

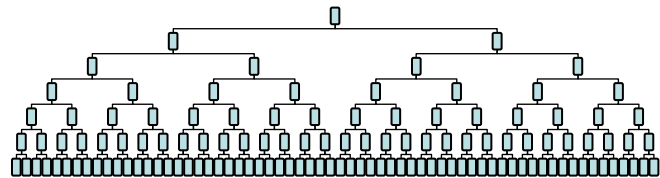
## Lesson 29 – The Great Commission

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" - Matt. 28:19-20

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. – Luke 14:23

When Christians think of the Great Commission, they usually think about Missions. Missionary work around the world is very important, but it's only part of the Great Commission. The Great Commission of the Lord has to do with the winning of souls to Christ everywhere in the world – starting where we live. Just as the missionaries we support are responsible to reach the areas where they are sent, we are responsible to be missionaries to the area in which we live. The Great Commission is not just for missionaries, it's God's command for all believers.

1. What the Great Commission is
  - a. The marching orders of the church
  - b. It is God's command to us to reach the world for Christ
  - c. It is not an option; it is the responsibility of every church and every believer
2. The 3 elements of the Great Commission – Matt. 28:19-20
  - a. Preaching the Gospel with the aim of winning people to Christ
    - i. Paul looked upon himself as a servant to all so that he could win more people to Christ – 2 Cor. 9:19-22
  - b. Baptizing the new believers
    - i. Baptism is so important to the Lord that He named it in the Great Commission.
    - ii. Churches and parachurch groups that win souls but don't practice Scriptural baptism by immersion are doing a good work, *but they are not obeying the*



### Each One Win One

**What Would Happen if Every Christian Won 1 Soul per Year – starting with a church of 1,000 participants (2 Tim. 2:22)  
Let's do the math**

| Year | Soul Winning Christians | New Believers | Total believers from this project |
|------|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2000 | 1,000                   | 1,000         | 2,000                             |
| 2001 | 2,000                   | 2,000         | 4,000                             |
| 2002 | 4,000                   | 4,000         | 8,000                             |
| 2003 | 8,000                   | 8,000         | 16,000                            |
| 2004 | 16,000                  | 16,000        | 32,000                            |
| 2005 | 32,000                  | 32,000        | 64,000                            |
| 2006 | 64,000                  | 64,000        | 128,000                           |
| 2007 | 128,000                 | 128,000       | 256,000                           |
| 2008 | 256,000                 | 256,000       | 512,000                           |
| 2009 | 512,000                 | 512,000       | 1,024,000                         |
| 2010 | 1,024,000               | 1,024,000     | 2,048,000                         |
| 2011 | 2,048,000               | 2,048,000     | 4,096,000                         |
| 2012 | 4,096,000               | 4,096,000     | 8,192,000                         |
| 2013 | 8,192,000               | 8,192,000     | 16,384,000                        |
| 2014 | 16,384,000              | 16,384,000    | 32,768,000                        |
| 2015 | 32,768,000              | 32,768,000    | 65,536,000                        |
| 2016 | 65,536,000              | 65,536,000    | 131,072,000                       |
| 2017 | 131,072,000             | 131,072,000   | 262,144,000                       |
| 2018 | 262,144,000             | 262,144,000   | 524,288,000                       |
| 2019 | 524,288,000             | 524,288,000   | 1,048,576,000                     |
| 2020 | 1,048,576,000           | 1,048,576,000 | 2,097,152,000                     |
| 2021 | 2,097,152,000           | 2,097,152,000 | 4,194,304,000                     |
| 2022 | 4,194,304,000           | 4,194,304,000 | 8,388,608,000                     |

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*Great Commission – they are only obeying part of it.*

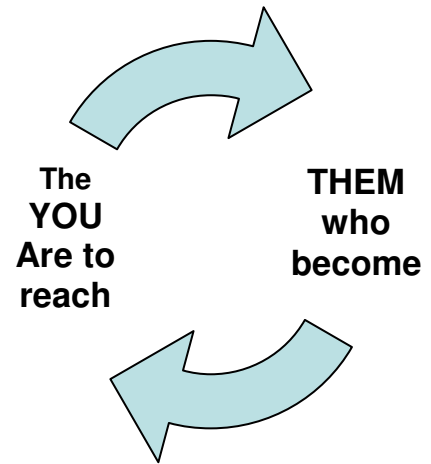
- c. Training believers to follow all the things Jesus has commanded us
  - i. To love God
  - ii. To hate sin
  - iii. To live pure lives
  - iv. To grow in grace
  - v. To share the Gospel
3. Why it is important
  - a. God loves everybody – John 3:16
  - b. Jesus died for everybody – 1 John 2:2
  - c. He commanded us to reach everybody – Mark 16:15
  - d. People who are not born again will go to Hell forever – Rev. 21:8
  - e. Jesus has compassion on the lost – Matt. 9:36
4. To whom it was given
  - a. The apostles
  - b. The entire church
  - c. That includes us – Each one of us needs to ask ourselves –
    - i. What am I doing about it?
    - ii. How does it affect my daily life?
    - iii. How does it affect my plans for my future?
5. To whom are we to go? – Acts 1:8

Of course one individual cannot go to all, but, as a body, we need to be committed to reach out to all, and as an individual, each of us needs to love God enough that we are willing to go anywhere and to be involved in ministering to any of the groups God listed for us in Acts 1:8.

