

The Great Commission and the 21st Century Church

by Keith Malcomson

This sermon emphasizes the importance of the Great Commission in the 21st century church, focusing on the need for believers to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to evangelize and spread the gospel. It highlights the distractions of focusing too much on Bible prophecy or other issues, urging believers to prioritize preaching repentance, remission of sins, and being witnesses for Christ. The sermon calls for a revival of evangelism, a rediscovery of the true gospel message, and a commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission with power and assurance.

Scripture: Matthew 28:18, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46, John 20:21, Acts 1:6

Topics: "Great Commission", "Empowerment by the Holy Spirit"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of the Great Commission in the 21st century church, focusing on the need for believers to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to evangelize and spread the gospel. It highlights the distractions of focusing too much on Bible prophecy or other issues, urging believers to prioritize preaching repentance, remission of sins, and being witnesses for Christ. The sermon calls for a revival of evangelism, a rediscovery of the true gospel message, and a commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission with power and assurance.

Transcript

Praise the Lord. I want you to turn with me here this morning to Matthew and chapter 28, the last chapter of Matthew's gospel. We're continuing with the 21st century church.

I believe there are many scriptures written very clearly that depict what the church is going to look like in the last generation at the end, just before Jesus comes back. This is not just applying all of scripture to us at the end, but I believe they reveal something very notable about the last church or the last chapter of church history. When you begin to read Acts chapter 1, you begin into the beginning of the early history of the church, and yet we read a very remarkable thing in Acts chapter 1. This was at the end of Jesus being on the earth for 40 days physically in his resurrected body with a small remnant of the church that were going to be his vessel upon the earth.

And listen to what it says concerning those last 40 days that Christ was with them in the it says in Acts chapter 1 and verse 2, until the day in which he was taken up after that, he through the Holy Ghost had

given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen, to whom also he showed himself alive after his passion or after his death by many infallible proofs and speaking the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Now it says here clearly that during those last 40 days that Christ was with the apostles and with the disciples and he gave them during that time many commandments, and in fact he spoke many things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Now all through my Christian life I have heard many say we wish that it was written down what he spoke to the disciples during those 40 days.

We wish we were there. We wish we knew all of this teaching during those last 40 days when he was doing miracles and giving them specific commands. Do you know we do know and in fact in five distinct places we have clear commands that were given during that 40 days that are utterly unique.

We're not left in the dark as to what the teaching of the kingdom of God was or these commands were to the disciples and that's what we're going to deal with here this morning and I hope and pray that your hearts will be opened by the grace of God. This is part 11 of our message on the 21st century church and this is my title here this morning. The great commission on the 21st century church.

Will you pray with me? Sorry we're going to read and then you can pray with me but Matthew chapter 28 reading from verse 16. Then the 11 disciples went away into Galilee into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them and when they saw him they worshipped him but some doubted and Jesus came and speak 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 though I am with you always even unto the end of the world amen father we thank you for the word of God the clarity of it and father these things that you instructed the disciples in during those 40 days in your resurrected bodies doing many miracles many signs that could not be argued against or disputed or disproved father I pray that those clear commands those clear teachings that you imparted as the kingdom of God clear commands that you gave to the apostles and to the early church father I pray that you'd open them up reveal them make them very clear and Lord God inscribe them in our heart that we would never be free of these words that these words would dominate this church dominate the preaching in this pulpit dominate the evangelism dominate our life and work in home and family in this city we bless you and we praise you and we ask of you by the power of your holy spirit that you'd inscribe them and write them upon our heart in Jesus mighty name amen here in Matthew 28 what we've just read has become well known in the church as the great commission my message is the great commission and the 21st century church I believe without the great commission we have no future in this century I believe we've got to rediscover the great commission again in this decade of this century I believe it's vital to the health the wealth and prosperity of the church and I'm not talking about the prosperity message I'm talking about the normal healthy function of the new new testament church I believe the great commission I'm persuaded of this is mostly forgotten neglected not taught not even understood not believed and certainly is not expounded in the teaching of the church of this generation we're going to see that the great commission was the church's marching orders it was the last command of christ on earth to the church and believe me he doesn't like his orders changed the church of our generation changes it reinvents the commission or tries to organize strategize invent something unique that no other church has I want to tell you that's a fallacy that is a heresy and it's very dangerous we have one great commission we have one last command of the Lord Jesus Christ it was a divine command it was from God not a human institution not a human headquarters not a denomination my headquarters is not in Rome neither is it in Beaumont London Dublin or anywhere else I tell you there's only one HQ for the real church and it's at the right hand of the father his name is the Lord Jesus Christ he

