

**THE GREAT COMMISSION**  
**Matthew 28:18-20**

**Introduction:**

1. Many today do not know who Otis Gatewood was.
  - a. His was once a household name among churches of Christ.
  - b. He has been called “a modern day apostle Paul.”
2. Bro. Gatewood established the Lord’s church in Salt Lake City, Utah.
3. He was first to heed the call to Germany after World War II.
  - a. Nazi Germany was defeated at the cost of millions of lives.
  - b. The country was in ruins with millions starving.
4. Gatewood and Roy Palmer were the first missionaries of any church to enter Germany after the War.
  - a. They distributed millions of dollars of food, clothing, and medicine.
  - b. The German chancellor thanked the church for its contributions.
5. Hundreds were baptized and dozens of congregations were started.
6. Otis Gatewood believed in the Great Commission!

**Discussion:**

- I. WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION?
  - A. It is the marching orders for all of God’s people in every generation!
    1. Jesus made salvation possible.

“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day’” (Luke 24:46).
    2. The Good News must be made known to the world.

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).
  - B. The Great Commission was first given to the apostles, but it is still in force.
    1. It is “to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).
    2. If the Gospel is not preached, men cannot be saved.

**“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? and how they they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:13-15).**

- 3. Paul taught Timothy and commanded him to teach others.**

**“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:2).**

## **II. AN ANALYSIS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.**

- A. Matthew’s account of the Commission was given on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16).**

**“And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.’” (Matthew 28:18-20).**

- 1. Jesus has all authority; therefore we must obey Him!**
- 2. He has commanded us to “go” with the Gospel.**
- 3. As we go we make disciples by teaching.**
- 4. We must go to all nations (ethnic groups).**
- 5. Those we teach must be baptized (Gal. 3:27; Eph. 1:3).**
- 6. Those baptized must then be taught to keep all the Lord has commanded.**
- 7. This process continues as long as the world stands!**

- B. Mark’s account of the Commission was given in Jerusalem (Mark 16:14).**

**“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned’” (Mark 16:15,16).**

- 1. We must go into all the world (220 nations and territories).**
- 2. We must preach the Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 1:16).**
- 3. We must preach to every creature (6,700,000,000).**
- 4. Those who hear must believe and be baptized.**
- 5. Those who do not believe consign themselves to Hell:**

**“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).**

- C. Luke's account of the Commission was given on the day Christ arose (Luke 24:33-36).

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

1. Christ died for our sins on the cross.
2. Repentance in order to have remission of sins must be preached in His name.
3. It must be preached to all nations.

### III. A SUMMARY OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.

- A. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and arose from the dead thereby making salvation possible (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

- B. We are commanded to take this Good News to:

1. The whole world.
2. Every nation.
3. Every accountable soul.

- C. The only right response to this Good News is:

1. Belief in Jesus Christ.
2. Repentance from sins.
3. Baptism for the remission of sins.
4. When this is done, one is saved (Mark 16:16).
5. Those saved must be taught all that Christ has commanded (Matthew 28:20).

### IV. WHY IS THE GREAT COMMISSION GREAT?

- A. It is great because of its Giver - Jesus Christ.
- B. It is great because of its message - the Gospel.
- C. It is great because its recipients - the whole world.
- D. It is great because of its duration - until the end of the age.

### Conclusion:

1. The scope of the Great Commission is the whole world, every nation, every state or province, every city or town, every road or street, every house on every street, and every individual in every house.
2. The Great Commission is the work of every Christian.
3. The Great Commission must never become “the Great Omission.”
4. Somebody taught us the Gospel; may we be as zealous to teach others!