- a. Jerusalem – our neighborhood and our city
  - i. The people you come into contact with every day
    1. Neighbors
    2. Co-workers
    3. Relatives
    4. Friends
  - ii. The people you “bump into” when you’re out
  - iii. The people you could reach with just a little effort because they live near your home, your children’s school, your work, your recreation, etc.
- b. All Judea – our county and state
  - i. The people you might have to travel a short distance to reach.
  - ii. Not all of us can do that, but we can be involved in sending others to do it so these people can have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.
- c. Samaria – the people we normally don’t like to associate with (The Jews didn’t like the Samaritans, and they would go out of their way to avoid coming into contact with them).
  - i. The people on welfare
  - ii. The illegal immigrants –
    1. It is true they shouldn’t be here, but maybe God allowed them to be here so that we could share the Gospel with them.
    2. Their eternal salvation is infinitely more important than their immigration status in the United States.
  - iii. The drug addicts and gang bangers

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- iv. The homeless
- v. People of other races and ethnic groups – God loves them every bit as much as He loves you.
- vi. Dirty people who don't smell good
- vii. Prostitutes, homosexuals and others of low morals
- d. To the end of the earth
  - i. Since Jesus loves everybody, He died for everybody, and He wants to save everybody, nobody is to be left out. – Mark 16:15
- 6. The self-perpetuity of the Great Commission
  - a. "You" reach "them"
  - b. The "them" becomes "you"
  - c. The next group of "you" reaches "them"
  - d. If every generation of Christians remained faithful to their Commission, the world would be evangelized in one generation.
    - i. Let's do the math – see the chart at the right
    - ii. Of course we know that not everyone will get saved. – Rom. 10:16
    - iii. God gives people the opportunity to accept or reject the Gospel and there are many who will never accept. He gives them the choice and lets them decide. We are not responsible to win them to Christ. We are only responsible to do everything in our power to *try* to win them. – 2 Cor. 5:11
- 7. Partnership with God in the Great Commission – 1 Cor. 3:9
  - a. Our part in fulfilling the Great Commission
    - i. Pray for more workers – Matt. 9:37-38
    - ii. Share the Gospel with unbelievers – Matt. 4:19
    - iii. Support evangelistic work financially – Luke 16:9
      - 1. People will be saved because of your support
      - 2. Those people will welcome you when you get to Heaven
      - 3. "You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead."
  - b. God's part in fulfilling the Great Commission – He only does this when we are obedient and witness for Him
    - i. He empowers us when we are filled with the Spirit – Acts 1:8
    - ii. Convicts people of sin, righteousness and judgment – John 16:7-11
    - iii. Draws people to the Lord – John 6:44
- 8. The urgency of the Great Commission
  - a. Does the salvation of people in our generation depend on our obedience to the Great



| <b>The Program of the Church in the New Testament</b> |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>And daily</b>                                      | Everyday evangelism        |
| <b>in the temple,</b>                                 | Church Evangelism          |
| <b>and in every house,</b>                            | Visitation Evangelism      |
| <b>they ceased not</b>                                | Unceasing Evangelism       |
| <b>to teach</b>                                       | Educational Evangelism     |
| <b>and preach</b>                                     | Preaching Evangelism       |
| <b>Jesus Christ</b>                                   | Christ-centered Evangelism |
| (Acts 5:42)   |                            |

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Commission? – Rom. 10:13-15

- b. If we don't seek to win the lost what will happen? They will not hear, they will not believe, and they will die in their sins and go to Hell.

***Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry?***

***Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die?***

***Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand?***

***Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you DAMNED?***

-Leonard Ravenhill

- 9. The Great Commission in the Early Church **This was the program of the church.**
  - a. Jesus gave the command and promised the power to fulfill it – Acts 1:8
  - b. 3,000 were saved on the Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:41
  - c. People were getting saved every day in the Jerusalem church – Acts 2:47
  - d. 5,000 men (plus probably about 5,000 women and thousands of children) got saved – Acts 4:4
  - e. Believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women – Acts 5:14
  - f. The apostles were accused of filling Jerusalem with the Gospel – Acts 5:27  
And this was after they had been warned they would be in trouble for preaching the Gospel.
  - g. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. – Acts 5:42
  - h. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. – Acts 6:7
  - i. After a time of serious persecution in Jerusalem, a lot of believers left the city. “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” – Acts 8:4
  - j. So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. – Acts 8:25
  - k. And passing through, he (Philip) preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.” – Acts 8:40
  - l. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied. – Acts 9:31b
  - m. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord – Acts 9:35
  - n. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. – Acts 9:42
  - o. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. – Acts 11:18
  - p. For he (Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, And a great many people were added to the Lord. – Acts 11:24
  - q. But the word of God grew and multiplied – Acts 12:24
  - r. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region – Acts 13:49
  - s. . . . they . . . so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. – Acts 14:1
  - t. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily – Acts 16:5

