

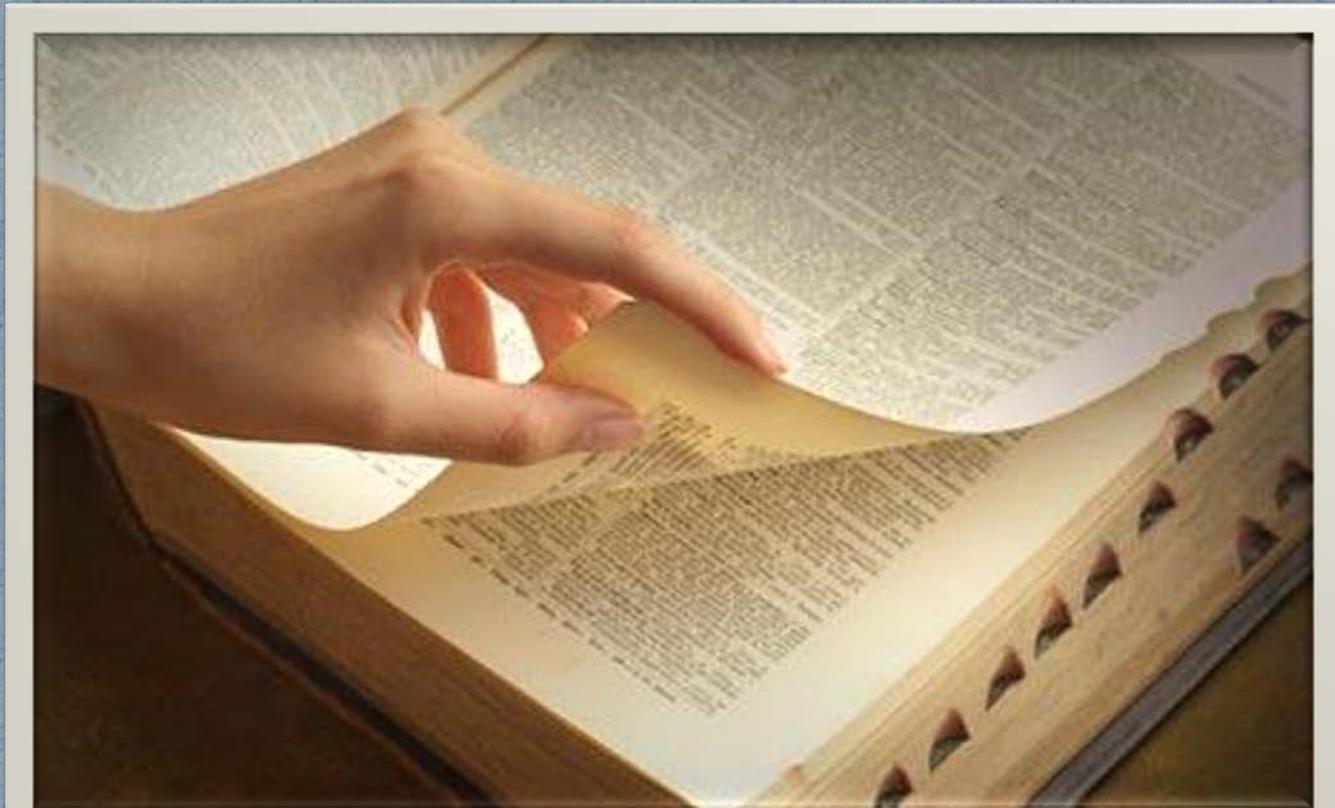
Our Grace

Commission



The dictionary defines *commission* as:

“The act of committing, an authoritative order, charge, or direction, authority granted for a particular action or function, to send on a mission, a command to act in a prescribed manner or to perform prescribed acts.”



There are five Scripture references in regard to the “great commission”:

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15-18

Luke 24:45-48

John 20:21-23

Acts 1:8,9

authority with you **GO** teaching disciples nations baptizing Son **GO** Great Commission **GO** disciples earth heaven end of the age name disciples Father **GO**

Most speak on and expound on Matthew's "Go" and "lo, I am with you always," on Mark's "all the world" and "every creature," on Luke's "ye are witnesses" and the Acts' "ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

MARK 16:15-18

*“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the gospel to every creature.*

*“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;
but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

*“And these things shall follow them that believe: In
My name shall they cast out devils; they shall
speak with new tongues;*

*“They shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink
any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall
lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”*

LUKE 24:45-48

“Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,

“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

“And ye are witnesses of these things.”

