



Basic Bible Course  
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Christians ARE Governed  
by the  
GREAT COMMISSION



Lesson Twelve

**INTRODUCTION:** From what we have learned in previous lessons, we have established the following points:

- 1) That God has revealed His will to man in three separate, distinct “dispensations” of religion;
- 2) That what governed the “patriarchs” in the **FIRST** dispensation was not binding upon the children of Israel in the **SECOND**;
- 3) That what governed the children of Israel in the **SECOND** (i.e., the “law of Moses,” **INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**) is **NOT BINDING UPON CHRISTIANS —OR ANYONE ELSE—in the THIRD.**

In the end of the **SECOND** dispensation (Jewish), we have observed the preaching and baptism of John the Baptist and also two very limited commissions all of which came to an abrupt halt, along with the Old Testament, at the cross of Christ (A.D. 33).

Now that our minds are crystal clear that **NONE** of us living **SINCE** the cross are governed by **ANYTHING** which was of force **BEFORE** the cross, the next question to be answered is: **IF PEOPLE TODAY ARE NOT BOUND BY ANY OF THOSE THINGS, THEN WHAT PART OF GOD’S WILL TO MAN IS BINDING TODAY?**

It shall be the burden of this study to show that **AFTER** Jesus died, was buried and arose again, He delivered a commission so comprehensive within its scope that it was to concern **ALL MEN** in **ALL NATIONS** in **ALL THE WORLD**, for **ALL TIME TO COME**, from the Day of Pentecost (A.D. 33) onward, **EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD...**

I. ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 28:18-20—

- A. After His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus declared that **ALL AUTHORITY**, both in heaven and in earth, had been given unto Him (verse 18).
- B. He commanded His apostles, therefore, to
  1. **GO TEACH** all nations
  2. **BAPTIZE** those taught in the name of
    - a. the Father
    - b. the Son
    - c. the Holy Ghost (or Spirit) (verse 19).
  3. **TEACH** those baptized to “**OBSERVE ALL THINGS**” that HE had commanded (verse 20).
- C. Under these conditions, Jesus promised to be “with” them always—even unto the end of the world.

**NOTE:** While Jesus was alive on earth, and before His death on the cross, He **TAUGHT** (or “**COMMANDED**”) many things which were **DISTINCT** from the requirements of the **OLD** testament. However, as we learned from previous study, these commands, which were to comprise His **NEW** testament, could not become of force until after His death (Hebrews 9:15-17). Therefore, it was not until He died,

was buried, and arose again that Jesus authorized His apostles to teach and baptize all nations, teaching those baptized to “OBSERVE ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded.”

II. ACCORDING TO MARK 16:15-16—

- A. Jesus commanded:
  1. GO into ALL THE WORLD.
  2. PREACH the GOSPEL to EVERY CREATURE.
- B. Jesus promised: He that—
  1. BELIEVETH and
  2. Is BAPTIZED shall
  3. Be SAVED.
- C. Jesus warned:
  1. DISBELIEVERS shall be DAMNED (i.e., CONDEMNED).

III. ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:47-49—

- A. Jesus cited prophecy, saying, “Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that
  1. REPENTANCE and
  2. REMISSION OF SINS should be preached
    - a. in his name,
    - b. among all nations,
    - c. beginning at Jerusalem.”
- B. Jesus’ apostles were not to put this commission into immediate effect; rather they were to “TARRY” in JERUSALEM until ENDUED WITH “POWER” FROM ON HIGH.

**NOTE: Here we have three separate accounts of the great world-wide, age-lasting commission given by Jesus Christ after His death, burial and resurrection. Each of the writers—Matthew, Mark and Luke—recorded PART of what Jesus commanded in this commission; however, no ONE of them recorded ALL of it. In order to have it ALL, we must COMBINE THE THREE TOGETHER. Please notice the chart we have prepared for this combination, as follows. Observe that LIKE things have been combined in the SAME COLUMN VERTICALLY; what EACH WRITER WROTE is listed HORIZONTALLY. Opposite the word “Total,” at the bottom of the chart, we have added up the sum total of all that Matthew, Mark and Luke offer concerning this commission:**

### The Great Commission

Matthew 28	Go verse 19	Teach verse 19		All Nations verse 19			Baptizing verse 19	
Mark 16	Go verse 15	Preach verse 15	Gospel verse 15	All the world Every Creature verse 15	Believe verse 16		Baptized verse 16	Saved verse 16
Luke 24		Preach verse 47		All Nations verse 47		Repent verse 47		Remission of Sins verse 47
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Go</b>	<b>Teach &amp; Preach</b>	<b>the Gospel to</b>	<b>Every Creature, Among All Na- tions, In All the World</b>	<b>He that Believeth</b>	<b>Repents</b>	<b>and is Baptized</b>	<b>shall be Saved; i.e., have Remission of Sins</b>
(Such repentant, baptized believers were then to be taught “to observe all things” Jesus had commanded His apostles to teach.)								

**NOTE:** Please remember that they were not to begin their work under this great commission at once; rather they were to TARRY in JERUSALEM until ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH. Also this commission was to have its “BEGINNING” at JERUSALEM (Luke 24:47).

Luke also wrote the book of ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. In Acts 1, referring to “the former treatise” (Luke) he hooks the two books together, reminding his readers, in verse 4, that Jesus had commanded His apostles “that they should NOT DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, but WAIT for the PROMISE.”

