

The Great Commission

Mark records the words of Jesus, stating, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Jesus 16:15). Jesus makes the same statement in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20). These passages are often referred to as the Great Commission and should be an integral part of the life of a Christian. However, sometimes reading the Commission and following through with it may be easier read than done.

Talking about the gospel or even the Bible in general is often not the topic in which some willingly engage. Whereas people enjoy talking about topics they are interested in like fishing, hunting, raising animals, crafts, etc., too often the straight out mention of the Bible turns people away. Nevertheless, as Christians, we need to be willing and able to the best of our ability follow the Commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The point simply is this. We should enjoy talking about the church, about Jesus, and about the Bible. Though it may be politically incorrect in our day and time to do so, such does not affect the fact that we need to be taking part in His Commission. Some are reluctant to discuss the Bible because it is no longer fashionable to do so, some cannot discuss the Bible because of a lack of knowledge, and some decline to discuss the Bible because they simply have no interest. Nevertheless, there are still many opportunities.

What if we just began our conversation in what some may call a safe manner? What if we said, "I was reading my Bible yesterday and I came across something I had not noticed before." Or maybe, "Our preacher said yesterday at church..." Alternatively, perhaps, "Yes, the economy is bad and prices are still high, but my faith in God is unwavering."

Many people still wish to know more about God and His will. Many would admit to a desire to know more about the Bible, if perhaps the opportunity were provided. If we are truly committed and if we approach people in the right way, there still are many who have an open heart to a study of the Truth and what God teaches. Remember, God just expects us to plant and water. He alone gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).