



Building a Bridge From Burma to Christ

Seventh Chief Part

What is the Great Commission?

It is the command that Christ gave to his disciples to go and preach the Gospel to all nations.

Where is this written?

Thus writes the Holy Evangelist Matthew, chapter 28: Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

How is this done?

This command is done when our love for all nations prompts us to go and preach the Gospel to all people wherever they might be. Some followers of Jesus obey this command by personally going to preach the Gospel, while others choose to support this command by financial commitments. All Christians, expressing their love for the salvation of all people, should constantly remember this great command of our Lord in their prayers, petitioning that the saving Gospel would come to all people.

To whom did Christ give the Great Commission?

A. Christ gave the Great Commission originally to the Eleven Disciples.

Mark 16:14-15 Still later Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles while they were eating. He put them to shame for their unbelief and because they were too stubborn to believe those who had seen him alive.

Then Jesus said to them, "So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News.

Acts 1:6; 8 So when the apostles came together, Jesus told them, "(Y)ou will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

B. Christ gives the Great Commission to all believers here on earth.

John 17:18; 20-21 I have sent them into the world the same way you sent me into the world.

“I’m not praying only for them. I’m also praying for those who will believe in me through their message. I pray that all of these people continue to have unity in the way that you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they may be united with us so that the world will believe that you have sent me.

Acts 8:4 The believers who were scattered went from place to place, where they spread the word.

Acts 11:19-21 Some of the believers who were scattered by the trouble that broke out following Stephen’s death went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and the city of Antioch. They spoke God’s word only to Jewish people. But other believers, who were from Cyprus and Cyrene, arrived in Antioch. They started to spread the Good News about the Lord Jesus to Greeks. The Lord’s power was with his followers, and a large number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Are all Christians missionaries?

Yes, in the wide or general sense of the word, all Christians are missionaries. God wants all believers to share their faith with those around them. This is done by

A. living the Christian faith.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.

John 13:35 “Everyone will know that you are my disciples because of your love for each other.”

from those people in Judea who refuse to believe. Pray that God's people in Jerusalem will accept the help I bring.

1 Thess. 5:25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us.

C. All Christians should "support this command by financial commitments."

Matthew 10:10 After all, the worker deserves to have his needs met.

1 Cor. 9:9-11 Moses' Teachings say, "Never muzzle an ox when it is threshing grain." God's concern isn't for oxen. Isn't he speaking entirely for our benefit? This was written for our benefit so that the person who plows or threshes should expect to receive a share of the crop. If we have planted the spiritual seed that has been of benefit to you, is it too much if we receive part of the harvest from your earthly goods?

1 Cor. 9:14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who spread the Good News should earn their living from the Good News.

Gal 6:6 The person who is taught God's word should share all good things with his teacher.

Phil 4:18 Your gifts are a soothing aroma, a sacrifice that God accepts and with which he is pleased.

Romans 15:24 Now I am on my way to Spain, so I hope to see you when I come your way. After I have enjoyed your company for a while, I hope that you will support my trip to Spain.

Acts 2:44-47 All the believers kept meeting together, and they shared everything with each other. From time to time, they sold their property and other possessions and distributed the money to anyone who needed it. The believers had a single purpose and went to the temple every day. They were joyful and humble as they ate at each other's homes and shared their food. At the same time, they praised God and had the good will of all the people. Every day the Lord saved people, and they were added to the group.

James 1:27 Pure, unstained religion, according to God our Father, is to take care of orphans and widows when they suffer and to remain uncorrupted by this world.

1 Peter 2:12 Live decent lives among unbelievers. Then, although they ridicule you as if you were doing wrong while they are watching you do good things, they will praise God on the day he comes to help you.

B. sharing our faith using our words.

Mark 5:19-20 But Jesus would not allow it. Instead, he told the man, "Go home to your family, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been to you." So the man left. He began to tell how much Jesus had done for him in the Ten Cities.

2 Cor. 4:13 The following is written, "I believed; therefore, I spoke." We have that same spirit of faith. We also believe; therefore, we also speak.

1 Peter 3:15 But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence [in God] when anyone asks you to explain it. However, make your defense with gentleness and respect.

How do Christians carry out the Great Commission?

“This command is done when our love for all nations prompts us to go and preach the Gospel to all people wherever they might be.”

Luke 19:10 “Indeed, the Son of Man has come to seek and to save people who are lost.”

Matthew 24:14 “This Good News about the kingdom will be spread throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Then the end will come.”

Mark 16:15 Then Jesus said to them, “So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News.”

Where are Christians to begin spreading the Good News about Jesus?

Christians are to begin with those who are nearest to them and then to move farther and farther away until the whole world has heard the Good News about Jesus.

Luke 24:46-47 he said to them, “Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8 “Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Can all Christians bring the Good News of Jesus to people all over the world?

Yes, they can. Though they cannot personally go all over the world, they can send and support others who can.

Acts 11:22 After the news about Antioch reached the church in Jerusalem, Barnabas was sent to Antioch.

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me. I want them to do the work for which I called them.”

Romans 10:14-15 But how can people call on him if they have not believed in him? How can they believe in him if they have not heard his message? How can they hear if no one tells [the Good News]? How can people tell the Good News if no one sends them?

How do Christians support missionaries/evangelists?

A. “All Christians, expressing their love for the salvation of all people, should constantly remember this great command of our Lord in their prayers, petitioning that the saving Gospel would come to all people.”

Romans 10:1 Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Jewish people is that they would be saved.

2 Thess 3:1 Finally, brothers and sisters, pray that we spread the Lord’s word rapidly and that it will be honored the way it was among you.

B. Prayers should also be made for those bringing the Good News of Jesus to others.

Matthew 9:37-38 “The harvest is large, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord who gives this harvest to send workers to harvest his crops.”

Acts 4:29 “Lord, pay attention to their threats now, and allow us to speak your word boldly.”

Romans 15:30-31 Brothers and sisters, I encourage you through our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love that the Spirit creates, to join me in my struggle. Pray to God for me that I will be rescued