JOHN 20:21-23

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you.

“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”

ACTS 1:8,9

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

“And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.”

authority with you GO baptizing Son disciples nations teaching
Great Commission
heaven disciples earth heaven end of the age name teaching Father disciples GO

MATTHEW 28:18

“And Jesus came and spake unto them [the eleven disciples], saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.”

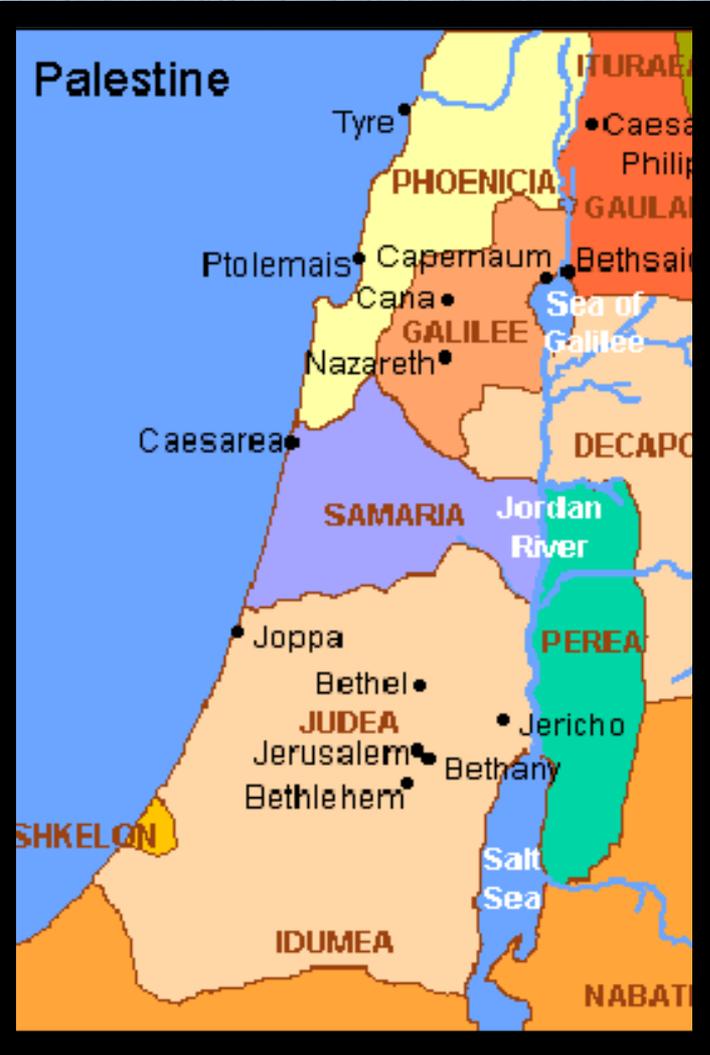


“Go...teach all nations”
(Matt. 28:19)

“Go ye into all the world”
(Mark 16:15)

“...[preach] in His name
among all nations”
(Luke 24:47)

“...unto the uttermost
part of the earth”
(Acts 1:8)



“...beginning at Jerusalem”
(Luke 24:47)

“and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all
Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”
(Acts 1:8)

