

“All things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

An examination of the full measure of the “Great Commission”

by Jim Sayles

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ***All power...***(authority)... ***is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore...***(in My authority)... ***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...***(understand and obey)... ***all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...***(age).... ***Amen...***Matthew 28:18-20 KJV (insert is the author’s)

Are we, then, teaching and doing all things whatsoever He has commanded us to do all the way to the end of the age (i.e. the last day resurrection)? Or do we excuse ourselves from His command by saying and believing that His power is no longer manifested through us.

This question is answered in Mark 16: 17,18 KJV:

And these signs shall follow them that BELIEVE; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 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.

Note that the Lord’s **POWER** is to be manifested through our obedient faith responses, not through our prayers in which we beg the Lord to accomplish something that He has given us the authority to manifest through faith.

Are we “***those who believe?***”

The end of the age is on some future 10 Tishri fulfillment of the feast of trumpets (i.e. the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal resurrection of both the living and dead) – Revelation 11:15-19. This is also identified as the “last day” resurrection of the saints after both “***tribulation***” and “***great tribulation***,” indicating that the body of Christ will be in the earth all the way to the end of the 3.5 years of “***great tribulation***” with the “wise” still doing all things whatsoever He has commanded us.

Most evangelical believers presume that the “Great Commission” is simply to win the lost, teach them to tithe, and to come to church on Sunday. But there is a lot, LOT more to what we have called the “great commission.”

This passage that we identify as the “great commission” (i.e. our standing orders to the end of the age) states:

1. Jesus is our absolute authority in heaven and on earth;
2. Christian believers, who are the manifested presence of the kingdom of God in the earth, are to “go” and “do” everything He has commanded us to do in His name (i.e. we are delegated the *exousia* authority of Jesus through which His kingdom of God truth, power, and love is manifested in the world through our obedient faith responses to His truth, covenant promises, and commands as these are revealed, confirmed, and empowered by the Holy Spirit);
3. There is no change or limitation revealed in His truth, commands or covenant promises all the way to the end of the age. (i.e. These are still His standing orders for the body of Christ.) This **command** to the end of the age then denies the possibility that any truth, covenant promise, or command has “passed away.” This would include raising the dead, laying hands on the sick (with the expectation that they will be healed), casting out demons, and prophesying the absolute, immutable, Spirit-revealed *rhema* truth of God. These have not “passed away,” nor have any of His leadership assignments of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher passed away.
4. What this does demonstrate, though, is that the great majority of the body of Christ is both in denial and disobedience where the fullness of the faith-filled “Great Commission” is concerned.

Thus, the condition of the organized church as a whole, divided into hundreds of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning true doctrine and practice, is proof that the beast kingdom has been effective in Satan’s war against the true body of Christ.

Satan’s primary weapon in this is **deception**, manifested as the lies he has managed to plant into church doctrine and practice through unknowingly deceived men and women. These lies, identified in military terms as “propaganda” have not only divided us, but also robbed us of the full measure of His commission until the end of the age, which is a recognizable victory of Satan in his warfare against the body of Christ.

Over the centuries the original fullness of the Lord's presence manifested in and through the body of Christ began to fade as the organized church became spiritually drowsy (**see the Parable of the Ten Virgins**) through Satanic deception leading to the dependency of men on their own scholarship and intelligence. (i.e. the unwise "sleeping" virgins as identified by the Lord and recorded in Matthew 25:1-5).

There is, then, no excuse for our disobedience, because the Lord empowered us by the Holy Spirit to receive His absolute, unifying, immutable, truth, covenant promises, and commands through the Holy Spirit.

