

The Great Commission

Go ye therefore, and 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: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

– Matthew 28:19-20 –

I recently attended my son's commissioning as an officer into the United States Marine Corps. The event was obviously a proud moment, but it also got me to musing on an even greater Commission – the one our Lord gave all believers before He ascended to the right hand of the Father. The Navy/USMC ceremony brought certain hues of Christ's final command to the fore for reflection and meditation....

The Great Commission is a solemn charge given to each of us from our Lord Himself among many witnesses. There is no mistaking what Jesus expects every believer to do with His gospel. It is not ours to keep within the confines of our homes or church walls, but to take to the highways and hedges. It began in Jerusalem, was spread to Judea and Samaria, and is to be sowed into the uttermost parts of the earth. This is an awesome, ongoing responsibility for every one of us who names Him as our Lord.

The Great Commission anticipates a faithful execution of our duties as followers of Christ. We publicly vowed our allegiance to His cause when we entered the waters of baptism, so this commission is ours to carry out just as much as it was the apostles'. There is no discharge in this war.

The Great Commission highlights the warrior-class status that we don as believers. There are intrinsic dangers to commissioning as ambassadors of Heaven into a devil's world. We must be circumspect because our adversary as a roaring lion is walking about. We will need to endure hardness throughout the days of our service. Our Lord trained us to be wise as serpents, yet harmless as doves. All that we do must be to please Him who hath chosen us to be soldiers.

The Great Commission has an end. Eternity will prove the collective accomplishments of all believers of all ages who took up ranks in the Master's army. Our individual commitment is until we each arrive at Heaven's shore to receive our Lord's personal commendation for service rendered, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May the Captain of our Salvation find us faithful. --- D. Murcek