is the head of the church he commissions the church he lives in the church and he goes to work with the church Jesus Christ placed the entire responsibility of world evangelization upon the shoulders of a small band of believers who had all failed them at some point they fell asleep in the prayer meeting they ran when persecuted they stumbled in obedience and yet Christ lays upon them the full weight and responsibility to go and reach all nations with the gospel if they fail the church fails and the commission fails and Christ fails in his work and yet he lays upon the small band in Jerusalem it's your responsibility to reach every single nation every creature in every single generation until I return again would you have chosen this fan would you have chosen Thomas for this great task would you have chosen Peter who's just denied you three times even with curse and oath to a little maid who said I know you're one of those Galileans I recognize your accent I know you're one of his fan and yet he said I don't know him would you have chosen a Peter would you have chosen a John would you have chosen the likes of these to begin to be the vessel the instrument of the great commission if we are sensible we wouldn't and yet Christ chose them and he commissioned them to preach the gospel to all nations in the beginning the first century or in the book of Acts the church was a mission society it actually moved cooperatively as a unified body under the instructions of the great commission they actually believed this commission acted upon it prayed according to it and stepped out believing that Christ would be there with power the early church added to its numbers mainly by the life and the speech of its individual rank and file normal members that sat in the church men women children old young that was the body of Christ the early church was a missionary church its vision came from the great commission its actions came from the great commissions all of poured out of the great commission each local church had a worldwide vision not just a local vision each local church each of the five ministries that God ordained in the church not just the apostle not just the missionary not just an evangelist every ministry in the local church was consumed with the great commission they had an awareness this was the command of Christ to every member of the church to every church wherever it's established to every generation now when we come to the bible we find the great commission given five distinct clear times we find it at the end of each of the four gospels the gospel never finishes until Christ gives a clear commission to the church then the book of acts church history does not begin without the great commission being given at the beginning of it and so we have five statements of the great commission written by four different men at four different times now listen up there's five distinct records of the commission but but two of these speak of one of the times which means there's four occasions that Christ actually specifically gave the commission when did Christ give the commission it was during these 40 days the first time he gives it is on the first of those 40 days at the beginning of the 40 days at his resurrection when he first appeared alive he gave the commission 40 days later when he's about to ascend to heaven he again gives the commission so from beginning to end his command is the great commission as soon as he rose from the dead he commissioned them as soon as he's about to leave them he commissions them i believe this is the dominating message of the 40 days of Jesus Christ let me just point out briefly to you these four incidents in the time scale because i'm going to go to the five records of it and simply expand them to you but i'm not going to do them in time scale sequence but i'm going to give you the time sequence now very briefly before we go to them first of all on that first day after Christ's resurrection it was at Jerusalem on the day of his resurrection and he appeared unto the 10 disciples you remember Thomas wasn't there Judas had committed suicide and they were yet to appoint someone to replace him so the 10 were gathered there and scripture says that many others many other men many other women were also there when Christ revealed himself that was the first commission and it's given in Luke 24 and in John 20 those two incidents of Luke 24 and John 20 happen at the same time in the same place though they're in two different books given in two different ways that is the first commission at the beginning of the 40 days the second time happens one week later and notice

these first two times were on Sunday the first day of the week the first time he meets with them is on the first day of the week the day of his resurrection they're all gathered together he meets with them and he commissions them one week later it's again the Sunday he didn't meet with them on the two first Sabbaths he met with them on the first two Sundays so the second time was eight days sorry seven days later and the 11 were there now Thomas is actually in the midst this is recorded in Mark chapter 16 and John chapter 20 at the beginning of it the third time he appears unto the 11 on mount on the mount of let me say that again he appears to the 11 on a mountain in Galilee you find this in Matthew 28 where we've just read so this is the third time in a 40-day period that he appears to them and gives them a clear commission and this was most likely when above 500 brethren saw him that's recorded in 1 Corinthians 15 and 6 so many others are there when Christ is commissioning them not just the 11 not just the apostles but it was many other believers and then the fourth and last time we find in Acts chapter 1 and verse 12 and this happens on the Mount of Olives at the time of his ascension and so from this you see four specific occasions that he gives a clear commission that we now call the joint together great commission for the church you see I've lived my entire life from a child here in the church what is your vision for your life what is your gift and what is your calling and I've never heard the right answer yet and then for churches all through my life I'm sick to death with it each church has a special unique vision that's like no one else well God spoke to me and this is the vision for our church what's the vision for your church and what's the vision for your ministry I actually believe most of this is confusion there is one commission there is one vision there is one calling on the church it is absolutely clear and this ought to be the drumbeat to the church of the Jesus Christ whether you're an apostle an evangelist or a pastor whether we as a local church are in Limerick or Australia or Canada or India or Africa it doesn't matter there is one condition there's one commission culture doesn't affect that money doesn't affect that numbers don't affect that there is one commission it doesn't matter your personal circumstance you have got one dominating command and saints can I ask you are you carrying the great commission in your heart do you know it do you believe it do you love it does it drive your calling in your home raising kids do you know this great commission affects a mother raising children at home do you realize that affects you in the workplace no matter what your work is whether in chemistry or school education this great commission ought to affect that it doesn't matter what your ministry in the church is whether I'm to stand here and teach the word of God week in week out or you're to stand on the high street to stand up on a Saturday afternoon and preach the gospel all of this is the great commission the great commission isn't limited to telling someone the ABC you must be born again that is not the great commission that is only a part of it the great commission is not becoming a missionary to go to Africa although I think England needs it more than Africa today or to Asia or to the Amazon jungle we think the great commit I'm fulfilling the great commission I'll go to the Amazon jungle do you realize that is an utter misunderstanding of the great commission when you put it afar off to a unique ministry or position or something that doesn't affect your life here and now let me in the light of that bring you to these five clear statements about the great commission this commission is personally to you you are not free from it if you're born again this is Christ's only commission to you you may do many different unique things you may have a unique aspect within that but there's only one overriding commission you must not change that you must not neglect it and one day Christ is going to say did you fulfill it it could be to lead one soul to Christ or it could be to evangelize an entire nation but you will be asked mothers Christ is going to say did you fulfill a great commission with those children with those grandchildren do you realize it's for them you you know that we had someone coming here once trying to drag people out to send them to another country kind of spoke to them and said what about the children what about your family you why would the holy spirit ever send you to another nation when you've got children and grandchildren and family who have yet to meet the lord Jesus Christ you see that is a misunderstanding of

