



# Basic Bible Course

by Ira Y. Rice, Jr.

## Christians ARE Governed by the GREAT COMMISSION



### Lesson Twelve

**INTRODUCTION:** From what we have learned in previous lessons, we have established the following points:

- 1) That God has revealed His will to man in three separate, distinct “dispensations” of religion;
- 2) That what governed the “patriarchs” in the FIRST dispensation was not binding upon the children of Israel in the SECOND;
- 3) That what governed the children of Israel in the SECOND (i.e., the “law of Moses,” INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS) is NOT BINDING UPON CHRISTIANS—OR ANYONE ELSE—in the THIRD.

In the end of the SECOND dispensation (Jewish), we have observed the preaching and baptism of John the Baptist and also two very limited commissions all of which came to an abrupt halt, along with the Old Testament, at the cross of Christ (A.D. 33).

Now that our minds are crystal clear that NONE of us living SINCE the cross are governed by ANYTHING which was of force BEFORE the cross, the next question to be answered is: IF PEOPLE TODAY ARE NOT BOUND BY ANY OF THOSE THINGS, THEN WHAT PART OF GOD’S WILL TO MAN IS BINDING TODAY?

It shall be the burden of this study to show that AFTER Jesus died, was buried and arose again, He delivered a commission so comprehensive within its scope that it was to concern ALL MEN in ALL NATIONS in ALL THE WORLD, for ALL TIME TO COME, from the Day of Pentecost (A.D. 33) onward, EVEN UNTO THE END OF THE WORLD...

- I. ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 28:18-20—
  - A. After His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus declared that ALL AUTHORITY, both in heaven and in earth, had been given unto Him (v. 18).
  - B. He commanded His apostles, therefore, to
    1. GO TEACH all nations
    2. BAPTIZE those taught in the name of
      - a. the Father
      - b. the Son
      - c. the Holy Ghost (or Spirit) (v. 19).

3. TEACH those baptized to “OBSERVE ALL THINGS” that HE had commanded (v. 20).

C. Under these conditions, Jesus promised to be “with” them always—even unto the end of the world.

NOTE: While Jesus was alive on earth, and before His death on the cross, He TAUGHT (or “COMMANDED”) many things which were DISTINCT from the requirements of the OLD testament. However, as we learned from previous study, these commands, which were to comprise His NEW testament, could not become of force until after His death (Heb. 9:15-17). Therefore, it was not until He died, was buried, and arose again that Jesus authorized His apostles to teach and baptize all nations, teaching those baptized to “OBSERVE ALL THINGS whatsoever I have commanded.”

## II. ACCORDING TO MARK 16:15-16—

- A. Jesus commanded:
  1. GO into ALL THE WORLD.
  2. PREACH the GOSPEL to EVERY CREATURE.
- B. Jesus promised: He that—
  1. BELIEVETH and
  2. Is BAPTIZED shall
  3. Be SAVED.
- C. Jesus warned:
  1. DISBELIEVERS shall be DAMNED (i.e., CONDEMNED).

## III. ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:47-49—

- A. Jesus cited prophecy, saying, “Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that
  1. REPENTANCE and
  2. REMISSION OF SINS should be preached
    - a. in his name,
    - b. among all nations,
    - c. beginning at Jerusalem.”
- B. Jesus’ apostles were not to put this commission into immediate effect; rather they were to “TARRY” in JERUSALEM until ENDUED WITH “POWER” FROM ON HIGH.

**NOTE: Here we have three separate accounts of the great world-wide, age-lasting commission given by Jesus Christ after His death, burial and resurrection. Each of the writers—Matthew, Mark and Luke—recorded PART of what Jesus commanded in this commission; however, no ONE of them recorded ALL of it. In order to have it ALL, we must COMBINE THE THREE TOGETHER. Please notice the chart we have prepared for this combination, as follows. Observe that LIKE things have been combined in the SAME COLUMN VERTICALLY; what EACH WRITER WROTE is listed HORIZONTALY. Opposite the word “Total,” at the bottom of the chart, we have added up the sum total of all that Matthew, Mark and Luke offer concerning this commission:**

## The Great Commission

Matthew 28	Go v. 19	Teach v. 19		All Nations v. 19			Baptizin g v.19	
Mark 16	Go v. 15	Preach v. 15	Gospel v. 15	All the world Every Creature v. 15	Believe v. 16		Baptized v. 16	Saved v. 16
Luke 24		Preach v. 47		All nations v. 47		Repent v. 47		Remission of sins v. 47
<b>Total:</b>	<b>Go</b>	<b>Teach &amp; Preach</b>	<b>the Gospel to</b>	<b>Every Creature, Among All Nations In All the World</b>	<b>He that Believeth</b>	<b>Repents</b>	<b>and is Baptized</b>	<b>shall be Saved; i.e., have Remission of Sins</b>

(Such repentant, baptized, believers were then to be taught “to observe all things” Jesus had commanded His apostles to teach.)

