

# The Reflector

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## THE GREAT COMMISSION!

In Matthew 28:18-20 as well as Mark 16:15-20 we read what is referred to as the "Great Commission." We as Christians are to *"...go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature under Heaven: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Mathew's account says that we are to *"...teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...even till the end of the world."* Our work doesn't stop when we baptize people; it has only begun. We must teach new converts to observe all those things that Jesus has commanded us to do such as study our Bibles, pray to God, worship God on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, and be faithful and dedicated Christians all the days of our lives. The apostle Paul says in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58 that we are to be *"...steadfast, and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* When a person obeys the gospel, his work in the Lord is just beginning. He or she must become a part of a local congregation of God's people and work and worship with those fellow Christians spreading the word of God to others in the community where they are located. (Acts 9:26-28)

The Great Commission is one of the most basic and most important duties that we have as Christians. Let us do our best to continue this great work today that was first started by the Apostles back in the first century. Our Lord Jesus Christ is depending on us! (Philippians 2:12)

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The name of the king who was stricken with leprosy by God was Uzziah. God did this because Uzziah broke the law of God and went into the temple to burn incense, which was a duty that belonged to no one but the priests. (2 Chronicles 26:16-23)

Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus were the two men who took part in the burial of Jesus. (John 19:38-42) Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Jesus after He was raised from the dead. (Mark 16:9)

### QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What city was overthrown by God when the Israelites under the leadership of Joshua marched around it? (How many times did they march around the city?)

What was the name of the high priest who was ruling at the time that Jesus was crucified?

### WHEN DOES A PERSON BECOME GUILTY OF SIN?

The doctrine of "**original sin**" teaches that everyone born since the time of Adam and Eve is born guilty of sin. But is this doctrine really taught in the Bible? The answer to this question is "**NO!**" The Bible teaches that sin is not inherited from Adam and Eve. Ezekiel 18:20 says "***The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.***" According to 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4 sin is the "***transgression of the law.***" A person becomes guilty of sin when they transgress God's law. What law of God have little children and babies broken? The answer is none; therefore they are not born guilty of sin. Romans 9:11 says the following: "***For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil...***" If the children have not done any evil, then how can they be guilty of sin? People become guilty of sin only when they violate the law of God! Sin is not inherited from Adam and Eve; therefore babies are not born guilty of any sin. They are innocent in the eyes of God! According to Jesus Himself, we must become like little children in order to enter the kingdom of God. (Matthew 18:1-4 & Matthew 19:13-15) This statement would not be true if babies were born guilty of sin. Remember that sin is the transgression of God's law. If you or I break God's law, we become guilty of sin. Thank God for the gift of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross. It is only through His death that our sins can be forgiven when we obey the gospel. (Mark 16:15-16 & Acts 2:38)

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

I am not asking you if you are a member of a denominational church, but are you a member of the one church that you can read about in the Bible. It is called the "*church of Christ*" in Romans 16:16 and for good reason. Jesus built this church (Matthew 16:18 & Acts 2:47) and He "*purchased this church with His own blood.*" (Acts 20:28) Therefore the church should wear a name that glorifies its owner and founder. Let me therefore ask you a question: Does the church you are a member of wear the name of Christ or does it wear a different name?

Furthermore, Jesus is the only head of the church that you read about in the Bible. (Ephesians 1:19-23) And as such the "*church is to be in subjection unto Him.*" (Ephesians 5:22-24) So ask yourself this question: Is the church that you are a member of only in subjection to Jesus? Or is it also in subjection to an earthly head like a pope or a president?

The church that you read about in the Bible assembled upon the first day of every week to worship God by "*partaking of the Lord's Supper*" (Acts 20:7), and by "*laying by in store as God had prospered them.*" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1-3) And when gathered together to do these two things, they also had "*singing without mechanical instruments, praying, and teaching.*" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:15,19,23) Let me therefore ask you a question: Does the church you attend do these things every Sunday? If not, then how can it possibly be the same church as the one you read about in the Bible?

The church you read about in the Bible preached only "*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*" (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:2) Involved in this preaching was "*faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*" (Acts 16:31), "*repentance from sins*" (Acts 2:38), "*confessing Christ with your mouth*" (Romans 10:10), and "*baptism in order to wash away your sins*" (Acts 22:16). Jesus Himself said the following: "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.*" (Mark 16:15-16) Have you ever heard this kind of preaching at the church you attend? If not, then why not ask your preacher why he doesn't preach this message today that was so clearly preached back in the first century by the Apostles and other Christians?

The Bible gives us a clear picture of what the church built by Jesus in the first century looked like. We can take this information and locate the Lord's church in our time. That is the church that we need to be a member of in order to be saved. (Acts 2:41,47) Is this the church you are a part of at this moment? If not, then why not become a simple New Testament Christian just like folks did in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century?