

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. Jesus' cumulative emphasis is on preaching, witnessing and making disciples.
  - a. One explicit imperative – to make disciples. The other verbs (going, baptizing, and teaching) are participles that say how it is to be done.
  - b. Discipleship is broader than mere missionary or evangelistic work.
  - c. We may be doing Jesus an injustice in stressing the fact that He so often said, "Go...!" His first word to His disciples was not "Go" but "Come".
  
2. Sometimes called the great "Omission" – we just don't do it.
  - a. Coca-Cola has fulfilled its own version of the Great Commission many times over. They have virtually put a bottle of Coke in everyone's hand, around the world. If they can do it with a soft drink, why can't we can do it with the gospel?

### 5 Expressions of the Great Commission in the New Testament:

(1) Matthew 28:18-19 – stresses authority: "*ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples, baptizing them...and teaching them to obey...*"

\* The sequence is: go, make disciples, and then teach them – we reverse these.

(2) Mark 16:16 – stresses judgment: "*Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Whoever does not believe WILL BE CONDEMNED.*"

(3) Luke 24:46-47 – speaks of it as a fulfillment of prophecy: "*THAT IS WHAT IS WRITTEN, the Christ will suffer...repentance and forgiveness WILL BE PREACHED in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem*".

(4) Acts 1:8 – program for world evangelism: "*...and you will be MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

\* These were the very last words of Christ, just before He ascended to heaven; top priority!!.

(5) John 20: 21 – We must do as Christ did – live the message: "*AS the Father has sent me, SO I am sending you.*"

\* This may be the most important of the 5. Evangelism means far more than proclaim – also serve and live the message.

\* Impossible to separate Jesus' work from his preaching – as he preached, taught and witnessed, he also fed the hungry, washed dirty feet, healed, had compassion, comforted.

\* Jesus did not broadcast salvation from the sky – he "visited" us. In our age of mass media and production lines, it seems to us more practical to shout the gospel from a distance, rather than to involve ourselves deeply in lives of lost souls.

**“MISSION” IS EVERYTHING THE CHURCH IS SENT INTO THE WORLD TO DO.**