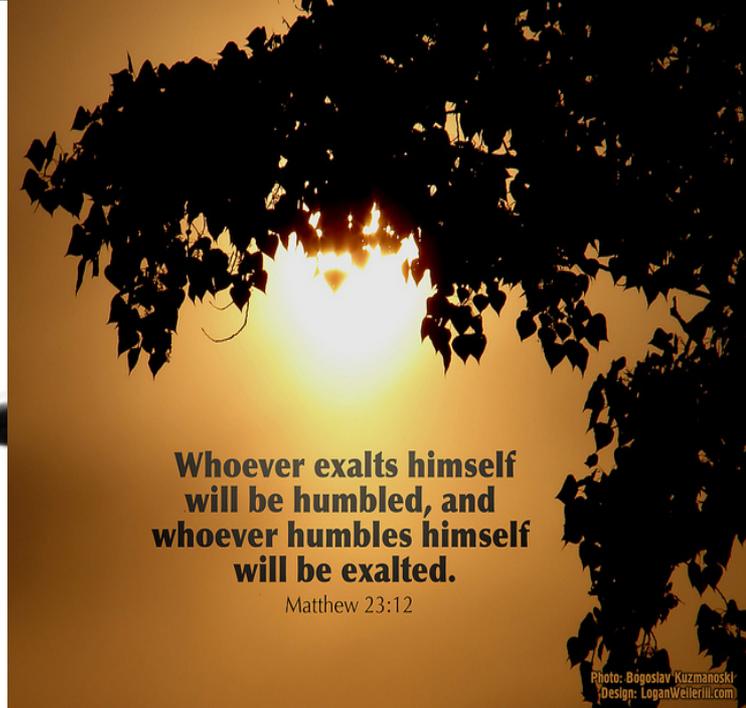
MATTHEW 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said,
'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I tell you:

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES



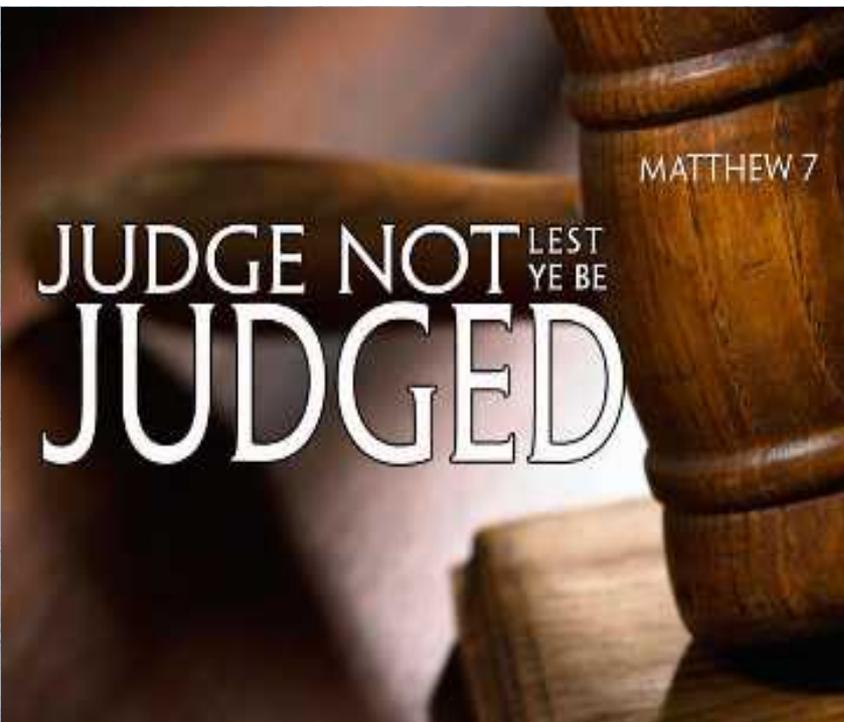
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."



**Whoever exalts himself
will be humbled, and
whoever humbles himself
will be exalted.**

Matthew 23:12

Photo: Bogoslav Kuzmanoski
Design: LoganWellerill.com



MATTHEW 7

**JUDGE NOT
LEST YE BE
JUDGED**

“...teach all nations...
teaching them to observe
all things whatsoever
I have commanded you”
(Matt. 28:18,19).



“The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do...” (Matt. 23:2,3).



“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach the gospel** to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

They only knew “the gospel of the kingdom.”



This “gospel” they preached required “repentance” (Luke 24:47), water baptism (Mark 16:16), and belief in Jesus that He was Israel’s Messiah/King for the “remission of sins” (Luke 24:45-47)



“Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ [Messiah] to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day” (Luke 24:45,46).

WATER baptism



The gospel of the kingdom **required** water baptism, it was not an optional ceremony under this commission.

