

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES AND WE BELIEVE ABOUT WORLD MISSIONS

### MATTHEW 28:18-20

This passage is very well known and is what we call the “**Great Commission**” and is repeated in all four of the Gospels. Let’s set the context. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. Later, He showed up to Peter and then to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. That evening he appeared to most of the disciples and finally, to Thomas, now look at vs. 16-17. We learn three key truths from these verses.

1. Obedience is always the expectation
2. The right response is always reverence
3. Your doubts don’t disqualify you

To be clear, the **Great Commission** is found in all four gospels, but for our purposes we’ll be in **Matthew 28:18-20**. These words come as a **direct command from Christ**. I see three truths that should propel us to participate in World Missions according to the words of Jesus Himself.

#### I. BE CONVINCED OF THE FULL AUTHORITY OF JESUS

We see this in **verse 18**: “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” I love that Jesus drew near to the doubters. Before giving them an assignment, Jesus made sure they knew He had the authority to do so. The word “**all**” refers to “totality” and “authority” speaks of power. Jesus has the right and the might to do whatever He decides to do. We see this in **John 3:35**: “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.” Here is an important question for all of us - Is Jesus **prominent** or is He **preeminent**?

#### II. BE COMMITTED TO FOLLOW THE ASSIGNMENT OF JESUS

Once we’ve submitted to His authority, we’re ready to receive His assignment as found in **verses 19-20a**. Remember He gives this commission to make disciples of doubters. This is not a **suggestion** or an **option**, though for many of us, we could call it the “**Great Omission**.” Just look at the words and phrases in these verses.

**“Go...” “Therefore...” “Make disciples... (teach all nations -KJV)” “Of all nations...” “in the name”**

#### III. BE COMFORTED BY THE FAITHFUL ASSURANCE OF JESUS

Jesus has all authority to give us any assignment He chooses. But this can feel overwhelming. He quickly promises His presence in the last part of verse 20. The phrase “**I am**” is emphatic and brings us back to **Exodus 3:13** when God referred to Himself, “I am who I am.” The word “**with**” means, “remaining in the midst of.” And “**always**” means, “the whole of every day.” In that sense, we don’t go for Him, we go with Him.

The entire commission is bookended with Jesus’ sovereign power (“**all authority**”) and His eternal presence (“**I’ll be with you**”). This is a blanket promise of the ongoing presence of the Son of God with His people, wherever they go, no matter how far they go, to the very end of the age.

In summary, Jesus is saying something like this...

- “**BE CONVINCED OF MY FULL AUTHORITY.**”
- “**BE COMMITTED TO FOLLOW MY ASSIGNMENT.**”
- “**BE COMFORTED BY MY FAITHFUL ASSURANCE.**”

I like what James Montgomery Boice writes, “*We have been given a very great task, but we do not need to attempt it in our own strength.*” We have the Lord’s power at work within us as well as His promise to be with us to the very end as we obey the **Great Commission.**”

Will you also be a co-laborer with us here at BBC for worldwide missions of helping in sending those whom God has called. We do that by praying and giving specifically to the missions’ program here at BBC. We should regularly make weekly offerings to the Mission Budget that is above our regular giving to the Budget of the church. We must help send those whom God has **CALL TO GO** unto “all nations” to make disciples.

