

## THE GREAT OMISSION

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Luke 24:44-49

1. We refer to Matthew 28:16-20 as the Great Commission.
2. If I were to give the passage before us a title it would be the Great Necessity.
3. The Risen Christ told the Apostles, "All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."
4. He went on to say, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again the third day, and that repentance and (for) remission should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
5. Note the three necessities mentioned by our Lord.
  - a. He had to suffer.
  - b. He had to rise again.
  - c. Repentance for the remission (forgiveness) of sin should be preached in His name to all the populated earth.
6. Here we have what I would call the Great Omission.
7. Jesus suffered and died, Jesus rose again from the dead, but is repentance for the remission of sin being preached in Jesus' name?
8. Some questions:
  - a. What does it mean to preach repentance?
  - b. Are we preaching repentance?
  - c. Is there evidence in our churches that people have actually repented?
9. Jesus preached repentance.
  - a. Mark 1:14-15  
Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
  - b. Luke 13:1-5  
There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."
10. Peter preached repentance.
  - a. On the Day of Pentecost the people were cut to the heart by Peter's preaching and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" To which Peter replied, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for (because of) the remission of sins." Acts 2:37-38
  - b. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

11. Paul preached repentance.

a. Acts 17:30-31

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

b. Acts 20:17-21

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

c. Acts 26:19-23

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come — 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

12. Our failure to preach repentance, to proclaim the doctrines that would lead a person to repent, has led to all sorts of mischief in the church.

13. The Great Omission is the result of man tinkering with the biblical approach to evangelism and missions that was commanded by Christ and exemplified in the book of Acts.

**I. Our approach to sinners changed.**

A. Campus Crusade for Christ came out with a outwardly effective approach to evangelism when it published and promoted “Four Spiritual Laws.”

B. The first law states, “God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.”

C. It is interesting to note that no where in Scripture is this approach to evangelism used or promoted.

D. The word love is not found in the book of Acts.

E. Paul’s indictment against all of mankind found in Romans 1-3 does not mention the love of God.

F. Even John 3:16 is found in a passage that emphasizes mankind’s need to repent because unless they do they will perish, being condemned already, and having the wrath of God resting upon them.

NOTE: If we are going to quote John 3:16 let’s quote it in context and drive home the whole truth of the passage.

## II. Our approach to salvation and lordship changed.

- A. The sad thing is that man's approach to evangelism and missions resulted in multitudes praying the Sinner's Prayer."
- B. Even though the Four Spiritual Laws tract contains a great deal of biblical truth its initial approach is wrong in that it puts man before God.
- C. A lost person cannot understand or comprehend the redemptive love of God and will impose on God whatever their concept of love is.
  - 1. God's redemptive love is manifested towards those upon whom His wrath and indignation abides.
  - 2. God's fatherly love is manifested towards those who have repented towards Him for their sin, rebellion and complicity in the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross and subsequently embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- D. This new approach resulted in many professions of faith but not to many examples of possessors of faith.
- E. That led to the idea that these people had received Jesus as Savior but not as Lord; a possibility that is not found in the Bible.
- F. Rom 10:6-10
  - 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

## III. Our approach to explaining disinterested and uninvolved Christians changed.

- A. We labeled them "carnal Christians" based on a misinterpretation of 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:4.
- B. Those Paul labeled carnal were not disinterested and uninvolved Christians.
- C. They were fully engaged Christians who were serving the Lord in the flesh rather than the Spirit.
- D. They zealously sought spiritual gifts and prominent places of ministry.
- E. Rather than behaving as mature Christians they were behaving like mere men.
- F. Most of the problems that we have in churches today are caused by actively involved, carnal Christians.
- G. Paul would not view the disinterested and uninvolved as Christians at all.

## APPLICATION

- 1. We are products of our age and how old we are.
- 2. People's perspective on the church is determined, to a large degree, on when and where they became Christians.
- 3. From a Christian perspective we are not to be products of our age but people of the Book.
- 4. Much of what goes on in the church today is predicated on people's likes and dislikes.
- 5. Take music for example; is anyone asking if contemporary music and worship conforms to God's original intention and purpose?
- 6. Getting back to preaching repentance will create problems, but it will solve many more and actually get people saved.