

Gospel of Matthew “The Great Commission 1”
Matthew 28:16-20
August 25, 2024

Matthew 28:16-20

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. 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.”

Matthew 28:18

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

“All authority.”

Ephesians 1:20-23

20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The rule of the universe and the mission of the church have been put into the hands of Jesus.

Hebrews 2:6-9

6 It has been testified somewhere,
“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?
7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,^[a]
8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

In heaven and earth.

The Great Commission is first a great declaration.

Psalm 145:3-4

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.

The lostness of your neighbor isn't a strong enough motivator.

Isaiah 46:9-10 "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Christians aren't working for God as other religions require, but we are proclaiming that we have a God who has worked for us,

The Great Commission opens a stream of hope into our lives.

“There are two ways to look at human history, I have concluded. One way is to focus on the wars and violence, the squalor, the pain and tragedy and death. From such a point of view, Easter seems a fairy-tale exception, a stunning contradiction in the name of God. There is another way to look at the world. If I take Easter as the starting point, the one incontrovertible fact about how God treats those whom he loves, then human history becomes the contradiction and Easter a preview of ultimate reality. Hope then flows like lava beneath the crust of daily life.”

— Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Why does the Great Commission often produce feelings of guilt?
- How would feelings and thoughts about the Great Commission adjust if the passage reveals Jesus' greatness first?
- If all authority has been given to Jesus then what does that mean? Why is this hard to believe at times?
- How is the Great Commission meant to produce hope?
- In what ways can we be faithful to Jesus and Great Commission in our every day lives?
- How can your Life Group encourage and support you in applying this passage to your life this week?