the great commission my mom poured into me more than than any preacher ever could have number one my five points here on the great commission number one the commission at the end of the age i want to apply it to this hour not just church history not just the early church of the first century i believe this commission is uniquely going to come with power again at the end of the age i believe it's for this time it's for you in this church it's for everyone that listens this video this is a unique hour and in fact the bible shows us the great commission is going to be fulfilled in this hour and so my first point looking at Matthew chapter 28 and we're going to go to each of these verses the commission at the end of the age Matthew 28 we read that it took place in Galilee and upon a mountainside in verse 17 it says that they saw him and they worshiped him look at the environment this comes in that the disciples are seeing him alive seeing him raised do you know if you see Christ raised from the dead i mean if you see him alive if he is a living Christ to you you are going to hear this great commission you're going to know it's for you you're going to hear the words of his lips and love them to worship Christ means to hear the great commission don't think you can worship Christ with soft music and with tunes and with instruments and say the great commission isn't for me that is a fallacy that is wrong if you're a true worshiper of God you are caught up in the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ that is without doubt and it says but some doubted they worship but some doubted there's always doubters there and yet Christ gave the great commission in that environment it doesn't matter what you're struggling with this morning you may say i'm just struggling to stand i'm just struggling against sin well i'm going to preach the great commission to you you may have doubts here this morning you may have fears here this morning you may have problems here this morning but i'm like Christ going to preach to you the great commission it is so clear and beautiful and Jesus came and speak on them oh the Christ would come here right now and speak to you and listen to what he says this is the commission all power is given unto me in heaven and earth the word power there is not dunamis but it's exousia it is authority or the right or the responsibility it was given to the Lord Jesus Christ all power all authority do you know who gave it to him it was his heavenly father gave him the power you need to realize what the authority is behind the great commission who sent it who gave it where is the power behind it or the exousia if a guard walks in here this morning i don't treat him like some drunkard off the streets i go there's an authority there's a legal power there's a responsibility if he works within that i listen to him if he's within the law i listen to him but if it's some drunkard off the streets comes in here and tries to say i'm going to arrest you i assure you we're going to have something to say about it we say you've got no authority it's not your responsibility you've got no rights well you know what the great commission starts with is the power or the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 19 it says go ye therefore go ye when Christ gives the commission and sends the church it's on the basis of him having all power who are you to command us i've been given all power all authority all dominion over everything in heaven and earth i have the power therefore i'm commissioning you if you hear these words this morning if you realize the power behind this the authority you say i'm not standing here delivering my own message that's why i preach with authority that's why the bible says they said of Christ that they were amazed that he preached with such authority not like the pharisees you know i'm not preaching my own messages my own pet doctrines i stand here with authority you know why i know who commissioned me i know who gave the message and i'm able to stand here with great authority go ye therefore and teach all nations look for a second the context of this entire commission that we're dealing with here it says at the end of verse 20 and lo i am with you all way even unto the end of the world the end of the world the commission in Matthew 28 given to the church 2,000 years ago it has a clause it's brief it's short it's sharp and yet connected to this is this little statement i am with you always i although i'm at the right hand of the father i am with the church to fulfill the great commission if you want this church to have Christ in the midst let's fulfill the great commission if you want Christ to be in your home your workplace to go with you in the car i believe that if

you hear this great commission and that you give yourself to be a part of it you're gonna find i am with you always doesn't matter the circumstance it doesn't matter if it's 2,000 years later and he gives you the extent of this even unto the end of the world the end of the world doesn't mean when everything stops existing it's talking about the age the end of the age the word end there means the entire completion the consummation the finale the end of all things and so Christ in giving the commission even before they began to fulfill it 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem before they began on it he gives you an insight to the end of the age the very last generation just before Jesus comes back again just before it's fulfilled and you know what he says i'm going to be with you to fulfill this even until the very final age the end of all things i believe the great commission is given in the context of bible prophecy as well as many other things here you have the first commission written in the new testament for us and it's very very explicit all authority is given to me therefore i send you and that's the same for the end of the age the church at the end of the age needs to discover this that Christ with all authority has sent you to preach the gospel in fact he says here teach all nations i command you to go what are you going to do when you go you're going to teach all nations this commission is given to every church every christian and we're to have a worldwide vision our vision in this church is not just limerick it's not just munster it's not just ireland it's not just europe we have a worldwide vision and this preacher has carried a worldwide vision from a child from a young child i had a global vision a worldwide vision i always said the world is my parish i'm not restricted to a country a continent a certain language the world is my home i can go anywhere to preach this gospel when the church begins to realize we may be small insignificant in this world and yet we have a global vision we have a generational vision i'm not restricted to one year of church history thank god we're not restricted to the book of acts and it all happened back there and maybe it all happened in the 20th century and god help you that live in the last generation no more revivals no more missionary endeavors no more great in gathering of souls you see there's some in the church belief there's no more revival it's all over i don't believe that the great commission is given to the last generation just as it was to the first generation you need to go you need to go notice it doesn't say stay in the church and pray it will bring more glory an elder in scotland once told me this he said you know what it brings far more glory to god if we stay in the church and pray and he just sovereignly brings in all the souls that's what he said an old elder in the church who'd been around far far too long i want to tell you and you know what immediately i said i said isn't it funny that in the bible it doesn't say to do that jesus gave a commission go go you are not justified in this church to sit here to fossilize to grow moss on the soles of your feet to have cobwebs grow over your ears you have got no right to do that and expect god to do some unique miracle same revival god to rescue us from this terrible state you have been given a command a simple command a command for the first century a command for the last century the 21st century i believe is the last century of church history and so you're given a command to go not to stay and pray all of you are given the command to go i don't know how that works out but you are going to have to discover that what does that mean teach all nations the word teach there means to disciple he didn't say make converts make a decision persuade someone there is a god say a sinner's prayer with someone and then you don't see them ever again he didn't say to do that he said go teach so it's not just evangelism it's far bigger than that he said go teach that's a lifetime process you the church are given a commission to go preach the gospel to teach it that means to lay it out there is a difference between preaching and teaching you're the lay out the word of god you are to instruct people what is the disciple it's someone with the cross remember how jesus defined it if you would be my follower if you want to be a disciple deny yourself take up your cross and follow me you know what that is that's a lifetime work and so first of all we see the great commission isn't about just getting people saved don't limit it to that that to have people merely making decisions is not what we're about it's not even regeneration where they're really converted the great commission is to see people born again but not to fossilize not to