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you...supernaturally...into all the...rhema...truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears,...from Me...He will speak; and He will disclose to you...by prophetic revelation, at the appropriate time... what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine...the covenant promises...and will disclose...reveal...it to you...so that you can participate in them by faith...All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you...so that you may walk in both My commands and My covenant promises by faith.... John 16:13 NASB (inserts are the author's)

What this demonstrates, as clearly and bluntly as I can state it, is that our division into hundreds of distinct denominations with varying beliefs and practices, all of which have intellectually conceived limits or understanding of what He has commanded us, is proof that the body of Christ in general does not have, and is NOT obeying, **ALL** that He commanded and is still commanding us.

Our inexcusable rationale for this failure is that He has somehow redacted His original commission until the end of the age.

The enemy's multitudinous deceptions, manifested like military propaganda, have undeniably created a massive disconnect throughout the spiritual body of Christ from the Spirit of truth who has been given to each born-again, regenerated believer in order to supernaturally "guide" us into **ALL** of the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord all the way to the end of the age.

Yet, our present level of Pharisaical "group-think" comfort concerning the status of the body of Christ in this regard (i.e. our distinct and different understanding and execution of "all" that He has, and still is, commanding us) was prophesied in the parable of the ten virgins.

This parable was given to His disciples as part of His answer to the disciples' question, "***When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?***"

In this parable (Matthew 25:1-12) He gave them a prophetic outline of the primary events related to the spiritual body of Christ from Pentecost forward to the “last day” resurrection on 1 Tishri. (Matthew 25:1-12)

All of the “virgins” (innocent before God because they are in Christ), whether wise or foolish, became drowsy and fell asleep when He, the bridegroom, tarried.

“Drowsy” and “Asleep” in this instance are metaphors for our somnolent spiritual alertness and corresponding faith responses, which is the apparent, but strongly denied or ignored condition throughout a majority of the body of Christ today.

And, because the next event on our prophetic horizon, as also revealed in this parable, has not, yet, manifested, we are undeniably, still spiritually drowsy or asleep by comparison with the early generations who continued to walk in ALL He commanded them, as well as the generation among us now who will ultimately walk in ALL He commands us during the trials and testing of our faith that will begin at the opening of the 4th seal to initiate that time He identified as “*tribulation*,” a time that many foolishly and dangerously expect to escape though Matthew 25:12 quoted above also demonstrates that the “last day” resurrection will be the “*end of the age*.”

While the bridegroom... Jesus... *tarried, they...* both the wise and the foolish virgins (believers innocent before God because they are in Christ)... *all slumbered and slept.* (the current general condition of a significant number in the body of Christ). Matthew 25:5 KJV (inserts are the author's)

The Lord's parabolic identification of the body of Christ in general, though not entirely, as being “drowsy” includes not teaching or practicing ALL that He commanded His original disciples and all that He has subsequently commanded us individually. Thus, as we examine the list of all that He has commanded us we should ask ourselves, “Did He not send his disciples out to cast out demons and lay hands on the sick? Did He not assign the leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers until the end of the age? Did He not tell us that He would speak to us through dreams, visions, and prophetic revelations until the end of the age? (Ephesians 4:11-16) Did He not equip the body of Christ with the full range of both the wisdom gifts and the manifestation gifts of the Spirit until the end of the age?”

There is only one correct answer, no matter what we have personally experienced, or what our denomination has defined as being “truth,” and that answer is, “YES, He did.”

Like a teenager caught in willful disobedience by his/her parents, we make group-think excuses for our disobedience, and we even corrupt the interpretation of scripture to avoid the shame of our guilt and disobedience.

Why? Because our guilt and disobedience require a change by the “wise,” and most believers, especially those committed to denominational ties, are not willing to face that challenge.

Yet, it **IS** disobedience by those who make excuses for our failure, because none of the gifts, none of the ministry assignments, and none of the ordained leadership assignments, have “passed away.” They are ours both by provision and by command until the *end of the age*, which does not take place until the resurrection of the saints on 1 Tishri, the feast of trumpets, a.k.a. the “last day” resurrection of the saints from Adam forward.

