

# **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

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It is essential that we maintain a warm and active involvement in the gospel and its presentation to the present perishing world. We believe that here-in lies the key to understanding many of the problems that have arisen in the history of Christian testimony and how we may best avoid the great snare of the enemy to cause us to lose the vision and urgency of the Great Commission.

There is a key to the success or failure as to any continuance of the many organisations that came into existence as channels of witness to the world. All true spiritual usefulness and power is decided by the maintenance of a personal living, loving, sacrificial involvement in the presentation of the gospel of the grace of God's redemptive love in Jesus Christ.

Amidst the societies, associations and institutions that came into being, especially during the last 150 years, theological problems, methods of operation, financial profits and controls, and even worship became to many the central issue instead of the imperative of the great gospel commission.

Wherever these problems have occurred, and whenever the purpose for which the victorious Lord Jesus Christ has placed and left us in the world, whenever Christians have lost the vision of the wonderful Lamb of God, Who gave Himself in sacrifice to God for a perishing world, the Lord has necessarily passed them by. Why does this happen? Because the professing Church has become inattentive to the fact that He alone is worthy of utmost devotion and first love. And if these former lampstands of divine light have persisted in selfish indulgence, God has allowed even their light of local testimony to be extinguished.

The pages of Church history are strewn with the wreckage of churches

and organisations that became irrelevant. Churches that at first shouted their loyalty to Christ (and many of them actually suffered much for Him) but when once they forgot that the Lord Jesus combined in a single phrase "**for My sake and the gospel's;**" **devotion to Himself and loyalty to His commission,** they then lost their prime influence and sank down into stagnation and a spiritual death.

It is sobering to remind ourselves of this and that the cults that abound today are the price the Church must pay for any diversion from her true calling and commission. These sects can be said to be the fruit of a decadent world church out of touch with God, out of touch with the true need of man and out of touch with the awful "lostness" of the world and age in which we live. Jesus Christ and His atoning death alone as presented in the gospel has the answer for the tragic state of man today.

If forgiveness of sins is to be preached to all, it is because all may share it! It is impossible that election can ever limit

the value of the death of Christ or the power of the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save and bless!

The cults continue their downward march enfolding deluded crowds along with them. Their paid emissaries who cannot evangelise but only proselytise, will infiltrate into the whole of corrupt Christendom. Matthew 13:33.

What are we therefore to do? Lament, criticise and give up?

No! Let us arise and preach and teach Jesus Christ, Son of God and the Saviour of the world.

We may not all be evangelists, but let us arise and as instructed in 2 Timothy 4:5 **“do the work** of an evangelist.

The means are at hand. Good literature abounds. Those whose eyes have been opened to see the spiritual conflict and the certain victory of Christ's commission to preach liberty to the captives and total victory to the believer, know only two lines in the warfare, the front line and the supply line! We are either

actively involved at the front or sacrificing to keep up the supplies!

Support in every way the burdened preaching of the gospel of grace reigning through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who can estimate the preciousness of one soul saved?

The Son of God gave all He had to purchase men's souls. It is His shed blood alone that puts away the guilt of the believer's sins.

And it is given to us to reach men with this message before it is too late.

Today salvation's door is open – tomorrow when that door is tightly shut it will be too late.

J.A. Short  
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*“He that winneth souls is wise!”*

*Proverbs 11:30.*

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