stand still not to become static but then to take them on teach them to become disciples teach them in the word of god bring them to maturity bring them to the place where they're walking with christ denying themselves with a cross on their shoulder and look at it begins to explain this baptizing them in the name of the father son and holy ghost that's the first action of a disciple when you get born again if you know that god has saved you then the first act of discipleship this is what you do at the beginning is to be baptized in water and i know at least one person here is going to make a beeline for me at the end and say you said this morning you need to baptize me i know that but here you have it's the first act of discipleship if you're born again you need baptized in water in the name of the father son and holy ghost in other words with the authority of father son and holy spirit the father gave all power to the son to give the commission to the church and you know what every time someone is added as a disciple they should be baptized in water in the authority the name of the father and the son and of the holy ghost teaching them to observe all things that i have commanded you you know every new convert every new disciple in the church a part of the great commission is that all of you are fully taught do you know i'm on wednesday night i'm gonna be fulfilling the great commission do you know this morning i'm fulfilling the great commission do you know what i'm emailing someone i'm fulfilling the great commission when we put those videos online we're fulfilling the great commission teaching them to keep the commandments of god this is given in the context of the great commission and he said you know when you do this you're baptizing and you're teaching and you're saying all the things that you've been commanded to do you need to pass on to others don't try to pass something on that you don't believe and that you don't obey you may say i'm not practicing this but i'll tell little jimmy who's coming in the door you ought to do this and you ought to do that and you ought to do this you ought to keep your mouth shut and begin to do it yourself that's how what it ought to be and so there's commands here this first point the commission at the end of the this commission that set the entire church of the first century off to embark on the great commission that we read about in the book of acts it's specifically also given a fresh dynamically at the end of the age to the last generation of church and if you believe we're at the end this is for you i believe there's going to be a rediscovery of the great commission i believe there's going to be a move of god i believe there's missionary movements yet to happen in the church i believe there's yet going to be revivals and gifted ministries raised up in our midst i believe it with all my heart god has not finished the great commission is to be finished and you know what if you're listening online now you're sitting here and you go well it's all over then you need to repent and you need to come back and believe the great commission we're oh but it's the last day oh it's the great falling away oh nothing is going to happen oh the bible said you know what we're given a great commission and you must not excuse yourself this is an hour to be active we ought to be more active in this hour than in any other hour second of all turn with me to mark chapter 16 the last chapter of mark the gospel confirmed in the great commission the gospel confirmed in the great commission reading from mark 16 14 afterward he appeared unto the leaven as they sat at meat that's different than sitting on a mountain or standing on a mountain that's where he appeared to them in matthew but here they're literally sitting at a dining room table isn't that remarkable when are you going to give the commission well only in a big preaching seminar no when we're sitting at our meal time what a time that christ taught here to draw near to them to give them a commission look what he does he upbraided them with their own belief and hardness of heart isn't it amazing when you study the condition of the hearts of the disciples when he gave them this commission you ought to do a study on that so here are the disciples within a house at a dinner table the eleven are there and you know what he begins before he gives them the commission he upbraids them or he rebukes them or he points out the unbelief and hardness of their heart and people who you have to rebuke for hardness of heart maybe you feel your heart's very hard this morning maybe you feel you're filled with unbelief this morning will be rebuked but i'm gonna give you the commission this morning christ on the

same he rebuked them because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen and he said unto them notice what he says go ye into all the world this was the most unlikely group the most unlikely church and look at the condition of their heart he's rebuking their unbelief he's upbraiding them and yet at the same time he's commissioned them i want you bunch to go into all the world and preach the gospel lord have you sure you picked up the right preaching notes for this morning are you sure have you got the right message for the right people at the right time yes i have he commissions them go into all the world notice the commission has no geographical barriers no national barriers no governmental barriers no time-sequent barriers you cannot leave the commission in the first century you can't do that you you can't leave it in jerusalem you can't do that it is all believers are given a commission to go preach the gospel and notice it's teaching in matthew but here it says and preach the gospel to every creature we saw that it's a full teaching and raising up to maturity but here you're to go into the world and preach that's proclaimed that's evangelized that's to tell them the abcs what's the gospel he died was buried and he rose again and you must be born again that is the gospel so your commission go into all the world everywhere apart from my workplace everywhere apart from my family if you knew what my mother was like if only you knew what our house and estate was like it says you're to go oh i'm just waiting for them to come in i'll just pray every friday night i'll ask all of you to pray for them you need to go what about giving a gospel track you may say i'm terrified good what a great vessel for god to use why not tell them the gospel why not share why not go who knows maybe god will do a miracle maybe someone will be there saying i've waited all my life just to hear this thank you for telling me god cannot work in a miraculous way if you stay at home you see he says if you go i will go with you even to the end of age i will be there i will help you i will manifest myself in a very real way and so we see here with the second commission in mark 16 the gospel is confirmed with signs following if they go forth and preach the gospel look what it says in verse 16 he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be done what are they preaching you can be damned to go preach the gospel isn't just to say god loves you or why don't you come to church if all you say is come to church or tell a nice story but you haven't said repent there's a real christ or there's the danger of damnation you haven't fully preached the gospel here in the commission is a warning that those who believe baptize them in water those who reject your message are going to be damned since you realize everyone who rejects the gospel they are damned they're going to hell they're going to be lost eternally are you going to have their blood on your hands are you going to have family members who you've never spoken to clearly is their blood going to be in your hands is your conscience going to be held accountable for that what about in your workplace what about those that you know you sit and you'll talk about anything and everything with them but you've never said you must be born again this is the basic of the gospel since it's not enough to say well i just pray for them go and tell them oh but i'm praying lots and i'll fast if you don't tell them you're in disobedience it's not enough to say i pray for their soul and yet you haven't said do you realize you're a sinner do you realize you're lost do you realize you're going to hell you see you haven't warned them to give them hints isn't enough to tell them your own testimony isn't enough preach the gospel unto them but look at the signs following verse 17 and these signs shall follow the belief how do i know them that believe it's not talking about born again believers those that believe the commission those that are sharing the gospel those that are warning sinners those who want to go into the world since it's time we went it's time we evangelize it's time that this gripped us at the end of the age these signs shall follow them that believe what are signs they are indicators they are tokens as you preach the gospel you don't chase signs it doesn't say that miracles and signs go first and the gospel will follow after that is wrong there's guys who go out onto the street and they'll walk up and say do you have something wrong with your body you can see it in youtube do you have something wrong with your body let me pray they don't mention sin they don't preach repentance they don't proclaim the cross