They were commissioned: “**baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19); “He that believeth **and is baptized** shall **be saved**” (Mark 16:16).



“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17,18).

John 20:23 - Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; [and] whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained. What does this mean?

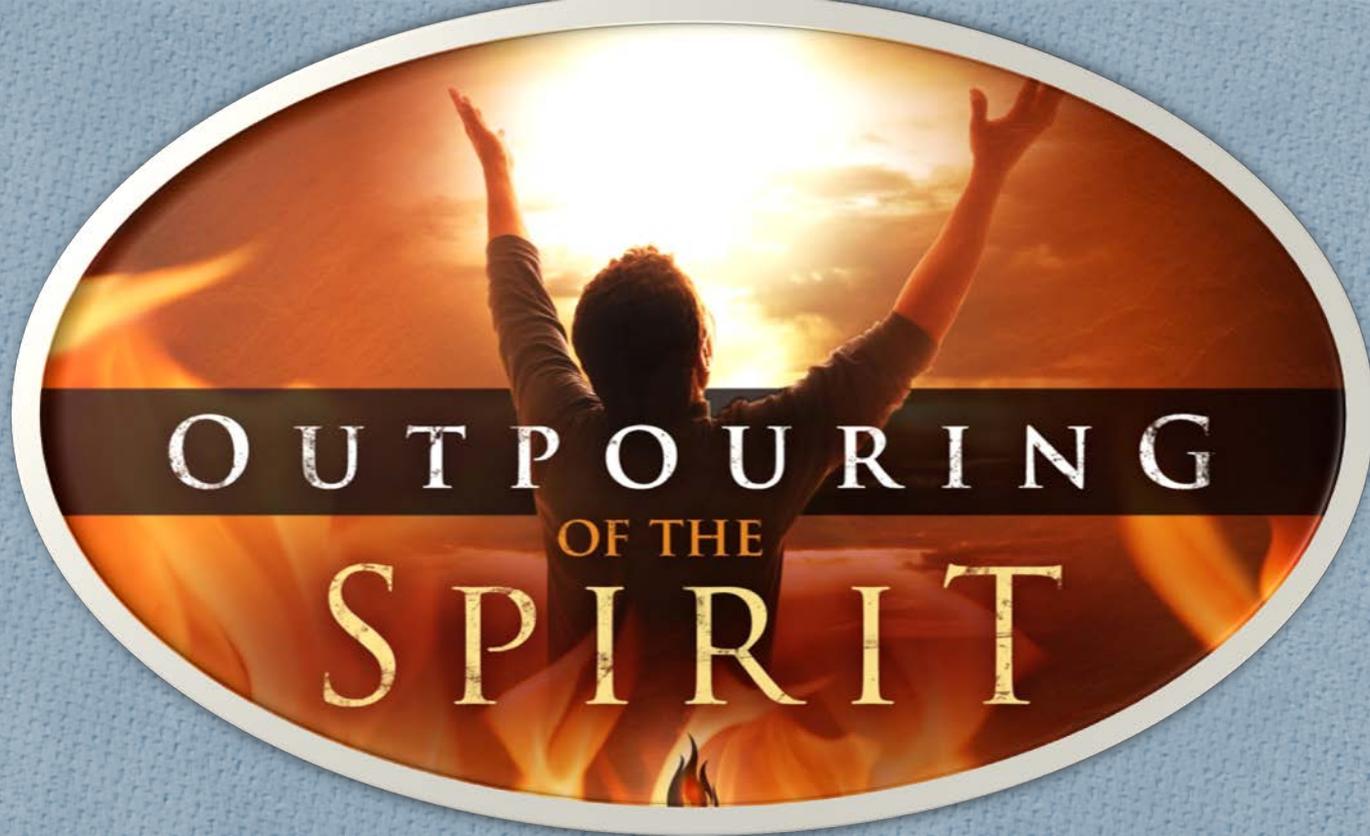


Isa. 43:25: “I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

John 20:23 - Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; [and] whose soever [sins] ye retain, they are retained. What does this mean?



“When He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (John 20:22).



