

THE NEW TESTAMENT COMMISSION

1. Perhaps this topic is preached on often in the brotherhood.
2. Carrying it out is still neglected in many areas.
3. Studying this important topic with the “journalistic method” may help us understand our responsibility to the great commission better.
4. Consider the “What, Who, Where, When, Why and How” of the great commission.

I. What?

- A. Great- Much above average in size or amount or intensity.
- B. Commission - A task entrusted to be done. (Oxford American Dict.)
- C. The command by God to carry the gospel to the lost.
- D. *Mat 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost 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.*
- E. *Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
- F. *Luke 24:46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*
- G. *John 17:16-18 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

II. Who?

- A. When this command was given, it was to eleven unlearned, untrained, men.
 1. They were insignificant in their society.
 2. They were not men of power or great wealth.
 3. They were men who took this duty seriously.
- B. What could they have thought?
 1. We are too few.

2. The odds are against us.
 3. We don't have the resources.
 4. The task is too great.
- C. They knew that the success of their mission was dependant ultimately upon the power of the one who gave the command rather than in their power.
- D. They also knew, however that they had to do their part.
- E. `Faithful Christians.

III. Where?

- A. Any place at all needs the gospel.
- B. Outside of this building!
1. The gospel is needed in our communities.
 2. Our jobs.
 3. Our schools.
 4. Our own homes.
 5. Areas of our own country.
 6. The world in general.

IV. Why?

- A. So many are lost.
1. It is estimated that at least 50 million people die every year throughout the world.
 2. Of this number, only a minuscule number will be ready.
- B. Denominations are working hard.
1. J.W.'s door to door.
 2. Mormons. 37,000 Missionaries. 100 countries.
 3. Seventh day Adventists. 23,000 missionaries in 1965.
 4. Southern Baptists are going to Utah to convert the Mormons. 35M
 5. Catholicism is more evangelical. 783 million.
- C. We never really know the potential of one dedicated person.
1. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries there were an estimated 12 million Christians in the Roman Empire.

2. That was from eleven dedicated men with God on their side.
3. Can that happen today?
4. Ira Rice and J. C. Bailey went into India in 1963. Now there are over 1 million Christians there.
5. Soon this scenario will be repeated in East Africa.
6. “Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but no one can count the apples in a well planted seed.”
7. There is power in one. The side that God is on is the majority.

D. Christ demands that the gospel be carried.

1. The great commission is not an option.
2. Failure to obey means spiritual death. *John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life: and he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

V. When?

A. Many want to start tomorrow. “Why do today what you can put off till tomorrow?”

B. Today is the day of salvation. *2 Cor 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

1. Why so urgent? People are dying. Most importantly us!
2. *John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*
3. We can not afford to pass from this life without doing our part.

C. Planning for the future is important.

1. We plan all of our important works.
 - a. Our careers.
 - b. Building a house.
 - c. Plan next seasons crops.
2. We need to plan for the great commission.

a. What can I do today, what can I do tomorrow.

VI. How?

A. Jesus said “go,” and left the method up to us.

B. Every way we can.

C. Personally.

D. Supporting evangelistic efforts.

1. Truth for the world.

2. Gospel papers, TV shows, Etc.

3. Help train preachers.

E. Supporting missionaries and indigenous preachers.

1. Even though we are small in number, we can do a lot.

2. We can be a part of great works. Effective works of evangelism that cause souls to be saved.

Conclusion.

1. The gospel is what saves.

2. We must carry it.

