

Compass Church
Home Group Outline
May 9, 2010
Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction

The following is taken from *Matthew 24-28*, by John MacArthur.

If a Christian understands all the rest of the gospel of Matthew but fails to understand this closing passage, he has missed the point of the entire book. This passage is the climax and major focal point not only of this gospel but the entire New Testament. It is not an exaggeration to say that, in its broadest sense, it is the focal point of all of Scripture, Old Testament as well as New.

This central message of Scripture pertains to the central mission of the people of God, a mission that, tragically, many Christians do not understand or are unwilling to fulfill. It seems obvious that some Christians think little about their mission in this world, except in regard to their own personal needs. They attend services and meetings when it is convenient, take what they feel like taking, and have little concern for anything else. They are involved in the church only to the extent that it serves their own desires. It escapes both their understanding and their concern that the Lord has given His church a supreme mission and that HE calls every believer to be an instrument in fulfilling that mission.

Question

Briefly discuss MacArthur's assertion that most Christians do not understand or are unwilling to fulfill the Great Commission. How is that we might not understand it? Why do you think we are not willing to fulfill it?

Closer Look

1. Read *Matthew 28:16-20* and compare it to *Matthew 10:5-7*. What is different between the two "commissions?"
2. Of the four actions commanded of the disciples in verses 19-20, which one is central?
3. How are the disciples to make other disciples and among whom?
4. What resources are they to use?
5. What end is to be accomplished?
6. What hope does this passage give you as you seek to follow Jesus?
7. Notice the role that obedience has in fulfilling the Great Commission. Obedience is often reserved for use in reference to children. Do you think adult followers of Jesus should be more interested in being obedient to Jesus? If so, why and how?

8. Can you reference other places in Scripture where obedience to the things of God are addressed?
9. What hope does this passage give you as you seek to follow God?
10. What other points from the sermon need to be discussed at this point?

Application

1. What aspect of this study helps you grow in your knowledge and worship of God?
2. What one thing can you do this week to be obedient to God in fulfilling the mission of God?

A thought to take home (or for additional discussion in your group)

The following is taken from *Expository thoughts on Matthew*, by JC Ryle.

Let us observe, in the fourth place, the obedience which Jesus requires of all who profess themselves His disciples. He bids the Apostles teach them to observe all things, whatsoever He has commanded them.

This is a searching expression. It shows the uselessness of a mere name and form of Christianity; it shows that they only are to be counted true Christians who live in a practical obedience to His word, and strive to do things that He has commanded. The water of baptism, and the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper alone will save no man's soul. It profits nothing that we go to a place of worship and hear Christ's ministers, and approve of the Gospel, if our religion goes no further than this. What are our lives? What is our daily conduct at home and abroad? Is the Sermon on the Mount our rule and standard? Do we strive to copy Christ's example? Do we seek to do the things that He commanded? There are the questions that must be answered in the affirmative, if we would prove ourselves born again, and children of God. Obedience is the only proof of reality. "Faith without works is dead," being alone. "You are my friends" says Jesus, "if you do whatsoever I command you."