The most popular excuses for the apparent absence of certain manifestation gifts (i.e. spiritual dreams, visions, casting out demons, healing, prophecies, unknown tongues, and special faith like raising the dead), as well as certain leadership gifts (i.e. apostles and prophets) have now become Satanically inspired strongholds of **TRADITION** amongst those who are defined as “cessationists” (i.e. these gifts and assignments have somehow passed away - i.e. we don’t need them?)

But in red-faced shame, this is confirmed to us in scripture by the Spirit as a lie, a lie that those who believe the lie and teach it as an excuse for not doing and not teaching **ALL** He has commanded us and promised us, will ultimately be held accountable for.

And I, for one, do not want to receive that specific rebuke from my Lord.

The cessationist view amongst the majority of somnolent “cessationist” denominations, church assemblies, and individual believers, is that we no longer require apostles and prophets, because we have the Bible, and all we have left of the gifts of the Spirit are the wisdom gifts.

The seeming absence of apostles and prophets through the vast majority of organized Christianity, as well as authority over demons, spiritual healing, prophetic dreams and visions, prophecy, etc., is not because these are no longer authorized and no longer legitimately exist in the body of Christ.

Scripture reveals that these are absent among many because we are the prophetically revealed “drowsy” and “sleeping” virgins, innocent before God because we are in Christ by grace through faith, but spiritually “drowsy.”

The cessationist excuse, then, is, in reality, corporate **disobedience** to the very clear commission given to us by the Lord until the end of the age.

In the parable of the ten virgins... (innocent before God because they are in Christ)... those believers identified as “foolish” have not maintained the oil of the Holy Spirit in the “lamps” (mind-spirit connection a.k.a. “souls”). The “wise” are those who have maintained the oil of the Holy Spirit in their lamps, and their lamps are manifesting the presence, truth, and glory of our Lord.

What that parable reveals is that the “foolish” ultimately recognize that their “lamps” (spirit-soul connection) are going out (no light), and these eventually lose their faith in a time of extreme trouble (“tribulation”).

This is confirmed in Matthew 24:10 concerning the same event.

And at that time many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another.

One cannot “fall away” from faith unless one has been “standing” in faith. And I cannot imagine a more tragic fate.

Part of the cessationist argument is fueled by the existence of false, and even demonic manifestations of the supposed leadership assignments and the manifested gifts of the Spirit, which is part of the enemy’s strategy to hinder the Lord’s commission given to us to the end of the age.

But the existence of false, non-commissioned leadership and the false, non-commissioned manifestations of both wisdom and empowerment gifts is not evidence that our commission from the Lord has somehow changed prior to the end of the age. This, too, is a Satanic strategy to disavow the commissioned leadership appointments and empowerment gifts. And those who are engaged in the Satanic deception will experience judgement, whether in this life or the next.

When we encounter a contradiction between the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord clearly defined in scripture and what we corporately and individually are experiencing, the only legitimate response by us individually or corporately is to pursue obedience to the revelation of His truth, promises, and commands without reservation or hesitation, but with wisdom and guidance from the One who has sent us.

All else is deliberate disobedience demonstrating the same reliance on the traditions of men that our Lord confronted amongst the Pharisees, scribes and priests of Israel during His first advent.

And these were judged for their disobedience and their failure to recognize their Messiah when He came to them.

Instead, these chastised Him:

Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread? But he answered and said unto them, **Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?** Matthew 15:2,3 KJV

My question, then, is: Why do we also transgress the commandment of our Lord by our disobedience that we pass on as various denominational traditions?

Our current status is not merely a division between catholic, protestant, liturgical, cessationist, or charismatic denominations (distinct doctrines and practices) established through man's authoritative differences in doctrine and practice.

It is a demonstration of the enemy's effective strategies to divide the sheep from one another and from the unified leadership of Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that the enemy's beast kingdom can thrive in the midst of us.

The enemy's beast kingdom is, in fact, thriving in the midst of the organized church of Jesus Christ like a spiritual virus that hinders those who are infected from manifesting the fullness of His presence in us and through us.