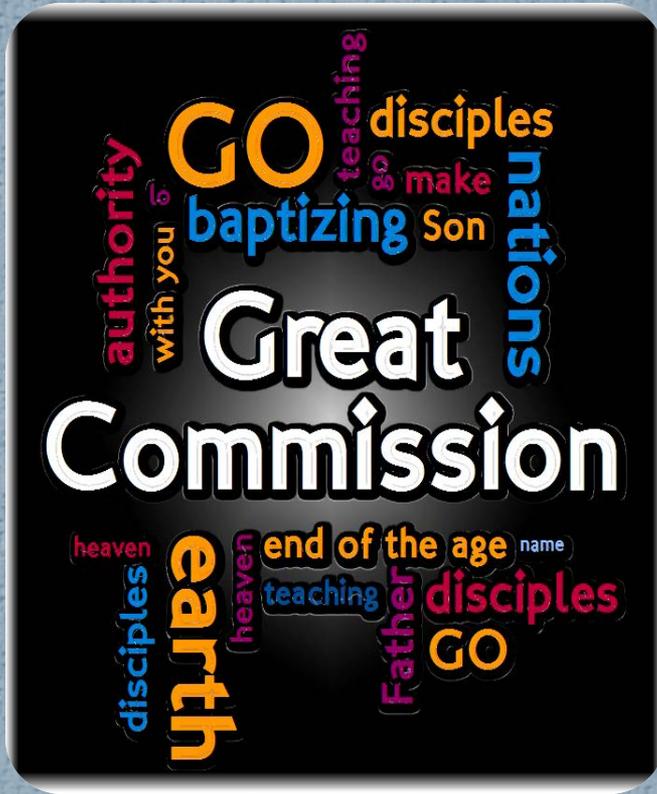
The Lord said in Acts 1:8: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.”

And the Spirit did come in fulfillment of prophecy at Pentecost in Acts 2 and it was by His “power” that they carried out this commission and were “witnesses” of Christ’s resurrection.

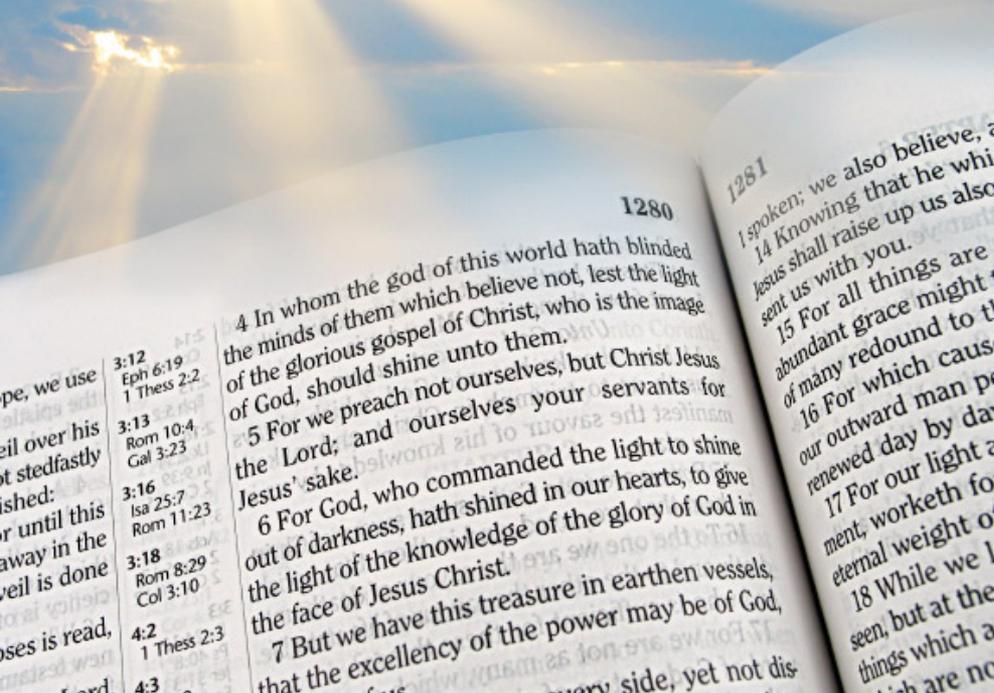


Many of these things have been misapplied and led to snake handling, the healing movement, church leaders believing they can forgive sin, people speaking in tongues, people living by the law and holding out the wrong gospel.