but they think through a miracle you're going to be so shocked when you feel some heat running down your leg and you feel a bit better you're going to be so shocked that you're going to get born again and become a member of the church a disciple of the lord jesus christ actually the bible doesn't say that these signs shall follow them that believe when you're preaching these signs follow they're always in the background following confirming the gospel what are the signs in my name they shall cast out devils preach the gospel proclaim the gospel if you come across a demon-possessed person then you have authority if you're a believer if you're functioning in the great commission cast the devil out i was in an army camp 1500 guys 18 years old 21 years old when i left i assure you all hell got stirred up in that camp i took authority in jesus name i tell you it broke out there was things i could tell you make your hair stand on end of what happened but there was a real christian there who was preaching evangelizing praying and when the devil got in the way i said i've got authority in jesus name over you it is very very real it says 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 all of these things are science tokens following in behind the gospel he says if you preach the gospel if you get caught up in the great commission you ought to expect these things you ought to believe for them and listen verse 20 and they went forth christ is received to heaven he's at the right hand of the father he's not physically with them anymore he's gone up in the ascension but verse 20 and they went forth and preached everywhere what good is a commission if no one obeys it we talk about it we preach about it we think about it we say we believe it we read about it we watch videos about others who have done it we read the testimonies of those who left their side but if we don't go and do it there'll be no miracles no signs no converts do you realize that's why the cults get converts even in limerick the jw's you know where they are they're going door to door they're at my door you probably had a jw at your door doesn't matter how few there are in the city you probably encountered a jehovah's witness you know why they're out there evangelizing what about the mormons we've had them in our church a number of times you'll see them out there they are sent into our city to evangelize you know why they get converts because they're out there you know what the church does it doesn't go it doesn't go we need to be very wary that we're not missing something very significant notice says as they went forth preaching everywhere the lord working with them how do you get the lord to work with you do you realize it's one of the scariest things to stand on a high street and there's 200 sinners walking past you and you go within about 30 seconds i'm going to drop a bomb open my mouth and trumpet out the gospel and all of these on uh unaware sinners are walking up with their shopping bags and looking in shop windows and all these pure shopping uh shop owners are going to look out any minute do you know what it does it puts courage within you it puts fire in your soul you know why because you can't do that of your own self but it says the lord working with them do you realize if you go on the high street you're going to find the lord there he's going to say i've been waiting for you i've been standing i want to reach someone here in this high street if christ wants to reach someone on the high street and you're not in the high street what's going to happen i'm confirming the word with signs following i will be with you working with them confirming the word i'm going to establish a gospel you preach the gospel and say you can be born again you can have a supernatural experience christ can change your life you know what christ is there saying yep yep that's true and you know what i'm here to change your life you go preach and christ is going to be there to save the worst alcoholic drug addict the most immoral person an atheist i'll be there to convince them there's a real god i'll be there to convince them i can set them free from heroin i'm going to be there to cast out and break the power of hell that is binding them now mark chapter 16 there is a lot of theological scholarly debate it's not a debate in this church we believe this but a lot of bibles you'll read a side margin this portion this great commission in mark chapter 16 isn't in the most the oldest and the most reliable manuscripts of the bible and they say it shouldn't be here and they'll produce bibles with it removed or a big question mark over it there's only one