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- u. And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas – Acts 17:4
  - v. They were accused of turning the world upside down. – Acts 17:6b
  - w. Paul was teaching in the School of Tyrannus in Ephesus. “And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia (Asia Minor) heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” – Acts 19:10
  - x. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. – Acts 19:29
10. What happened?
- a. Sidetracked by false teachings and false teachers
  - b. Lost sense of the urgency of the Gospel
  - c. Turned inward
  - d. Became complacent and self centered
11. Our responsibility today
- a. How you can be involved in the Great Commission
    - i. Learn how to present the Gospel one-on-one
    - ii. Ask God to help you win at least one person to Christ every year for the rest of your life.
      - 1. Believe God
      - 2. Trust in Him to help you do it
      - 3. Make a holy, solemn commitment to Him that you will make this a matter of high priority in your life.
    - iii. Make a “hit list” of 5 people you will pray for and seek to lead to Christ
      - 1. Ask God to put 5 people on your heart
      - 2. Pray daily for them to get saved
      - 3. Ask God to give you an open door to witness to them
      - 4. Invite them to an evangelistic event
      - 5. Share Jesus with them
    - iv. Other ways you can be used of God in the Great Commission
      - 1. Gospel tracts
        - a. Put one in each envelope you send when you pay your bills.
        - b. Leave one with your tip at the restaurant.
        - c. You can give tracts to people you meet.
        - d. Make sure the tract you use has a clear presentation of the Gospel and an invitation to receive Christ NOW.
        - e. Sources
          - i. [www.gnpcb.org/product/663575730699](http://www.gnpcb.org/product/663575730699)
          - ii. [www.atstracts.org](http://www.atstracts.org)
      - 2. Financial support
        - a. Financially support the mission programs of our church.
        - b. You can also support other Christian organizations. How to pick the good ones.
          - i. Check their doctrinal statement. Are they committed to sound Bible doctrine?
          - ii. Check their leadership. Are they led by Godly men whose lives display Godliness? This isn't the easiest to do, but sometimes organizations fall into the trap of picking leaders because they are popular and have charismatic personalities, rather than because they are Godly.

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- iii. Check their affiliations. Do they endorse or work with other organizations that are not compatible with Biblical doctrine and purposes?
  - iv. Check their activities. Is their main focus the winning of souls, training believers to become fruitful (i.e., mature, soul-winning Christians) and establishing new churches?
  - v. Check their results. Are they hesitant to share the results of their ministry? If they won't tell you how many people are getting saved through their ministry, they don't deserve your support.
- c. If you are supporting United Way at work, you can redirect your contributions to an organization that is fulfilling the Great Commission.
- i. Most of the things they support are not bad, but they do not have eternal consequences.
  - ii. Unsaved people can support those things. We have a higher calling and purpose.
  - iii. Some of the places that your money goes to support homosexual organizations and abortions.
- b. What will you do about your part in the Great Commission?
- i. Ask God to help you to lead one person to Christ this year – and every year for the rest of your life.
  - ii. Promise God you will do all you can to lead one person to Christ each year.
  - iii. Ask God to help you be aware of the opportunities He gives you
  - iv. Do it now.

### Gone Fishing

Dr. C. Sumner Wemp

A gold key to soul winning is prayer. *Pray for souls!* It is my prayer daily in my quiet time to ask God to give me souls. He said, "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2). God means it and He means it about EVERYTHING, including soul winning. This morning as I asked for souls today, I had a sudden burden and prayed fervently for several minutes for souls.

Late this afternoon, it dawned on me I had put off emptying the cleaning bag on the Polaris in our pool. Rather grudgingly I pulled it out of the water and noticed a wheel was about to come off. Hurriedly I took it to the pool store to see if they could fix it today. The repair man began fixing it right away. He was new to me.

As he was finishing it up, I asked him my pet question. "If you died and went up to the gates of Heaven and they asked you, 'Why should we let you in here,' what would you say?" My word, you would have thought he was a saint personified. He began listing all the good things he had done.

After telling him, we are all in the same boat, we have all done wrong, we have all sinned, haven't we? He acknowledged that. "God gave him repentance to acknowledge the truth" (II Timothy 2:25). They always do when I include myself. Then I told him how the wages of sin is death. Right then I could see the conviction of the Holy Spirit came over him. As always, I told him how God loved him and sent His Son the Lord Jesus to suffer and die for his sins, paid the debt in full, was buried, rose again and was seen by hundreds. The whole issue is, did He pay our debt of sin or didn't He.

He blurted out, "I understand that (a key, see Matthew 13:23); I believe that." He gladly prayed out loud with me to receive the Lord Jesus as his personal Savior, too. He looked up with his face radiating and had assurance he was saved.

Right then God reminded me how I had prayed for a soul to be saved and reminded me all He did to get me to this man whose heart He had prepared. That is awesome to realize the God of Heaven orchestrated all of that in answer to prayer. Pray for souls.

– All Because of Calvary, C. Sumner Wemp