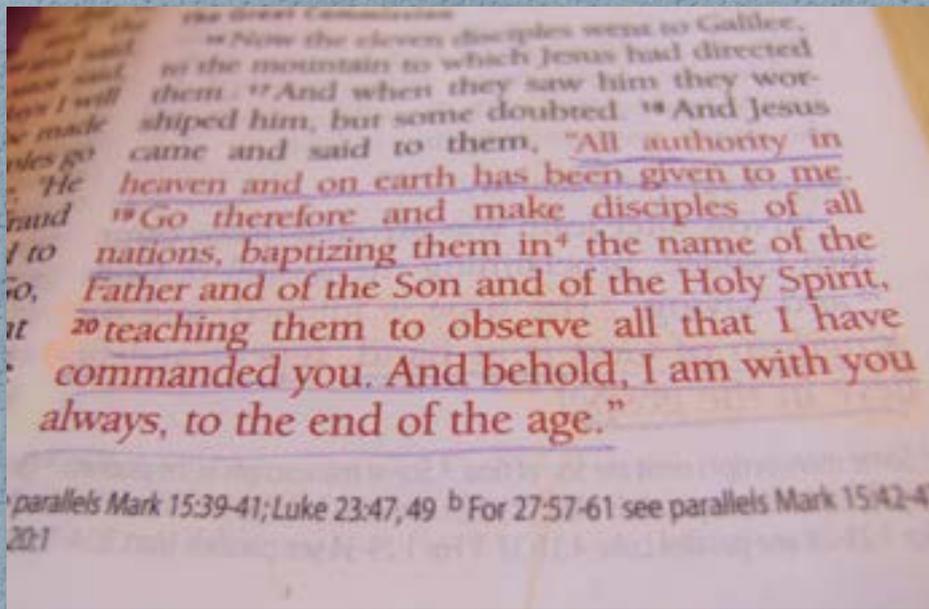
Consider the differences!



Teaching the observance of the law;
teaching the forgiveness of sins
based on forgiving others; teaching
forsaking all to have eternal life;
preaching the gospel of the
kingdom with its earthly hope;
repentance and water baptism
required to be saved; miraculous
signs as evidence of salvation: such
as speaking in tongues and healing;
the authority to forgive sins;
Jerusalem and Israel needing
to be reached first.



Christ
spoke
again!



The Lord gave man a commission on earth for the nation Israel (God's earthly people) based on God's earthly program.



And the Lord gave man a commission from heaven for the Body of Christ (God's heavenly people) based on God's heavenly program.



To place ourselves under the commission given to the 11 apostles is to place ourselves *under the law*, and under Israel's program, both of which are not in operation today. Paul says we are "not under law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).



The fact that
miraculous signs do
not follow those who
believe today is proof
also that the great
commission is not what
God is requiring today.
We are under a grace
commission.



The gospel of grace says salvation is by grace through faith, not of works (Eph. 2:8,9). Water baptism is a work that was required for salvation under the great commission. Forsaking all, selling all, forgiving others to be forgiven, are works.

The fact that salvation is not of works shows that the great commission is not for today.



The great commission was based on prophecy and was **Israel** first, **Israel** needing to be reached first, **Israel** being the light to the world, and **Israel's** earthly kingdom hope.



The commission for today isn't based on prophecy or Israel's program, but upon God's revelation of the Mystery, which had been kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25).

