

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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Personal Evangelism

By Dan Barker

Why is the great commission

... great?

In Matt. 28:18-20, we have the familiar command that Jesus gave to His disciples. In this command, Jesus said; (1). Go therefore, (2). make disciples of all the nations, (3). Baptizing them and (5). Further teaching them. This command ended with the promise of Jesus that if they obeyed Him, He would be with them, even to the end. What a great promise!

Have you ever wondered why this command is called, "the great commission"? What is so "great" about it? Here are a few thoughts on this subject.

The great commission is "great" because:

Great in its' authority. Jesus said in verse 18 ... that "all

authority" has been given to **Me** in heaven and on earth.". Since Jesus has this "great" authority, we see Him giving this "great" commission.

Great in it's mission. The apostles were to "make disciples" of Jesus Christ. A disciple is one taught to be a "follower, learner, imitator" of Christ. Jesus expected His disciples to become like Him Luke 6:40!. After one became a disciple by being baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit", they were to be taught to **observe all things** that Jesus had commanded the apostles. Baptism is only the beginning, teaching must continue to fully develop as a disciple. So we see it's a "great commission, "because of its' "great mission or purpose.

Great in its' scope. Jesus told them to go into **all** the world and preach this

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gospel to **everyone.**(Mark 6: 15). Go to all nations ... we are to think of our community here in Greenwood and Indy, but also places like Sierra Leone. So the vision of this commission is great in scope ... thus the "great commission."

Great in its' promise. I mentioned this earlier in the article, but notice just how great this thought is! "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."(Matt.28:20b). This reminds me of a similar promise that God had made to Moses and Joshua. Joshua 1:5 hear God speaking to Joshua ... "as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."

Special note here: *Jesus had promised the apostles that He would be with them throughout their lives, if they go into the entire world and make more disciples!*

According to the scripture, they were obedient to the command, but what about us?

Did this "great

commission" just apply to the apostles? No ... it is a command for us too! Notice now ... the apostles were commanded to go, make disciples and to teach these **new disciples**, (that's you and me) to observe all things that Jesus had commanded the apostles, including this command to go and teach!

Again, what about us ... are we obeying this "great commission" in our lives? If we want Jesus with us always, even to the end, we will:

1. Submit to His great authority.
2. Work to make disciples of Jesus
3. Abide in His word

These are some of the reasons the great commission is great!

My prayer is that all of us would soon see our responsibility to obey this command!

**Can A Good Man
Be Saved And Not
Be A Member Of
The Church?**

By B. G. Hope

In the title of this article, I'm not using the word "church" in a denominational sense. The Bible knows nothing about a denomination. Our question for discussion is: "Can a man be saved and not a member of the church the Lord had in mind when he said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18)?

I believe the Bible teaches that a man must be a member of the church described in the New Testament. Notice the following reasons:

1. There is an example of a good man having to obey the gospel (Acts 10). In verse 5, it is said that he was a devout man, a God-fearing man. In Acts 11:14, it is said he had to hear words whereby he and his house could be saved. He is an example that a man cannot depend on his moral goodness. He obeyed the commands and was added to the church (Ac.2:47).

2. Redemption is in Christ (Eph.1:7). One can't be in Christ without being in the body of Christ. The church is His body (Eph.1:22-23); so one can't be in Christ without being in the church. A penitent believer is baptized into Christ (Gal.3:26-27). he is also baptized into the

body (1 Cor.12:13). This shows that to be in the body is the same as being in Christ, If one is saved out of the body of Christ, he is saved without being connected with the head. Christ is the head (Col.1:18).

3. Reconciliation to God is necessary to be saved. One is reconciled to God in Christ (2 Cor.5:18). It is said that one is reconciled in the body of Christ (Eph.2:16). So if one is saved outside of the body, which is the church, he is saved without being reconciled to God. Who can believe it?

4. Those outside of the body are aliens (Eph.2:12). He is without God, a stranger, no hope and without Christ. Can that kind of person be saved? Paul said that those in the body of Christ are fellow-citizens with the saints (Eph.2:19).

5. Finally, the church, which is His body, is the family of God (1 Tim.3:15). Members of His church are heirs (Rom.8:16-17). They are God's children. Will God save any other than His children? Does God have children outside of His family?

Invite Night Tonight!!!

At 4:30 P.M. -

"OH! THAT CHILD OF MINE!"

Have you invited anyone?

**WHY CHRISTIANITY
IS SUPERIOR**

MOHAMMED - still dead.

CONFUCIUS - still dead.

BUDDHA - still dead.

JESUS RISEN! ALIVE!

Not dead anymore!

Storm? What Storm?

A Selected Thought

Several years ago a submarine was being tested and had to remain submerged for many hours. When it returned to the harbor, the captain was asked, "How did the terrible storm last night affect you?" The officer looked at him in surprise and exclaimed, "Storm?" We didn't even know there was one."

The sub had been so far beneath the surface that it had reached the area know to sailors as "the cushion of the sea." Although the ocean may be whipped into huge waves by high winds, the waters below are never stirred.

Even though the waves of the world surround us each day, as Christians, we remain calm and secure in the cushion of Jesus – He blesses us with peace.