

TEXT: Matt 28:16-20, But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated ... And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT:

1. All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

A. What is authority? "The power of rule or government (the power of him whose will must be submitted to by others and obeyed)" (Thayer). Illustrated. Luk 7:8.

B. Who has given Jesus all authority? John 17:1-2.

C. Why has Jesus been given all authority? John 17:1-2; Eph 1:20-22.

2. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

A. Go, i.e. take the gospel to all people. Do not sit back and wait for people to come to you for the gospel.

B. Make, not attempt. If we plant and water God will give the increase. The gospel is the power of God for salvation and if we take it to the people it will accomplish far more than we imagine. Rom 1:16; Eph 3:19-20.

C. Of all the nations. Acts 10:34-35.

D. How? Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

1) "What did Christ mean by baptizing them 'into the name' of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Many scholars were uncertain. Then archaeologists began to uncover numerous Greek papyri continuing the phrase *eis to onoma*, 'into the name.' It was a technical expression denoting 'into the possession' of someone. A slave was sold into the name, i.e., into the possession, of his owner. So, as Moulton and Milligan comment: 'The usage is of interest in connection with Matthew 28:19, where the meaning would seem to be "baptized into the possession of the Father," etc.' What a thrilling concept! When one, in believing penitence, turns to the Lord by the obedient act of being immersed in water, by that submission, he becomes the possession of the divine Godhead" (Apologetics Press).

2) Mark 16:15-16 (teaches 2 things, faith and baptism stand or fall together, explain why not in second half, contrast scriptural and denominational order).

3) Luke 24:46-47, 49.

4) Acts 2:38, 40-41.

E. The apostles fulfilled the great commission. Mat 24:14; Mark 16:20; Col 1:23.

F. How could the apostles have preached in every place and to every human being in the world in a mere 31 years?

1) Some suggest that since it is impossible for any one Christian or local church to do this, that the universal church can organize itself in any expedient manner necessary to do so. Alexander Campbell justified the missionary society this way.

2) However, the problem with such reasoning is that the great commission did not require the apostles to go everywhere and preach to everyone. Rather, it simply required them not to exclude any place or people from the reach of their preaching.

3) If they did this the gospel would eventually reach everywhere and everyone, but this is a consequence of the great commission, not the great commission itself.

4) They did not exclude any place or people from the reach of their preaching and this every individual Christian and local congregation can do.

5) Brethren we do not become more effective in evangelism by unscriptural innovation, but by getting back to Bible basics.

3. Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.

A. Teaching them to observe all. Mat 4:4; 23:23; Jam 2:10-11.

B. That I commanded you. Gal 1:8-9.

4. **And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

A. In time. Heb 7:25; 4:16.

B. In eternity. 1 Thess 4:16-18

APPLICATIONS OF THE TEXT: The four “alls” of the great commission.

1. **All authority.** Why did Jesus say, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”? So the apostles would fulfill the great commission and the people who heard them would obey the gospel. 2 Cor 5:9-11; Acts 2:36-37. We must appreciate who Jesus is!

2. **All the nations.** Why did Jesus say, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”? So the apostles would understand that the gospel was for all. Mat 9:10-13; 2 Pet 3:9. We must appreciate what Jesus is really all about!

3. **All that I have commanded.** Why did Jesus say, “Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” So no one would take from or add to His commands. Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19. We must appreciate the importance of Jesus’ commands—that they are love put to paper, absolutely the best possible way to live.

4. **With you always.** Why did Jesus say, “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” So no faithful disciple would ever feel weak, deserted, or cheated in Him. Isaiah 41:10-13. We must appreciate that if Jesus is for us, no one can be against us!