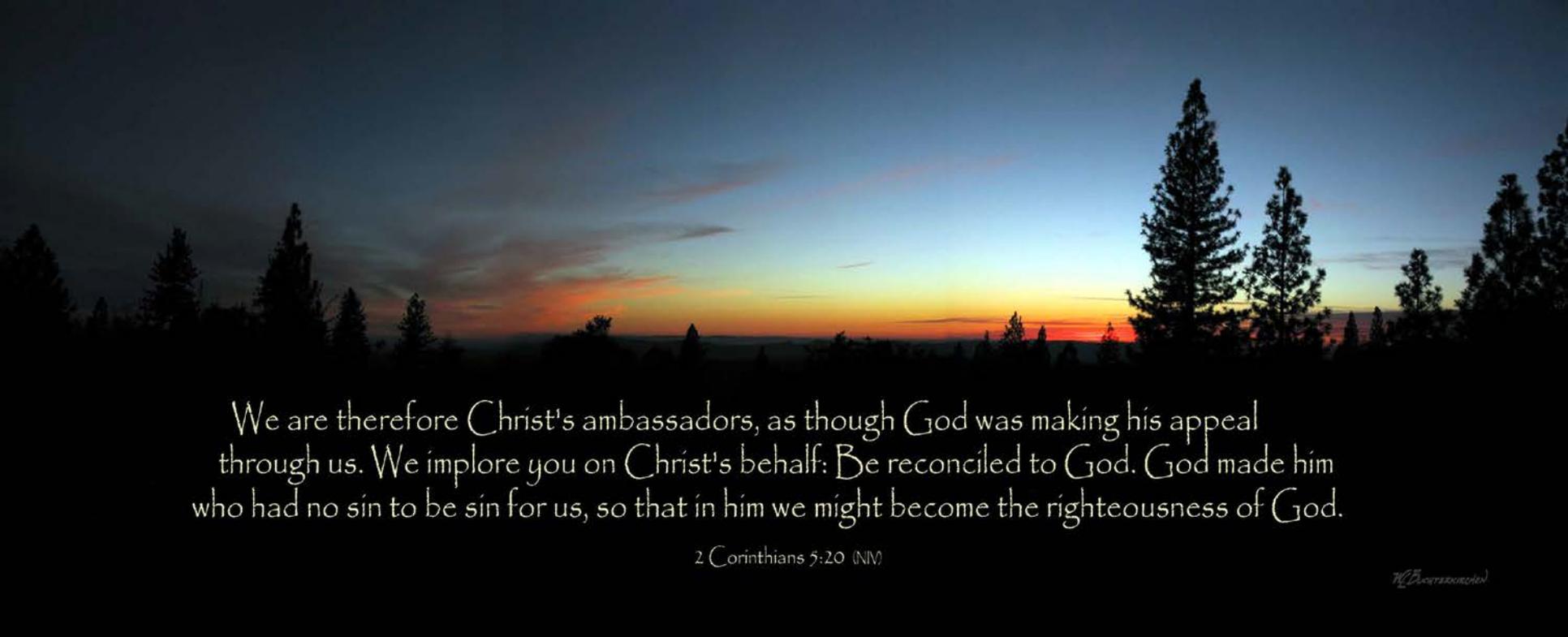
This commission reveals a new hope for those who believe in Christ and the gospel of the grace of God: heaven.

Today God is building the Church, the Body of Christ, which has a completely different calling and destiny: a heavenly one, not earthly.



“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, *but by the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Gal. 1:11,12).

A photograph of a sunset over a forest of evergreen trees. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The trees are silhouetted against the bright sky.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God was making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)

The Church

Our commission under grace includes “the ministry of reconciliation” (II Cor. 5:18), and “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph. 3:9).

you are

CHRIST'S

ambassador

God sees us in Christ, so the world needs to see Christ in us. As Christ represents us before the Father, so we represent Christ before the world.