**NOTE:** Please remember that they were not to begin their work under this great commission at once; rather they were to TARRY in JERUSALEM until ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH. Also this commission was to have its “BEGINNING” at JERUSALEM (Luke 24:47).

Luke also wrote the book of ACTS OF THE APOSTLES. In Acts 1, referring to “the former treatise” (Luke) he hooks the two books together, reminding his readers, in verse 4, that Jesus had commanded His apostles “that they should NOT DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, but WAIT for the PROMISE.” Promising them that they should be “baptized with the Holy Ghost NOT MANY DAYS HENCE, (v. 5), he said, “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” (v. 8).

So it was that they were “TARRYING” AT JERUSALEM, when they were thus ENDUED with “POWER FROM ON HIGH” on the DAY OF PENTECOST, in the next chapter (Acts 2). Compare what happened “BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM” (see chart below) with what they were COMMANDED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION (see chart above)...

### “Beginning at Jerusalem...”

Jerusalem v. 5	Peter Stood v. 14	He Preached the Gospel vv. 14-36	Men out of every nation v. 5	“Pricked in heart” v. 37	Told to “Repent” v. 38	“Be Baptized” v. 38	For Remission of Sins
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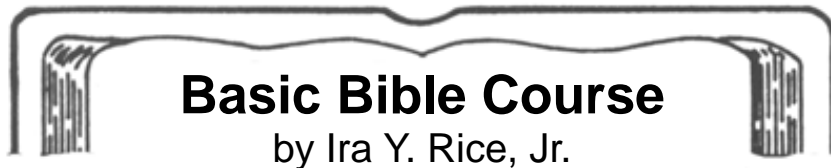
**NOTE:** The value of these two charts offered for direct comparison cannot be over-emphasized. The chart of THE GREAT COMMISSION, as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke, shows what was AUTHORIZED to BE DONE and TAUGHT under this commission by the One who commanded it. The chart of the “BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM” (Acts 2) shows that is what WAS DONE and

**TAUGHT from the very start of this new (Christian) dispensation, which began on that day of Pentecost (A.D. 33)...Now let us take a fuller look at Acts 2...**

