

Sunday, January 18, 2009—The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine—Our Commission

Introduction

- Two weeks ago we began a new series of studies entitled The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine.
- We concluded that the most dangerous thing you could teach somebody is to be Scriptural but not dispensational.
- Last week we began to apply the premise to a series of topics in order to demonstrate the need to be dispensational in our approach to Bible study.
- We saw that the contents of the gospel have changed throughout the Scriptures and that right division is critical in order to discern which gospel out to be preached today.
- Today we are going to be looking at the topic of our commission. What are our marching orders? What is it God wants us to be doing today.
- Matthew 28:19-20—98% of professing Christendom refers to this passage as the Great Commission and therefore is actively trying to fulfill this set of instructions.
- It is a commonly held view that this passage and others like into contain the Lords' marching orders for his church today.
- The average believer has never studied the passages for his/her self and therefore has not considered what these commissions are asking them to do in light to the entire outworking of God's over all plan.
- In order to discern if this truly is our commission as members of the Church the Body of Christ we are going to assemble all the verses on great commission so that we can see the picture clearly.
- Then we will compare this commission with two other commissions before making any conclusions.

The So-Called Great Commission

- Matthew 28:19-20—Everyone focuses on the first phrase of the verse where the eleven disciples are instructed to go and teach all nations but little attention is paid to what Christ says in verse 20.
- Matthew's record of the Commission:

- Matthew 20:16—It is important to note who these instructions are given to, the eleven disciples.
- Matthew 20:19—All nations are to be taught and baptized
- Matthew 20:20—What are the nations supposed to be taught? All things Christ commanded. What did Jesus teach them?
 - Matt. 5:17-20
 - Matt. 23:1-3—Christ taught his followers to keep the law. There is no indication in Matthew 28 that Jesus told that his death and resurrection freed them from observance of the Mosaic Law.
 - Acts 2:46
 - Acts 3:1—They took part in the temple worship and were careful not to start a new sect separate from Judaism, for they, who had accepted Messiah were the true Israel.
 - Acts 21:20—There was never a questions about where the Jews would not have to keep the law.
- Law keeping was part of this commission
- Mark's record of the Commission:
 - Mark 16:14-18—The answer to the problems presented in this passage is not to say that the last 12 verses of Mark should not be in the Bible.
 - Read the footnote in the Scofield Reference Bible.
 - Every other Greek manuscripts contains the passage. The passage is quoted by the church fathers as Scripture before Aleph and B were even written. It is also found in the Syriac and Bohairic versions which also predate Aleph and B.
 - Mark 16:14—Jesus is addressing the same group that he was in Matt. 28
 - Mark 16:15—Once again the command is given that the gospel should be preached in all the world to every creature.
 - Mark 16:16—This verse teaches baptism as being necessary for salvation.
 - Mark 1:4—John was preaching that water baptism was necessary for the forgiveness of sins.
 - Luke 3:3

- Acts 2:38—Peter is preaching the act message that Christ told him to preach.
 - If one did not believe would be likely be baptized? And if an unbeliever were baptized would that save him?
- Mark 16:17-18—Here is where things get hairy for some of our denominational brethren.
 - The signs of casting out devils, speaking in new tongues, snake handling, drinking poison, and healing of the sick will follow those who believe.
 - Baptists have a problem because much of this does not jive with there theology.
 - Pentecostals have a problem because these miraculous events are not occurring in the way the passage says they will.
- Luke’s record of the commission
 - Luke 24:46-48—We see that there was a stipulation to Christ instructions to go into all the world and teach all nations beginning at Jerusalem
 - Luke 24:33-36—Once again Jesus is speaking to his apostles
 - Luke 24:47—There were supposed to preach to the nations of Israel first.
 - Acts 1:8—There was order they were supposed to follow in carrying out this commission. They never made it out of Israel

Two-Other Commissions

- The so called Great commission is not even the first commission that the 12 apostles received.
- Believers and Bible students need to acknowledge that Christ really has given three commissions in the New Testament.
 - One Before his Crucifixion
 - One After His Resurrection
 - One After His ascension.
- Matthew 10:5-10—This commission contained the following
 - Under this commission the apostles are sent to were sent to the nation Israel exclusively—Matthew 15:24, Romans 15:8
 - Under this commission the kingdom was proclaimed at hand.

- Under this commission the apostles were given miraculous powers.
- Under this commission they were not to lay up provisions for the future.
- Under this commission repentance and baptism were required for the remission of sins.
- After his resurrection Christ expands and intensifies the original commission of his apostles
 - Under this commission the apostles that had been sent to one nation alone, are now sent to all nations beginning at Jerusalem.
 - Under this commission the kingdom, formerly proclaimed and had actually offered for Israel acceptance—Acts 3:19-26
 - Under this commission Christ's disciples were given great miraculous power than before.
 - Under this commission the whole Pentecostal church actually had all things common.
 - Under this commission repentance and baptism were required for the remission of sins prior to being bestowed with the Holy Spirit.
- Our Commission the Greatest Commission
 - II Corinthians 5:16-19—After his ascension the rejected Christ spoke again from His exile in heaven and gave another and greater commission to Paul and to us.
 - I Timothy 1:12-16—Paul is the pattern for this.
 - I Corinthians 1:17—Paul was not sent to baptize
 - Romans 11:15, 32
 - Ephesians 2:16—The message of reconciliation also lies at the very root of the truth concerning the body of Christ. It is by the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles that the Body of Christ is formed.
 - It was God's revealed purpose to bless the world through the rise of Israel and this purpose will yet be accomplished. But it was God's hidden purpose to bless the world through the fall of Israel and this is now being accomplished.
 - This glorious truth that God would usher in a reign of Grace, casting aside all distinction to save believing Jews and Gentiles and to reconcile them to God in one body in Christ, and seat them in the heavenly places was never prophesied since the world began, though it was purposed by God before the world began.

- Contents of our commission:
 - Under our commission we with Paul are sent to all men without distinction.
 - Under our commission Christ's return to judge and reign is held in abeyance, and reconciliation is offered to God's enemies everywhere.
 - Under our commission miraculous powers have been withdrawn.
 - Under our commission the sell all and lay not up order has been removed.
 - Under our commission faith alone is required for salvation
 - Under our commission water baptism is no longer necessary