problem with that the last 12 verses of mark are removed by many but the problem is out of 620 ancient greek manuscripts only two do not have these words this commission in it what are they the vaticanus and the synodicus the vaticanus is one of the most corrupt biblical documents on the face of the planet it's not in my bible it hasn't polluted my bible it is a corrupt document so when you actually read in a bible or hear someone say well we don't know if that should be in the bible or not do you know what they're doing they're rejecting 618 documents and they're listening to two very very corrupt documents you see this is the great commission confirmed this is supernatural this is the christ of the bible he gives the commission and says if you obey i will be there a church that does not obey the commission of god is limiting the power of god limiting the promise of god limiting the provision of christ christ said i'll be there oh yes i'm at the right hand of the father but i'll be there in the high street i'll be there in your workplace he was with me in that army camp i'd pray with someone they'd instantly get healed go back to work i watched it i went i didn't even have faith but that guy come knowing that i believed in this said you need to lay hands on me and pray for me i laughed then laid hands instantly healed since i can tell you stories of the reality of god like shammy in my room remember his whole uh that brain hemorrhage he should have died from all the pain in his body and yet christ touched him healed him from the top of his head all the pain left all the noise left he got his running shorts on went running every soldier he passed he told guess what god healed me i thought oh no another crackpot on the army camp what are we gonna do thirdly the message defined luke chapter 24 verse 46 the message defined talking about the great commission and he said unto them thus it is written and thus it behooved christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day here in luke 24 he's talking about his death his resurrection his burial he's talking about his suffering to die for sinners that was the context of sharing the great commission here then in chapter 24 47 verse 47 listen this commission and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations notice the alls all nations all creatures there's no excuse here there's no nation shut to this all creatures all nations to preach repentance and remissions of sins in his name the message within the commission defined let's not get the mission uh the message wrong i believe the church of the 21st century who are going to rediscover the great commission need to redefine the message once again we need to explain what the message is what the gospel is what true repentance is what remission of sins is because in this third commission here the commission is to go preach repentance that's the first thing he says go preach repentance to all today's church has removed repentance they say repentance isn't about sin do you know a lot of great bible teachers so-called say that they say the word repentance just means a change of mind got nothing to do with turning from sin that's very strange because when the prodigal son who went out into terrible sin came back jesus talks about one sinner that repented from his sin do you realize repentance has got everything to do with sin it is fundamental before you preach faith before you preach the cross before you preach remission by the blood of the lamb preach repentance it is a vital part of the message of the great commission i believe it's going to be restored again in this last hour you see this is the last chapter of church history i believe we're going to see wonderful works happen at this last hour but we've got to come back and rediscover the message not reinvent the message rediscover the message if you speak and don't speak according to this word then you're a deceiver you're a liar if you invent it take away from it add to it change it a bit update it you are a deceiver you know what the bible says if you remove in from this book your name will be removed from the book you'll be damned in hell eternally i don't know how these preachers play with the gospel aren't they scared and don't they have a fear of god christians who blend the message sounds like sure sure the lord understands you're a drunken rotten disgraceful blasphemer but as long as you love the lord jesus christ or if you're a good catholic you love the jesus but you're taking the mass and you're going to confessional but you love jesus like me that's a deception that's an utter lie and so christ here remember who's given this jesus says repentance and

remission has to be preached in his name beginning at jerusalem if you don't begin limerick why would he send you to anywhere else you're not going to go somewhere else and suddenly get all of this courage and boldness and power the holy spirit if you do not function in the great commission here in this church you actually will not do it anywhere else that's why jesus said begin at jerusalem oh yes it's a worldwide commission it's remarkable in its extent but begin in jerusalem preach repentance in jerusalem also remission of sins you know what remission is to redeem means a price is paid so that you go free you're forgiven you're released if all you deal with sin you deal with sin you point out sin but you don't talk about forgiveness and freedom and liberty through the blood of the lamb you haven't fully preached the gospel yes deal with sin yes call upon them to turn but you know what the answer is in the blood of the lord jesus christ begin at jerusalem begin in limerick since why would god entrust anything else to us if we're not faithful in limerick you know you know why would god give us more people here if we don't care for the ones we have why would he send lots of sinners in whenever we're going to get distracted by many other things verse 48 and ye are witnesses of these things this is real a witness is a firsthand account i'm giving my account i'm not just preaching a message i believe in repentance i believe in remission i've got a testimony of turning from sin i've got a testimony of being washed in the blood of the lamb this isn't about dealing with racial issues the problem of our hour is not racial concern in the nations neither is the issue of the our abortion or homosexuality you know what the greatest thing of this earth you must be born again you need an encounter with the lord jesus christ notice this is about the message preaching the right message in the great commission beginning as a witness in your own hometown and behold i send you the promise of my father upon you but tarry ye in the city of jerusalem hold on you said go yes no i'm saying tarry but you said go i know but i said tarry do you know why to go you need a crypt here in luke 24 you're being told yes go yes it's an impossible task yes i'm with you but stay no you said go no stay i want you to tarry why what am i going to tarry in jerusalem until you be endued with power from on high it means to have a mantle or a garment like elijah and elisha thrown around you do you know what it is it's an enjoyment of power can i ask you have you been endued with power have you been endowed with the power of the holy ghost has the mantle of the holy spirit being thrown around your shoulder do you realize if you begin to pray for the baptism and the holy ghost recognizing why it's given it's not given so you speak in tongues it's not given so you get feelings it's not given to get victory over sin it's given to give you power to be an enjoyment of power you say i can't speak i'm scared join the club you say i can't put my words together i can't articulate the message i promise you if you get this enjoyment of power you're going to preach repentance it'll shock you what you do i told you and you've heard it so many times by nature personality i'm the quietest quietest shyest most fearful most timid you can't see it now but it's all in here it's still there do you realize that all of those things are still there it's just a long time ago i went you're going to the cross i'm dying that you know i can remember struggling to put my hands up for the first time i almost killed me you would have seen my neck the throbbing of my blood vessels the first time praying out someone used to ask me to pray in a prayer meeting i i felt like doing something to them i'm tired there's all of these inhibitions if you knew the fears and the doubts and the struggles you would not believe it but there's never an excuse that you say oh i cannot go if you start to pray lord baptize me i need power to be a witness i need power to evangelize i need power for this great commission because this isn't about your comfort i want to go i want to go well then tarry for the power of the holy spirit seek for the baptism and the holy ghost and fire it is an enjoyment of power fourth of all the vessels assured and we have this in john chapter 20 verse 19 then the same day at evening being the first day of the week good day to give a commission when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled remember who they are these are the first apostles the first leaders those that begin the great move of god in the book of acts where are they behind shut doors they were assembled for fear of the jews where is the church jesus has come and