Promising them that they should be “baptized with the Holy Ghost NOT MANY DAYS HENCE (verse 5), he said, “ye shall receive POWER, after that the HOLY GHOST is come upon you: and ye shall be WITNESSES unto me both in JERUSALEM, and in all JUDAEA, and in Samaria, and unto the UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH” (verse 8).

So it was that they were “TARRYING” AT JERUSALEM, when they were thus ENDUED with “POWER FROM ON HIGH” on the DAY OF PENTECOST, in the next chapter (Acts 2). Compare what happened “BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM” (see chart below) with what they were COMMANDED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION (see chart above)...

**“Beginning at Jerusalem...”**

Jerusalem verse 5	Peter Stood verse 14	He Preached the Gospel verses 14-36	Men out of every nation verse 5	“Pricked in heart” verse 5	Told to “Repent” verse 37	“Be Baptized” verse 38	For Remission of Sins
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**NOTE:** The value of these two charts offered for direct comparison cannot be over-emphasized. The chart of THE GREAT COMMISSION, as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke, shows what was AUTHORIZED to BE DONE and TAUGHT under this commission by the One who commanded it. The chart of the “BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM” (Acts 2) shows that is what WAS DONE and TAUGHT from the very start of this new (Christian) dispensation, which began on that day of Pentecost (A.D. 33)...Now let us take a fuller look at Acts 2...

- IV. ACTS 2 TELLS WHAT HAPPENED AND WAS TAUGHT AT THE “BEGINNING”:
  - A. VERSE 1 tells it was ON “PENTECOST.”
  - B. VERSES 2-4 show the HOLY SPIRIT coming upon the apostles.
  - C. VERSE 5 fixes the scene of events as “JERUSALEM.”
 

**NOTE: Remember that Luke 24:47 said the preaching under this new commission would BEGIN AT JERUSALEM and be done “AMONG ALL NATIONS.” “EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN” was represented in Jerusalem that day.**
  - D. VERSE 6 describes the MULTITUDE COMING TOGETHER and MARVELING because EVERY MAN UNDERSTOOD IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE.
  - E. VERSES 9-11 list the LANGUAGES represented.
  - F. VERSES 12-13 show the CONFUSION OF THE MULTITUDE as different ones tried to explain how 12 unlearned Galilaeans could so speak as to be understood in 15 different languages all at the same time.
  - G. VERSES 14-36 describe PETER taking occasion by their interest and confusion to PREACH the FIRST GOSPEL SERMON ever delivered under the great commission.
 

**NOTE: From this point forward (Day of Pentecost—Acts 2) the “NEW TESTAMENT” is clearly considered to be “OF FORCE” both by Luke and subsequent writers of the Bible.**
  - H. VERSE 37 reveals those Jews making up the crowd on Pentecost as so convinced by Peter’s preaching that they were “pricked in their heart,” i.e., they BELIEVED or were CONVINCED OF what he said, which led them to ask, “Men and brethren, WHAT SHALL WE DO?”

- I. Verse 38 gives Peter's answer. He commanded them to
1. REPENT and
  2. BE BAPTIZED.

**NOTE: These believers—every one of them—were to do these two things 1) in the name of Jesus Christ, 2) for the remission of sins, and 3) to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Verse 40 also shows these things were for salvation. "SAVE yourselves," Peter exhorted).**

- J. VERSE 41 points out that those who "GLADLY RECEIVED" Peter's word "WERE BAPTIZED." About 3,000 souls were "ADDED unto them." (Verse 47 shows it was the LORD who did the ADDING; and that what they were "ADDED" to was called "THE CHURCH.")

**NOTE: Observe that this is the FIRST REFERENCE to the church of the New Testament as being AN ESTABLISHED FACT. EARLIER REFERENCES to the church POINT FORWARD to its FUTURE ESTABLISHMENT. But FROM THE DAY OF PENTECOST in Acts 2 ONWARD through the rest of the Bible, it is NEVER RECORDED as FUTURE any more, but AS BEING IN EXISTENCE. ALSO observe that membership in this "church" was not gained by "JOINING" it (a HUMAN act), but by THE LORD "ADDING" to it such as should be SAVED (a DIVINE act).**

**HUMAN CHURCHES that can be "joined" through HUMAN ritual are NOT THE CHURCH THAT JESUS ESTABLISHED IN ACTS 2; only THE LORD can "ADD" saved persons to THAT church. Seeing that JESUS NEVER AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER CHURCH TO EXIST save the ONE HE HIMSELF BUILT, it should be clear to all that NO OTHER CHURCH NOT SPOKEN OF IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS ANY RIGHT TO EXIST. ALL HUMANLY ORGANIZED CHURCHES not mentioned in the New Testament EXIST WITHOUT ANY DIVINE AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER. Since all such as should be SAVED are ADDED by the LORD to HIS church, it follows that NO SAVED PERSONS ARE LEFT OVER TO JOIN MAN'S CHURCHES.**

**The Lord "SAVES" those who obey him (Hebrews 5:9). All those, therefore, who OBEY the Lord are not only SAVED BY THE LORD but are ADDED TO THE LORD'S CHURCH by the Lord. Thus the church which had its beginning in this 2nd chapter of Acts is the ONLY CHURCH which has ANY STANDING WHATEVER BEFORE THE LORD—and ALL the persons who are "SAVED" according to the terms of the New Testament are MEMBERS of it.**