

The Great Commission

The Bridge/Path to Communion with God

By Bruce Kirby

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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.’” (KJV)*

Definition: Commission = 1. An instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people; 2. Bring something newly produced into working condition.

Jesus instructed/commissioned us to “go, teach, baptize, and instruct to observe”...all the teachings He, Himself, commanded us.

As we are commissioned to do this as a Christian, we must understand we are a new creature in and through Christ Jesus when we place our faith and trust in Him. Therefore, we are to bring something new (our new life in Christ) and change our broken lives into a working condition where we can be an example of His grace.

Jesus voluntarily sacrificed Himself for us. He could have stopped the whole process of redemption if he so desired; however, He loved and still loves us so much...as He took the beating and suffered humiliation to the highest level...a blood sacrifice for our benefit and access into His holy presence. He became the sacrificial Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world (past, present, and future). Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He provided eternal life with God to anyone who places their faith and trust in Him.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—Ephesians 2:8

The Great Commission given to us by Jesus reveals His servant attitude and how much He really loves us. He calls us to a holiness that comes from the heart. Our holiness is now the outcome of personal loyalty to God and the realization of the fulfilling fruitfulness Jesus did on the cross. Galatians 2:16, “Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by

faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”

Jesus seeks those who are ready to serve. He desires us to serve Him with heart-felt love and to serve others likewise for the glory of the Son, who Himself desires to glorify the Father. Our responsibility is to seek and to exalt Christ; making Him known to all those we encounter as the Holy Spirit gives us witness. We are to tell the story of Jesus and to live it. Jesus wants us to serve unselfishly. He wants us to extend our love for God by ministering His life to the lost, to those with physical and spiritual needs, and to those who are still under the bondage of sin.

As we take communion, we are remembering the sacrifice Jesus did for us on the cross. The bread is taken to remember the suffering his body had to endure for our redemption. Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.”

The cup (juice) is taken to help us reflect on the blood sacrifice Jesus made for the salvation of all who believe and have asked for forgiveness.

*Romans 3:25, “God presented Christ as a sacrifice **of** atonement, through the **shedding of his blood**—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...”*

*Hebrews 9:22, “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with **blood**, and without the **shedding of blood** there is no forgiveness.”*

As we have taken communion, we realize that Jesus Christ is and will always be the bridge to our salvation. The only path to the Father is through Jesus, His Son. By taking communion, we reflect on our personal lives as we live in this fallen world. Where we have failed, we ask for forgiveness. Where we need to repent, we repent. We have been commissioned to live our lives as a follower of Jesus Christ. The Communion process keeps us in remembrance of all we have to be thankful and grateful as we live our lives in full view of the Savior.

*“For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your **paths**.”
Proverbs 5:21*

*Psalm 16:11, “You make known to me the **path** of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”*

Communion Devotion given by Bruce Kirby

*Bruce is a committed Christian who faithfully carries out the mission of Christ Jesus by living a dedicated and joyful life in remembrance of what Jesus has done and is still doing in his life. Bruce has published a book on communion, **"Devotional of Communion Messages,"** amazon/kindle, and is now committed to being a devoted husband, father, and friend to many.*