look in the church in his resurrected state to give them a commission i want you to go preach in all nations where are they they're behind locked doors and they're terrified they're scared so they're in hiding do you want to go out in the street no chance do you want to unlock the door don't you dare we might get killed what a change happens here this is the church that christ gives the commission to and jesus came and stood in the midst i actually believe jesus still comes and stands in the midst where is that church of mine where the height are they under the bed are they in the cupboard are they they're busy with well i'm busy with work you know let brother keith he's doing his part i'll i'll see you wednesday night and i'm called to my work and i've got my family and i've got my work and i've got my why do you think god gave you all that why do you think he blessed you with a wife or with children or with work or with all of these that why do you who do you think gave you that do you think that's an end in itself oh look what i have this is my occupation don't you know he's given all those things in order to do something with it and jesus stood in the midst i believe he's standing here i believe he's standing in the midst and he goes what are you what are you doing here what do you mean lord what are you doing here remember the commission i've already given and he said unto him peace be unto you notice this carefully the vessels assured and assigned christ cares about the vessels who are going to carry his commission and when he comes in he says peace be unto you shalom they're terrified they're scared of dan saying don't you know the hour in the 21st century we live in do you know they're after us they're watching us through facebook don't you know they're after our children don't you know they're following me everywhere and 5g towers i can't get away from don't you know what hour it is yes absolutely peace shalom do you know what are you ever going to get your eyes in the commission when all of that is terrifying you you're disturbed by all these things and you know when he comes i know the danger i know they want to kill you i know how i know they crucified me and i'm resurrected and once he say peace unto you and when he had so said he showed them his hands and his side then were the disciples glad he's going to turn sadness into gladness you know what he does i died for you look at my wounds i'm alive forever more you know what he's doing he's trying to turn your heart if i'm going to get you to go preach i've got to get you glad not talking about happy not all about a smile on your face told about a gladness in your heart i'm saved by the grace of god why are we hiding in here scared of everything this is the church that's going to rock the world and the generation of the first century they're going to shake cities and towns and nations and carry the gospel to the end of the world but you know what jesus had to make them glad it's good to be glad christ actually wants you to be glad and they're glad when they saw him are you seeing christ here this morning then said jesus unto them again peace be unto you as my father has sent me even so send i you and when he had said this he breathed on them now notice this he is bringing them to a place of assurance and assigning them to the commission i want you to have real joy i want you to be glad i want you to have peace in your mind no matter what the circumstance are around you if you're sad if you're scared you're not going to preach the gospel show me a christian not preaching the gospel there's a reason you're not there's something wrong there's an attitude of heart and christ says i need to rectify that i need to change that and so he shows himself he reveals himself that you can be glad and then he says unto them my father sent me i'm sending you exactly with the same authority it's the same commission that sent me into this earth that sends you to go find sinners why did christ come into the world to find sinners the good shepherd seeking sinners go and gather the lambs in you know you have the same commission given unto you that was given to him he commissioned me i am commissioning you then he breathed on them he breathed on them and said receive you the holy ghost strange thing to give at the time of the great commission he's given them a commission to go preach to evangelize to reach the lost to reach all nations what does he do he breathes on them receive the holy spirit this isn't the endowment of power this isn't the baptism in the holy ghost you know what this is this is the indwelling spirit earlier in john he says the holy spirit is now with you but one

day he's going to be in you he's with you working with you helping you but he's going to be in you here in this verse the greek actually means receive right now this moment immediately now that's what the greek says not to wait 40 days until the day of pentecost he's not saying that there's no delay in this greek receive the holy spirit and he breathed on them you know what this is this is regeneration of the holy spirit this is to be born again this to have the holy spirit indwelling you you see in this commission in john 20 he cares about them i want you to be happy not scared i want you to have peace not to be tormented i want you to have the holy spirit indwelling you to give you full assurance of salvation he has come to dwell in you and notice this last point here in this he says and whosoever since ye remit they are remitted unto them and whosoever since ye retain they are retained this is a part of commission unlike with the bind and the loose remember what i taught a year ago in binding and loosen where it says whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven the greek is whatsoever is already bound in heaven when you bind it on earth it will be so it's not saying that what you bind here it's going to happen in heaven that's ridiculous that's an impossibility and the greek is exactly the same here it's not saying if you tell someone your sins are forgiven then god's going to say all right well i'll step in and forgive them that's what the catholic priest teaches doesn't say that here you know what the greek is it says when someone has been forgiven by god when he has cancelled their sin you're to step in and say you're free of your sins this is the great commission the power of the great commission is to perform what god has already done in life to forgive to let go to move on from your sin you remember when peter and axie deals with simon the saucer and his heart is exposed as being wicked he's trying to buy the holy ghost do you know what he uh peter exposed him saying you're going to be damned and he says pray for me listen to what peter says no repent therefore of this thy wickedness he wouldn't pray for him and pray to god it perhaps the thought of thine heart might be forgiven you need to repent you need an encounter with god you need to pray unto god for forgiveness fifth and lastly acts chapter one verse six the vessels focused and empowered in verse six it says where when they therefore were come together they asked of him saying lord will die at this time restore again the kingdom of israel i believe we live in a hour in the 21st it's filled with eschatological try saying that when you're tired distractions in other words distractions of bible prophecy he is just about to give them the fifth and final commission before he ascends up on high and what does he what are they talking about lord will die at this time restore the kingdom to israel the national state the old testament fulfillment of bible prophecy are you going to do it now you see they believe they're on an hour of the fulfillment of bible prophecy what does he say it is not for you to know the times or the seasons which a father hath put in his own power but ye shall receive power do you know what crisis and you're caught up with the national restoration of israel as a nation again which hasn't happened yet it's going to happen in the millennium god is going to restore the national state again there are prophecies in the old testament that the kingdom will return to israel again the early disciples he doesn't say your eschatology is wrong he never said that he doesn't say that's not going to happen he says the timing of these things isn't for you to worry about he says you know what you need to be endued with the power of the holy spirit and go preach you know in this ark all across the internet everyone is watching prophecy bible prophecy about end days the mark of the beast and we believe in teaching it we believe in expounding in the scripture but you know what see if we do not go and evangelize it's all a game and a sham all those that are focused on bible prophecy but they won't go reach sinners you are wasting time you you say you believe this is the hour jesus is coming again this is the end they're bringing in the mark of the beast you do not believe in the mark of the beast if you're not evangelizing you're playing religious games you're fascinated by youtube people spend too much time on youtube i want to tell you they listen to too many people who contradict one another and don't know what they're talking about you people who do not know the bible teaching you and because you don't know the bible then you can't even tell where they're wrong and you know what a

