



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Northside church of Christ Welcomes You!

August 17, 2014

“I Am Not Under The Great Commission!”

Bryan Garlock

There are some brethren who believe the great commission is amenable only to the apostles. The reason they perpetrate this opinion is because of the responsibility and consequences laid before them if such is not the case. First, let's answer this unscriptural argument with scripture, and then we will focus on why such opinion is taught.

It is true Jesus told the Apostles to, “[g]o therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28.19-20). Honestly, we really need not go any further for these verses alone answer the argument. Jesus tells them to go, make disciples, baptize and then teach them what He had taught them. Basically, Jesus said you teach them and they will teach others and then others, etc. Further, in reference to Matt. 28.19-20, Paul taught Timothy, the evangelist, “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2.2). Sound familiar? Another interesting point about 2 Timothy 2.2 is the word “men” or “anthrōpos”. In the Greek, this word literally means “a human being, whether male or female generically, to include all human individuals” (Thayer).

Further, in Acts 8, Luke records, “[a]nd there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ” (Acts 8.1-5). *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Tyler Dance is doing well; remember Lisa too.
- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study starting soon!
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

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Notice that the apostles were not present in this "scattering," but Christians were, and in particular, an evangelist named Phillip. What did they do as they were scattered? They preached the Word, but not just any word, the Word that they had been taught by the apostles by Jesus Christ. It's a no wonder God gave evangelists "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4.11)! This is what Paul has charged each evangelist to do (2 Tim. 4.2). They must do so to bring the lost to Christ and to edify and teach the saints. When Paul penned, "preach the word," he destroyed this notion that "I'm not under the great commission." What's more, God also gave teachers and elders to equip and build. This also makes one say about this human opinion, "who can believe this?"

Sometimes opinions and doctrines are set forth to promote gain and/or to negate responsibility. There are many reasons why one would want to do away with the great commission; too many to mention. But if the great commission is to the apostles only, so is the responsibility of spreading the gospel. In the other sense, if the great commission is for all men, then the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are binding as New Testament books, for we must teach what Christ taught. Of course, we must differentiate between what He taught as binding then and what He taught would be binding under the new covenant. Let's remember that as Christians, we have a duty. Our duty is to scatter throughout the community and preach the Word. BG

"Factors In Our Salvation"

Author Unknown

The Originating Factor: God

The Sacrificial Factor: Christ

The Procuring Factor: Christ's Blood

The Revealing Factor: The Holy Spirit

The Instrumental Factor: The Scriptures

The Appropriating Factor: Faith

The Consummating Factor: Obedience

The Sustaining Factor: Hope

The Authority Factor: Christ's Name