely clear that baptism is necessary for salvation and that baptism precedes salvation. Mk. 16:15-16
    - i. The one saved is the one who believes and is baptized
    - ii. The one condemned is the one who does not believe.
    - iii. To which group do you belong?

### IV. The Commission according to Luke, Luke 24:44-47

1. Repentance and forgiveness of sins are critical elements.
  - (1) Complements Matthew and Mark's account
  - (2) Put it all together:
    - i. The gospel is preached or taught
    - ii. Hear
    - iii. Believed
    - iv. Sins repented of

- v. Baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the remission of sins.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. We have looked at the Great Commission as laid out in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.
2. We've seen that the commission is relevant and applicable to Christians today. The responsibility is now on our shoulders to take the gospel to the people of our communities and across the world.
3. We see also that the great commission is :
  - A. Based on the authority of Jesus Christ
  - B. The resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - C. The execution of the commission is the chosen method of Jesus to convert individuals from sinners to saints.
4. In this Great Commission Jesus makes it clear that for anyone to be saved by Him that person must:
  - A. Hear the gospel
  - B. Believe the gospel
  - C. Repent of their sins
  - D. Be baptized in water for the remission of their sins
5. This is the method of the apostles and the examples laid out in your Bible.
6. Peter said, Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38.
7. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?