

The Great Commission #5

October 7, 2007 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

PRACTICE OF THE COMMISSION

Matt 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mt 28:20 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.*

I. TEACH ALL NATIONS

A. The Word

1. The Greek word for "teach is MATHETEUEO and literally means to "make disciples."
2. This is not the word for instruction as we will see later in this lesson.
3. John Gill translate it as "disciple all nations." This is a good understanding of what this word imports to us.
4. How can we "make disciples" of all nations?
 - a. We must do this by externally ministering the word of God Since the preaching of the word of God is necessary for the salvation of souls.
 - (1) 2 Tim 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*
 - (2) 1 Cor 1:21 *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*
 - (3) Eph 1:13 *In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*
 - b. The Holy Spirit must work internally before people can be saved.
 - (1) John 16:7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*
 - (2) John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
5. We "make disciples" by preaching the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).
6. This is our part; the rest is left up to God himself.

B. The Nations

1. Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
2. Luke 24:47 *And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

3. Gal. 3:8 *And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying], In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

II. BAPTIZING ALL NATIONS

A. Baptism is linked closely with salvation in scripture

1. The first evidence that Jesus, the Messiah, was on the way was that of the baptism of John the Baptist.
2. All of Judea went out to be baptized of John, but John instructed them to repent (Matt. 3:1-2).
3. He also instructed them to confess their sins (Matt. 3:6).
4. We need to see this concerning John's baptism:
 - a. The repentants were baptized of John immediately upon their confession
 - b. The Pharisees were refused baptism, because they did not repent (Matt. 3:7-12)
 - c. Jesus was baptized by John in order to fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 3:13-15).
5. In several scriptures we see this close connection between salvation and baptism
 - a. Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
 - (1) Remember here that a person who believes and is baptized is saved. He is saved, not because he is baptized, but because he believes.
 - (2) We know this from Eph 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:*
 - (3) You can believe and be baptized and be saved—you can be saved with baptism (not by or through baptism), but you cannot be condemned without it.
 - (4) Notice Mark 16:16b *...but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
 - (5) This does not say if you are not baptized you will be condemned, but that if you do not believe you will be condemned.
 - b. Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
 - (1) This seems to say that a person must be baptized to be saved, but this verse does not teach this.
 - (2) Notice in comparison Acts 10:43 *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*
 - (3) There is no mention of baptism here.
 - c. Acts 22:16 *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*
 - (1) This verse seems to teach that baptism washes away our sins, but it does not literally do that.
 - (2) 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
 - (3) Acts 22:16 is speaking symbolically, since baptism is a symbol (1 Peter 3:21 “the like figure”) of the washing away of our sins in the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - d. Since salvation and baptism are so closely connected in scripture, shouldn't each and

every believer be baptized soon after they believe in Jesus Christ for salvation?

B. Baptism Is To Be Done In The Proper Manner & Proper Authority

1. There must be a proper candidate – a saved person
 - a. Acts 8:37 *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest [be baptized]. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*
2. There must be a proper reason – a symbol of salvation
 - a. 1 Peter 3:21 *The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*
 - b. Rom. 6:4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
3. There must be a proper administrator – a scriptural church
 - a. The commission was given to the Lord's church, so the church local is the administrator of scriptural baptism
 - b. No human being ever scripturally baptized anyone except John the Baptist, because he was sent from God to do so.
 - (1) John 1:6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John.*
 - (2) John 1:33 *And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.*
4. There must be a proper mode – immersion
 - a. The word "baptizo" literally means "to dip under." This is one good reason to practice immersion.
 - b. Also, the verse to which we have already referred implies it: Rom 6:4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*
 - c. This immersion should be don in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19).
 - (1) Some baptize three times – once in each name of the Trinity
 - (2) Some baptize only in the name of Jesus
 - (3) We baptize once by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, this to show the three-in-one identity of the Godhead.

C. Baptism Has A Purpose

1. There is a baptism unto Moses (1 Cor. 10:2), which identifies Moses' followers with him and his ministry to God.
2. There is a baptism of the dead (1 Cor. 15:29), which some do, identifying themselves with dead leaders, not with the living Savior – 1 Cor 15:29 *Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? What shall they do? They have no living Savior.*
3. There is a baptism in the Holy Spirit – (Acts 1:5) in which the church of the Lord was immersed in the Holy Spirit to accredit his kind of assembly.
4. There is a baptism with fire (Luke 3:16) in which lost people are case into the Lake of

- Fire and are immersed in the eternal flames of hell.
5. There is a baptism of death (Mark 10:39) whereby Jesus drank the cup of death, and the disciples also drank of the same cup of death. At the end of this life, we are immersed in death.
 6. There is a baptism of suffering (Luke 12:50) in which the Lord was immersed in his sufferings for our sins when he was on the cross.
 7. Then there baptism in water (Mark 1:8) in which we today are immersed in water to identify ourselves with Jesus Christ, his salvation by blood and sacrifice, his death, burial and resurrection, and our being raised unto newness of life.
- D. Now there is only one baptism -- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
1. This is water baptism administered by the Lord's churches.
 2. This one baptism should be done as soon as possible after a person is saved.
 3. This baptism brings us into membership of a local church – 1 Cor 12:13 *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*