

The Great Commission and Ascension

Sermon 101 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 24:44-53

The Apostles Creed

*On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

I. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20

A. Mark Ross outlines these verses in this way

1. All Authority
2. All the Nations
3. All the Commandments
4. All the Day

B. Exposition

1. He is Sovereign. He is King. All has been committed to him.
Ephesians 1:11, 19-22

2. He is Lord over all nations.

He commissioned his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

The Commission was given to them as Apostles and the leaders of the church.

The Great Commission is actually given to the church and will continue in force until the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

3. The Three Fold Mission of the Church

- a. Evangelize the Lost
- b. Baptize these converts and bring them into the visible church
- c. Continue to teach – Lord’s Day after Lord’s Day and in regular Bible studies.

II. The Great Commission in Luke 24:44-53

44 – The OT is primarily about Christ.

45 – Most anyone can understand the Bible, but Christians see Christ there.

46-49 – – Until Pentecost – and then world-wide evangelism would begin.

To the Jew first and also to the Greeks (Gentiles).

III. The Ascension as related in the Scriptures

A. He was parted from them -- Luke 24:51

B. They worshipped Him Luke 24:52

They could no longer see Him – but they weren't sad.

They no longer doubted who he is.

The Apostles became worshippers – and remained worshippers for the rest of their lives.

C. Further Details as Given in Acts 1:4-11

1. The Promise Explained more Fully 1:4-8

At Pentecost – and afterwards -- their way of thinking changes. They realize that the Kingdom had come – and it was a Spiritual Kingdom. **Acts 2:32-36**

2. The Ascension Itself 1:9-11

3. The Angels

Angels were present when He was born into this world.

Angels were there when He rose from the dead.

Angels were there as He ascended back up into Heaven.

4. What we basically need to know about angels is relatively simple:

a. They are creatures who live to serve the Lord God.

b. They are created beings – but they will never die.

c. They are not human – but they can take human appearance and form.

d. Angels are more powerful than us now – but we will one day be greater.

They are servants.

We, as redeemed persons are sons and daughters.

IV. Four Positive Truths that Flow from Christ's Ascension

1. Christ's Ascension assures us He will return bodily – just as he ascended bodily.

2. Christ's Ascension means he is currently ruling and reigning.

a. He is exalted. He is glorified. He is enthroned.

b. He has a permanent place in heaven.

c. His work of redemption is complete. Ephesians 1:19-23

3. Christ's Ascension is a great blessing and includes a great mystery.

a. When He ascended into heaven, he took His glorified humanity with Him.

b. It is better for us that He has gone away – than when He was here.

4. Christ's Ascension established Him in His current position as our "Mediator".

Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:23-8:2