This is a very dangerous condition at a time in which we are on the doorstep of a time identified by the Lord as the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of "***tribulation.***"

Yet, it is the Lord's will that the body of Christ live and thrive spiritually in Him, glorifying Him by manifesting the entirety of His unifying truth, love, and power in the midst of spiritual Babylon all the way to the end of the age.

There are individuals and congregations large and small around the world demonstrating a more or less complete response to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord, including the leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as well as the full range spiritual gifts.

These represent a minority of the body entire as beacons of the light and life of Jesus Christ, though their faults are heavily criticized by those in even greater disobedience.

At the same time the Lord is preparing a body, scripturally identified as the "wise virgins" of the currently somnolent body of Christ to become all that He has ordained us to be after we receive the awakening trumpet blast of the Holy Spirit, "***Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him,***" an event that is prophesied to take place in our immediate future as climactic end time events begin to take place in the world, events that will shock pre-tribulation "rapture" theorists into a full and complete Spirit-guided understanding of "things to come."

But the "foolish" who will not respond appropriately or completely to this universal Holy Spirit awakening will ultimately fall away (*apo* – fall away from

stasis – standing) in their covenant status with the Father in Christ because of the deceptive influence of the beast kingdom during that rather lengthy period of time defined by the Lord as the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of “**tribulation**” – a time many have been deceived into believing that we will not experience, though we have been given the COMMAND to manifest His truth, power, and love all the way to the end of the age (i.e. the “last day” resurrection of the saints).

The enemy has already convinced a majority of protestant believers that it is impossible to reject our faith through our chronic lack of response to the Holy Spirit, who is the voice of our Lord Himself. Yet, scripture very clearly states that it has happened and will happen in even greater measure in the years of trouble ahead of us.

This is clearly revealed in the Lord’s response to His disciples’ question, ***“When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and of the end of the age?”***

What He told them, as recorded in Matthew 24, was that many of His followers (i.e. born-again believers) would fall away from faith in Him because they are not prepared to walk by faith during the trouble to come, trouble that many have been deceived into believing they will escape via a pre-tribulation “rapture” before the “**end of the age.**” (The “last day” resurrection of the saints at the 1 Tishri “feast of trumpets,” a.k.a. the 7th trump of the 7th seal.)

“Then they will hand you...(Christian believers)...over to tribulation and kill you. And you will be hated by all nations because of My name...(only born again Christian believers have His name)... And at that time many ...of My people... will fall away...become apostate..., and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets...from among My people... will rise up and mislead many people...as they are already doing.... And because lawlessness...of the spirit as has been demonstrated in the United States of America in recent days...is increased,...most of MY... people’s...agape...love will become cold. But the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved...Yet, the one who does not will not be saved.
Matthew 24:9-12 NASB

The responsibility is ours, both individually and corporately, to make the obedient, faith choice in response to the Lord’s standing orders to the end of the age. The outcome of this present generation’s choice to awaken, repent, and both become and do **ALL** that He has commanded, or to foolishly resist because of the beast kingdom influence on man-made traditions that have become strongholds of disobedience amongst us, will either define us as “wise” or as “foolish” resulting in the subsequent consequences or rewards of those choices.

Because of what we are facing in our immediate future I urge believers to pray about, and re-examine, the Lord's standing orders to *obey all things whatsoever* He has commanded us to the end of the age.

Go ye therefore...(in My authority)..., *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...*(understand and obey)...*all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...*(age).... *Amen...*(So be it, Lord Jesus.) Matthew 28:18-20 KJV
(inserts are the author's)

The author's group or individual Bible study guide, **Final Instructions**, based on the Lord's instructions to His disciples, including His current disciples, concerning how they, and we, would receive His truth, promises, and commands after He departed from them, as recorded in John 13-17. This Bible study guide both models and teaches inductive, Spirit-guided Bible study technique. Available on Amazon or as a free print-it-yourself PDF on the author's website:

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