

St Andrew's Church, Kerang

Bible Study

The Great Commission (4)

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PAUL AND THE GREAT COMMISSION IN ACTS

Acts 9:

- What was Paul's intention with people of "The Way"? (9:2)
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- God changed his life, and Paul then had another goal. What did he teach the people? (20, 22)
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Acts 13:

In **verses 16-20** Paul establishes the fact that God had elected Israel as the people out of which the Christ, the King-Messiah would be born.

From **verse 20-22** Paul shows how God appointed the kings of Israel as precursor of Jesus Christ. David was the king along whose lineage Jesus would be born to rule over Israel as eternal King.

In **verse 23** he points to the fact that John the Baptist, as the one who concluded the Old Testament prophecy, summed up all prophecies of times to the people of God about Jesus, the Christ.

To the children of Abraham, and the God-fearing Gentiles, this King-Messiah is presented as the Saviour.

Now that Paul established the fact that God is dealing with his people according to his promises, Paul goes further.

- What did the rulers of the Jews do to Jesus (**27-29**)?
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What the Jews did to Jesus was prophesied all through the ages (**verse 29**). With this the apostle proves that the Old Testament forms the basis for the Gospel message, then being preached on every Sabbath. The message they heard, and the people before them in the synagogues, has fulfilment in Christ. It was the same, but now so much broader message: then it was shadow, now it was light.

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

- What happened then to Jesus? (**verse 30**)

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- What did Jesus do after this? (**verse 31**)

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Paul summarised his message. Name the main points:

- Jesus was the fulfilment of (**verse 32**).....
- Jesus is (**verse 33**).....
- Through Jesus is the (**verse 38**)
- Who believes in Him is (**verse 39**)
- Beware (**verses 40-41**)

- How does what Paul preached here agree with **Acts 17:2-3**?

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We see the following main themes in proclaiming the message of the Gospel:

- Jesus is the Messiah promised by God through the prophets
 - Jesus is the King according to the promises made to David
 - Jesus was born as the fulfilment of all those prophecies
 - Jesus was crucified and He died on the cross according to the prophecies
 - He was raised again by the Father
 - He is the Saviour and the One who forgives sin
 - We are righteous before God because of the death and resurrection of Jesus
 - He who believes becomes a child of Abraham, grafted into the people of God
 - Beware not to scoff at the Gospel call
- See if you can find elements of these truths in Paul's speech in **Acts 24:14-16**.

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- And **Acts 26:4-8**?

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Summary

In study 1 we learned:

- that Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to teach people all the things He commanded them
- most of the energy of the apostles went into teach the people
- where there is no knowledge, the people perish
- where there is no knowledge, people are swept along in every wave of teaching

In study 2 we learned:

- that teaching lies at the heart of evangelism
- the teaching of the Bible begins at the beginning: with creation
- between the Cultural Mandate (to have dominion over God's creation) and the Great Commission man sinned and salvation in Jesus Christ, as the only way to God is necessary to be saved
- after the resurrection of Jesus Christ He promised his Holy Spirit to the Church which would teach them to teach about Jesus Christ, and thus give an even wider meaning to the Cultural Mandate – the Great Commission
- 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
- the teaching about Christ has to be supreme in all areas of life, because to Him belongs the world, and to Him all authority belongs

In study 3 we learned:

- the Apostles knew nothing less that the Person of Jesus Christ in their teaching
- the content of the teaching is about Jesus Christ:
 - how He came into the this world
 - why He came into this world
 - what He did by being nailed to the cross
 - what God the Father purposed through his death and resurrection
 - that Christ was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophesies and sacrifices

In study 4 we learned:

- that Jesus Christ is indeed the Messiah promised by the Father
- in Him people of the old covenant and people of the new covenant are brought together as the family of God
- who believes in Him is saved
- who hears this message should not scoff at it
- God has prepared a day of judgement through Jesus Christ
- the main task of the Church today is still to proclaim Christ and Him crucified
- every member of the Church of Christ should use every opportunity to communicate the Gospel of Christ