

TWO GREAT 'GREATS'

**Matthew 28:16-20**

**Matthew 22:34-40**

- **The Great Commandment**

34But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. 35One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, 36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ 38This is the great and foremost commandment. 39The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ 40On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” **Matthew 22:34-40 NASB**

34But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. 35One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” 37Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ 38This is the first and greatest commandment. 39A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” **Matthew 22:34-40 NLT**

34-36When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?”

37-40Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.” **Matthew 22:34-40 MSG**

4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord]. 5 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might. 6 And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds *and* hearts; **Deuteronomy 6:4-6 AMPC**

- Both Moses and Matthew record the words of the Lord...loving God with all our hearts and all we have and then loving others with everything we

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have been given is foremost in the heart of the Father. This is the 'one thing' that Jesus talked about and that we need in our hearts and minds.

- **The Great Commission**

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed *and* made appointment with them.

17 And when they saw Him, they fell down and worshiped Him; but some doubted.

18 Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, all authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

19 Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close *and* consummation of the age. *Amen (so let it be).* **Matthew 28:16-20 AMPC**

16Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

18Jesus came and told his disciples, **"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** **Matthew 28:16-20 NLT**

14Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15And He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. 17These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."**

19So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] **[And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.] Mark 16:14-20 NASB**

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Why 'look into' the Great Commission? Well, according to a 2019 survey, only 17% of American believers were familiar with the 'phrase' Great Commission and its meaning...it is vital that we understand and live out these words given to us by Jesus.

We must learn to love God and be loved by God so we can respond to His heart for others as we see in these verses.

We must have a vital 'vertical' connection because it empowers us to have a horizontal outlook...an 'outward focus'...

**Matthew 28** tells us to make disciples in all nations...America is a 'nation', too! We need to pray for and reach out to others around us and to those in other nations.

We need to know that the Great Commission exists...it's real...it's in the Bible.

We need to pray for its fulfillment. Just knowing that there actually is a Great Commission puts you miles ahead of 83% of American church goers! But we don't want to settle for that!

We can respond by:

- Knowing there is a Great Commission.
- Going to a local or foreign mission project.
- Praying for events and participants.
- Giving time, money, and participation.
- Supporting Harmony's Missionary efforts.
- Participating in our 'outreaches' and our 'reach out' opportunities.

Living by the Great Commandment fills us with gratitude to God and energizes us to want to reach out to others with the grace and power of the Gospel. The Great Commandment opens the gateway for us to make the Great Commission a priority in our lives.