

NEVER FEAR TO DO PERSONAL EVANGELISM

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 alway, [even] unto the end of the world.
Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

While the Great Commission doesn't apply to us (as it was given to the apostles), we can learn some great lessons from it. We learn that personal evangelism is important. It is so important that it is a matter of life and death. While important, we do not have to fear, for three reasons.

1. There is a Great Master.
2. There is a Great Mission.
3. There is a Great Message.

I. THERE IS A GREAT MASTER.

A. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18

1. Our Great Master is Christ.
2. He is the Master for two reasons.
 - a) He has all power in heaven.
 - b) He has all power in earth.
3. The American Standard Version has the word "authority" instead of "power."
 - a) The apostles went with the authority given by Christ.
 - b) They did not have to ask for permission to teach the Gospel to anyone.
 - c) We can learn that when we go and impart the knowledge of the Gospel to those that are lost, we do not have to be afraid.
 - d) We have a great example of this in the Great Commission.

B. This is like what happened several years ago.

1. I was at MSOP and it was snowing and sleeting the day before Christmas break was to begin.
2. Steven Sutton, a second year student, came into the first year room and told us that Curtis Cates said that we could go home early because the bad weather was suppose to continue and some of us were traveling long distances to see family and to preach.
3. Steven came in the name, or by the authority of Cates.

C. Christ is the only One with all authority.

1. We do not bow down to any other "religious" figure.
 - a) A good example is the pope.
 - b) My dad told me of a television program on the other night where the "pope" was putting rings on the fingers of the "cardinals."

- c) They were bowing down to the pope, who was sitting on a throne-like chair.
 - d) The pope says that he is the head of the church and also claims to be infallible.
2. We also do not respect protestant councils, synods, committees, etc...
 - a) They all claim to be the church, but they all wear different names not only from each other, but not in accordance with the name given in the Bible.
 - b) They all have their creed books that have different teachings than the word of God.
 3. We respect and honor God and His word.
 4. They are the only source of authority.

II. THERE IS A GREAT MISSION.

A. Notice what the text says.

1. 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. Matthew 28:19-20
2. Our mission is to take the world for Christ.

B. If you think back to the Intertestament Period, it speaks of one of the greatest military geniuses of the ancient world, Alexander the Great.

1. He was on a mission to conquer the world, known and unknown.
 - a) He conquered as far west as Macedon, as far south as Egypt, as far north as Scythia, and as far east as India.
 - b) Had he kept going, he quite possibly had conquered the rest of the world.
2. His army was virtually unbeatable, yet his army eventually was defeated.
 - a) They defeated themselves.
 - b) His army decided that they had enough land and riches and did not want to go on.
 - c) They wanted to go home to their wives and children.
 - d) Alexander had no choice but to relent, and march home with them.

C. Alexander's army decided when they would stop, but we cannot be like Alexander's army, for we are the Lord's Army.

1. There is a maximum and a minimum number of souls to teach.
 - a) The maximum is the whole world.
 - b) The minimum is the whole world.
2. In other words, there is no stopping until one of two things happens.
 - a) Either the whole world has obeyed.
 - b) Or the Lord comes back.
 - c) The mission of the apostles was to go and teach.
3. We have our mission (found in Acts 8), and we must do what we must to complete it.
4. But notice the peaceful side of the mission.

- a) Look at the text.
- b) It says that they were to teach.
- c) The Gospel does not force someone to become a Christian, but that is not to stop the Gospel from being spread which brings us to the last point.

III. THERE IS A GREAT MESSAGE.

A. Once again, notice the text.

1. 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.

Matthew 28:20

2. This makes a continuous cycle of teaching and obedience.

3. This shows that there is a pattern.

B. It is just like when in school.

1. The teacher doesn't do the work for the student.

2. The teacher teaches the pattern to the student, then they apply it properly to solve the problems.

C. Christ established and taught the apostles the pattern.

1. In turn, they taught others the pattern.

2. This pattern of teaching and obedience has continued for nearly 2,000 years.

3. However, some have strayed from the pattern, and taught a flawed pattern to others.

4. We have to teach the proper pattern so that people can either start to obey Christ and teach the right pattern, or they can come back to teaching the proper pattern.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is a Great Master: Christ.
2. There is a Great Mission: to take the world for Christ.
3. There is a Great Message: the Gospel of Christ.