- IV. ACTS 2 TELLS WHAT HAPPENED AND WAS TAUGHT AT THE “BEGINNING”:
- A. VERSE 1 tells it was ON “PENTECOST.”
  - B. VERSES 2-4 show the HOLY SPIRIT coming upon the apostles.
  - C. VERSE 5 fixes the scene of events as “JERUSALEM.”  
**NOTE: Remember that Luke 24:47 said the preaching under this new commission would BEGIN AT JERUSALEM and be done “AMONG ALL NATIONS.” “EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN” was represented in Jerusalem that day.**
  - D. VERSE 6 describes the MULTITUDE COMING TOGETHER and MARVELING because EVERY MAN UNDERSTOOD IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE.
  - E. VERSES 9-11 list the LANGUAGES represented.
  - F. VERSES 12-13 show the CONFUSION OF THE MULTITUDE as different ones tried to explain how 12 unlearned Galilaeans could so speak as to be understood in 15 different languages all at the same time.
  - G. VERSES 14-36 describe PETER taking occasion by their interest and confusion to PREACH the FIRST GOSPEL SERMON ever delivered under the great commission.  
**NOTE: From this point forward (Day of Pentecost—Acts 2) the “NEW TESTAMENT” is clearly considered to be “OF FORCE” both by Luke and subsequent writers of the Bible.**
  - H. VERSE 37 reveals those Jews making up the crowd on Pentecost as so convinced by Peter’s preaching that they were “pricked in their heart,” i.e., they BELIEVED or were CONVINCED OF what he said, which led them to ask, “Men and brethren, WHAT SHALL WE DO?”
  - I. Verse 38 gives Peter’s answer. He commanded them to
    - 1. REPENT and
    - 2. BE BAPTIZED.**NOTE: These believers—every one of them—were to do these two things 1) in the name of Jesus Christ, 2) for the remission of sins, and 3) to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Verse 40 also shows these things were for salvation. “SAVE yourselves,” Peter exhorted).**
  - J. VERSE 41 points out that those who “GLADLY RECEIVED” Peter’s word “WERE BAPTIZED.” About 3,000 souls were “ADDED unto them.” (Verse 47 shows it was the LORD who did the ADDING; and that what they were “ADDED” to was called “THE CHURCH.”  
**NOTE: Observe that this is the FIRST REFERENCE to the church of the New Testament as being AN ESTABLISHED FACT. EARLIER REFERENCES to the church POINT FORWARD to its FUTURE ESTABLISHMENT. But FROM THE DAY OF PENTECOST in Acts 2 ONWARD through the rest of the Bible, it is NEVER RECORDED as FUTURE any more, but AS BEING IN EXISTENCE. ALSO observe that membership in this “church” was not gained by “JOINING” it (a HUMAN act), but by THE LORD “ADDING” to it such as should be SAVED (a DIVINE act).  
 HUMAN CHURCHES that can be “joined” through HUMAN ritual are NOT THE CHURCH THAT JESUS ESTABLISHED IN ACTS 2; only THE LORD can “ADD” saved persons to THAT church. Seeing that JESUS NEVER AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER CHURCH TO EXIST save the ONE HE HIMSELF BUILT, it should be clear to all that NO OTHER CHURCH NOT SPOKEN OF IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAS ANY RIGHT TO EXIST. All HUMANLY ORGANIZED CHURCHES not mentioned in the New Testament EXIST WITHOUT ANY DIVINE AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER. Since all such as should be**

SAVED are ADDED by the LORD to HIS church, it follows that NO SAVED PERSONS ARE LEFT OVER TO JOIN MAN'S CHURCHES.

The Lord "SAVES" those who obey him (Heb. 5:9). All those, therefore, who OBEY the Lord are not only SAVED BY THE LORD but are ADDED TO THE LORD'S CHURCH by the Lord. Thus the church which had its beginning in this 2nd chapter of Acts is the ONLY CHURCH which has ANY STANDING WHATEVER BEFORE THE LORD—and ALL the persons who are "SAVED" according to the terms of the New Testament are MEMBERS of it.



**Christians ARE Governed  
by the  
GREAT COMMISSION**



Questions on Lesson Twelve

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are any of the commandments, which God gave to the patriarchs before Moses, binding on our consciences in the CHRISTIAN age? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are Christians obligated to keep the ten commandments as given by God through Moses on mount Sinai? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is anything preached or authorized by John the Baptist to be observed as such during the Christian dispensation? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What of the two limited commissions given to “the twelve” and to “the seventy,” respectively? Are these two commissions still in force? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If none of these divine requirements continued to be of force after the cross, then what commission governs and authorizes us who live in the Christian dispensation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Cite the passages which set forth the terms of this commission:  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. After Jesus’ crucifixion, burial and resurrection, how much authority did His Father give Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Did Jesus use this newly-acquired authority? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what use did He make of it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In recording what Jesus said in giving the GREAT COMMISSION, did each writer—Matthew, Mark and Luke—record all of it? \_\_\_\_\_
10. If each divinely-inspired writer recorded only a PART of what Jesus said in giving the great commission, what must we do if we want to know ALL of it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Which writers show that Jesus commanded, “Go”? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Which writers show that teaching and preaching were to be done? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Which writer informs us that “THE GOSPEL” was to be preached? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Combining what all three writers recorded, TO WHOM was the gospel to be preached?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Which writer required BELIEF? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which writer required REPENTANCE? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Which writers required BAPTISM? \_\_\_\_\_

- 17. What blessing (or blessings) would be granted to those people who BELIEVE, REPENT and ARE BAPTIZED, according to the terms of this great commission?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Were just the apostles to observe the requirements of the great commission; or were others to observe them, too? \_\_\_\_\_  
Which others? \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Was the “beginning at Jerusalem” on Pentecost in Acts 2 in harmony with what Jesus commanded in the great commission? \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. How many people “joined” the church that day? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_