lot of the bible teaching of this hour we are in danger at this time instead of going i'm saying is this the time is this the hour if you believe this is the last hour you're gonna win souls you're gonna evangelize if you believe we're in the brink of everything happening or if you believe you're shortly gonna die you'll be out evangelizing souls you know how candice i know she's got a sense of reality and all that's happening she's reaching souls she'll be on that phone reaching souls for jesus christ she's in that hospital i'm looking at someone who's not ignorant of the reality of what she's going through do you realize that and if we the church the body of christ realize the hour we're living in we're going to say we've got to evangelize we've got to change our plans we've got to change our environment and so jesus says here after turning them away from the distractions of discussing bible prophecy and you know i believe in teaching it he says but you shall receive power after the holy ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me to be a witness is to stand up and bear witness and say this is true i'm telling you what the truth is it's to have the power of god why is the baptism in the holy ghost given to give you power to be a witness if you're speaking in tongues and yet not evangelizing you're wasting this power you're like the train driver who like the truckers in canada you're there and you're stoking up the fire what's that fire and that old train for well it's for pulling the horn it's for that steam to get released do do do do thomas loves this he loves thomas the uh tank engine a lot of christians are going and they're not using that steam to drive the engine what why is the fire burning it's to drive the steam engine down the tracks it's to go somewhere instead we're making noise just blasting off the steam you're wasting it you're wasting it if we're not careful we will neglect to use the power of the holy ghost this is empowerment entreatment for service for the great commission this is the power behind it and beginning in jerusalem you're then to go to judea samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth and when he had spoken these things they beheld he was taken up in a cloud and received out of their sight and matthew chapter 24 verse 14 speaking about the last days bible prophecy one of the 10 signs of the beginning of sorrows do you know what it is do you know what one of the 10 signs that we've entered a time that's bringing us down to them and it's all over one of them is in verse 14 this gospel of the kingdom the gospel of the kingdom isn't another gospel for the millennium or the tribulation it is the gospel of jesus christ and it says it shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations and then the end shall come do you realize one of the last signs of the beginning of sorrows is a church that is preaching in every nation they are evangelizing they're not just preaching any gospel it is the gospel of the kingdom given by christ they become a witness what is a witness read the book of acts that's the only witness and christ prophesized one of the marks of the end is that this church in the end i'll be with you always unto the end and then the end shall come the great commission was given for the 21st century church and since if this is the beginning of sorrows if all the fulfilled we need to wake up and stir ourselves again to one last proclamation i'm praying for a new missionary movement i'm praying for evangelists and missionaries i'm praying for a church on fire i'm praying for a revival and i'm pouring out the holy spirit i'm praying again that the church would rise up and be the church and you've been given the commission there's no excuse no escape and if you begin to believe the commission and act according to the commission and to step out and to serve god i believe we'll experience the power of god so many churches it's hard to find a church now anywhere where people are getting baptized in the holy ghost and power it used to be when the church was evangelizing everyone was getting filled with the holy spirit not a fossilized church that refuses to go anywhere prays for sinners to be brought in and says send someone else the lord and we'll pray for them or finance them they're fossilized they're growing stale they're like the bread the manna left over the next day it's got worms in it you go where these worms come from i wonder but once again he's gonna have a real church stand with me thank you lord jesus father we pray for one another right now in this room nor god for all those online watching listening nor god we pray for each other let's just for a moment pray for one another pray for yourself pray for your family pray for

those around you right now on your left and your right hand side nor god we pray for one another in the mighty name of jesus we need the power of your holy spirit we need to preach this gospel we need to see the gospel confirmed with signs and wonders following we do believe this gospel and father i pray that we begin to operate according to this great commission let it break in on our work life let it break in on our family life let it break in on our hobbies let it break in on our spare time my god i pray let this commission come as a fire this five-fold commission given by christ to the church for the 21st century lord god we are praying for a new outpouring we're praying for a fresh revival we're praying for new gifted ministries to be granted under the church we're praying oh god for works of evangelizing communities that have no church that have no new function and membership lord god i pray make us the militant church again lord god a fire baptized church and pray in church a holy church but a church that obeys the great commission in jesus mighty name

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/nChKjB1J7W4.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/keith-malcomson/the-great-commission-and-the-21st-century-church/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net