As ambassadors for Christ, we are the official representatives of *God the Son!*

you are

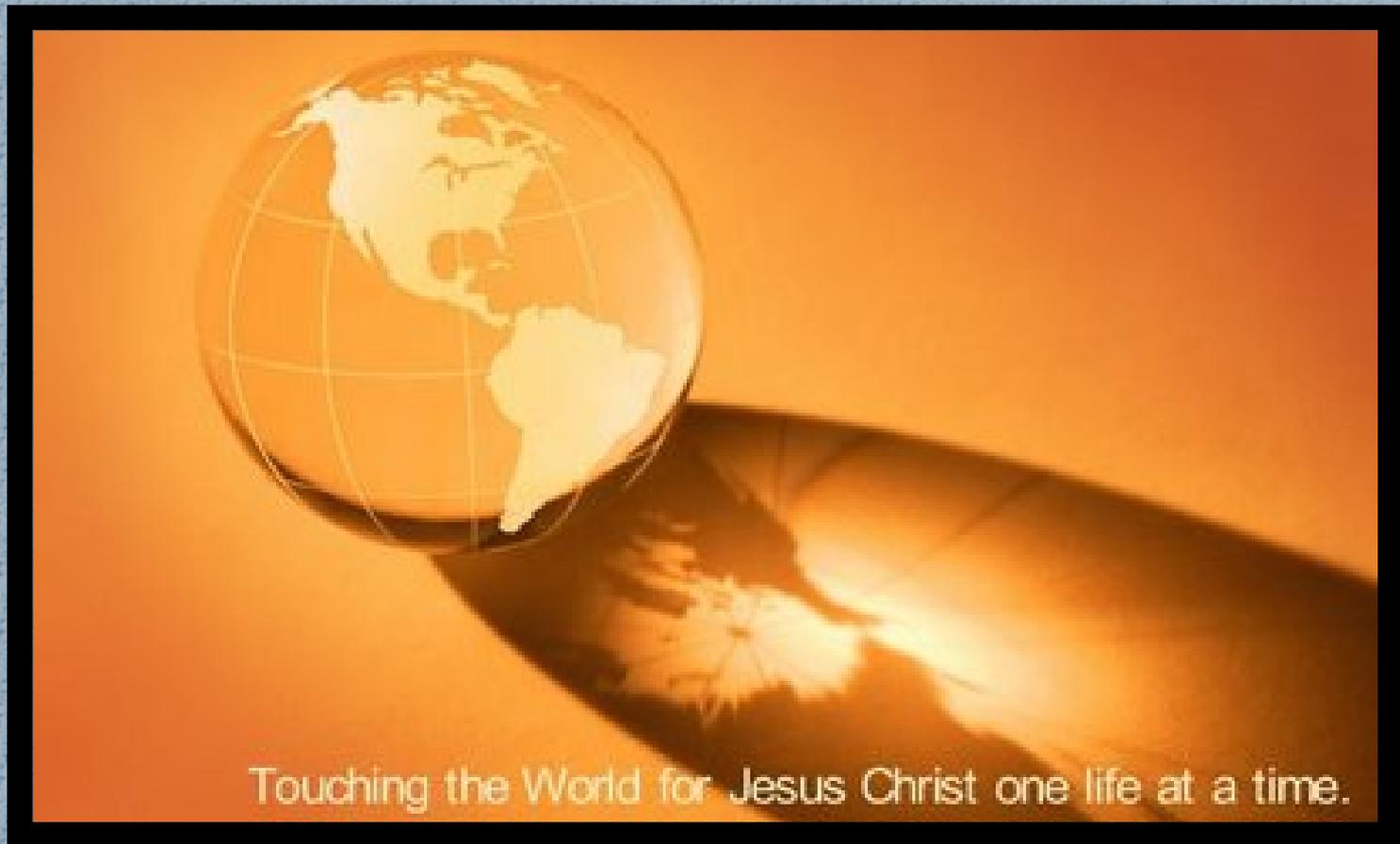
CHRIST'S

ambassador

We are ambassadors for Christ with a responsibility and a commission from God to beseech all men everywhere to be reconciled to Him.



Christ has done the work of reconciliation, now God has “*committed*” to us the word of reconciliation and He desires us to take part in the world-wide outreach and testimony to His grace and to reach the lost and unbelieving.



There is no order of places that we take God's message of grace out, it's not through Israel to the world, it's not the world coming through Israel to be saved, it's just to the world, we are sent to *all* men, *without distinction*, sharing God's grace far and wide, in as many means, methods, and ways as possible.



Verse 15 says that Christ died for us that “they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again.”

We are commissioned as God’s ambassadors, and God would have us live for Him and His purpose and calling and not for ourselves only.



Paul had a great passion to “make all men see,” or to enlighten all men, i.e., to shed a flood of light on “what is the fellowship of the mystery” (Eph. 3:9) so that no one was in the dark to it.