

Commitment to the Great Commission

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I. Introduction.

A. Why is the Great Commission called great?

1. We have a great God.
2. It is the greatest task we have.
3. It is the desire of God's heart.
4. It is the only commission.
 - a. We don't have an option.
 - b. This is God's commission for the ends of the earth.

B. What is world vision?

1. Seeing the world as God sees it.
2. Having on your heart what is on God's heart.

II. The Great Commission is recorded in five places of the Bible.

- A. The quantitative aspect of the commission is world-wide. (Matt 28:18-21)
- B. The qualitative aspect of the commission is salvation or condemnation. (Mark 16:15-16)
- C. The substantive aspect of the commission is that the Gospel is personal, including repentance and remission of sins. (Luke 24:46-47)
- D. The cost of the commission involves suffering. (John 20:19-21)
- E. The witnessing aspect of the commission is individual. (Acts 1:8-9)

III. Does the Great Commission represent something new in revelation?

- A. No, Abraham was called to go out to bless all families of the earth. (Genesis 12:1-3)
- B. God covenants with Israel to represent him in the earth. (Exodus 19:5-6)
 1. Israel was to be a kingdom of priests.
 2. They were to evangelize the world.
 3. That the Jews forgot their mission is the greatest tragedy of mankind.

- a. They become ingrown.
- b. God became their tribal possession.
- c. They missed the calling to win the world.
- d. Occasionally they would catch a glimpse of God's purpose for them as a nation. (Psalm 86:9 Isaiah 45:22; Habakkuk 2:14; Malachi 1:11; Joshua 3:5, 17)
- e. These Scriptures reveal God's heart to reveal himself to all the people of the earth.
- f. David fought Goliath so that all the earth might know there is a God in Israel. (1 Sam 17:46)
- g. When Solomon dedicated the temple he proclaimed that the temple was build so that all people of the earth might know God. (I Kings 8:43, 60)
- h. When Israel was surrounded by enemies God delivered the nation so that all the people of the earth might know God's power. (2 Kings 19:19)
- i. The whole earth is to be filled with God's glory. (Psalm 72:18-20)

C. If the disciples were really spiritually sensitive they would have anticipated that Jesus would want them to evangelize the nations.

- 1. God is love and Jesus died for sins so that all may know God.
- 2. This reveals the great heart of God.

IV. Why does the Bible repeat this theme over and over?

- A. When Israel lost their vision they began to murmur and gripe.
- B. When any believer gets focused on self they lose vision and begin murmuring.
 - 1. Personal needs never should exceed the vision of God.
 - 2. Life gets flat if we lose God's vision.

V. How can we remain vibrant in our service to God?

- A. We can give our lives to many different things.
 - 1. Wealth
 - 2. Power
 - 3. Prestige
 - 4. Knowledge

5. Popularity

- a. None of these things is wrong in itself.
- b. Pursuing these things for wrong reasons is empty.
- c. Pursuing wealth, for example, is vain. (Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:7-10)
 1. Paul's companion Demas fell in love with the world.
 2. He lost his love for the Gospel.
 3. Demas must have lived to regret his decision to leave Paul for the world.
 4. Boredom is a malady of modern society but none of the disciples experienced boredom as they served God.
 5. This pull of the world can deceive us too if not for the grace of God.

B. We can give ourselves to God.

1. Not one person would have believed that Paul would get saved. (Acts 9:1-9)
2. When Jesus blinded him he must have reevaluated his priorities.
 - a. He counted all things as loss for the excellence of knowing Christ. (Philippians 3:7-8)
 - b. If Paul had made the wrong choice we would have missed something awesome.
 - c. God wants to use each one of us to save others.
3. The rich young ruler confronted Jesus and went away grieving over his possessions. (Mark 10:21)
 - a. He counted his possessions too valuable in light of following Christ.
 - b. He made the wrong decision.

C. What's involved in following Christ?

1. Paul wrote to Timothy to be strong in grace and continue in the calling of serving God as a soldier, or an athlete or a hard working farmer. (2 Timothy 2:1)
 - a. We need to be strong in commitment to Christ.
 - b. We need to be strong in hatred of sin.
 - c. We need to be channels of grace to others.

2. As we remain faithful to our calling God will remain faithful to us.
 - a. We need a high degree of fidelity.
 - b. A record of high fidelity gives a clear sound.
 - c. We need to reproduce high fidelity of commitment in others.
3. As we remain faithful to our calling we will experience the joy of God.
 - a. It is not an easy life.
 - b. It is an exciting life.
 - c. We may become professionals in many different fields but our lives will not be centered in those pursuits.
 - d. Not everyone becomes a missionary, but everyone should be a channel of Gospel blessing for others.
4. We abide by the rules of the One who calls us.
 - a. Govern our lives by God's word.
 - b. God calls the shots for his servants.
5. We are to work like a farmer.
 - a. Hard working.
 - b. We are to be diligent laborers for the kingdom of God.
6. Nothing compares to working for God in helping to fulfill his Great Commission.
 - a. Life in God's kingdom cannot be improved on.
 - b. God is faithful to his workers.