

Great Commission 2

Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kerang

Bible Study

THE GREAT COMMISSION

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THE GREAT COMMISSION

Evangelism means to reform lives, families and daily walk before God and men by calling people to repentance and teaching them to apply Scriptures to every aspect of their lives. It is teaching man to obey God's Word through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. It means obedience. "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Evangelism is an action with a specific aim: Christians have an assignment - to conquer a fallen world in the name of the risen Christ under his authority. The war between God's kingdom on earth (in all its aspects) and between Satan's kingdom on earth (in all its aspects) is total: it encompasses every aspect of life. The Great Commission calls the church to make a full-scale attack on modern humanist civilization.

- What lies at the heart of Evangelism? What do you think we need to tell people about God?

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- Where did the Apostle Paul begin when he explained the message about Christ? Read **Acts 17:24**. What group of people did he talk to?

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- How did the apostle John begin explaining the message of Christ? Read **John 1: 1-4** and **1 John 1:1-4**

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- Where does God's Self-revelation in the Bible begin?

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- Why do you think is it important to begin "*in the beginning*"? What could happen if we don't start here?

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- What is the promise which Jesus gave to his disciples in **John 16:33**?

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¹ Feel free to quote from this study, or duplicate it for Bible study use. May God's Name be glorified!

- Why was it necessary for Jesus to overcome this world?

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- What happened in Genesis 3 which made it necessary for Jesus Christ to come into this world?

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- What was God's command to mankind before the fall? Read **Genesis 1:26-28**.

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- Was it possible for mankind to fully obey this command and fulfil the task?

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- Why not?

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- What was the mission of Jesus Christ when He was sent into this world? Think of verses like **John 17:1-5, 15-19, 25-26**

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- Did Jesus complete this mission?

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- What is the Great Commission Jesus gave to his church after He completed his mission? Read **Matthew 28:18-20**

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- Now that Jesus did overcome this world, what should we as disciples of this risen Christ do in this world? What should it look like because of our evangelistic activity?

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GOD'S COVENANT

Before the fall God commanded man to have dominion. Without the fall we would have been self-conscious dominion builders. The command to have dominion did not cease after fall, as it was reconfirmed after the flood.

Let's read **Genesis 1:26-28**. What was God's original plan with this world?

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God made a covenant with Noah after the flood. Read **Genesis 9: 1 -11**. What were the elements of this covenant? Does it differ from the covenant with Adam and Eve in **Genesis 1:2-28**

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Fallen man, still under command to have dominion, does not exercise this dominion to the glory of God - he seeks his own glory. He cannot be trusted with dominion: he either chooses to abuse the authority given to him and become a god in his own eyes, rejecting God and his laws; or he escapes his responsibility and becomes a slave of those abusing their authority.

The Biblical message offers alternatives to both. It preaches restoration with God under God.

By redemption in Christ, the Second Adam, the relationship with God is restored. This means that dominion can and should be exercised as it was with Adam, but now through the new Adam and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Man under Christ is thus in a new covenant, the Covenant of Grace. Nothing can and may escape the extent of Christ's salvation: not the family, State, business, education, etc.

The purpose of the Great Commission is thus to enable mankind to return to faithful service under God and over creation. We need to exercise dominion to the glory of God, in terms of his Bible-revealed law.