

Campaign & Meeting

Our meeting is a great success. First we knocked every door in Belle. We have already had one baptism (Taylor Shanks), and we have several more studies set up. We are very grateful for the work the brethren from Oklahoma have done.

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CONT...When Christ returns from heaven to judge the world (Matt. 25:31-33), he will come "in the clouds with great power and glory" (Mk. 13:26). Perhaps it will not be until then that the true greatness of the charge Jesus gave to that small band of disciples from the top of the Mount of Olives just prior to his ascension will be fully realized. Jesus said, "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 13:43).

(<http://getwellchurchofchrist.org/articles/article0006.html>).

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
05/04/09 Monday.....	1 Samuel.....05-06	Psalm.....16-17
05/05/09 Tuesday.....	1 Samuel.....07-08	Psalm.....18-19
05/06/09 Wednesday.....	1 Samuel.....09-10	Psalm.....20-21
05/07/09 Thursday.....	1 Samuel.....11-12	Psalm.....22-23
05/08/09 Friday.....	1 Samuel.....13-14	Psalm.....24-25
05/09/09 Saturday.....	1 Samuel.....15-16	Psalm.....26-27
05/10/09 Sunday.....	1 Samuel.....17-18	Psalm.....28-29

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 308-9126. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com. Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

- Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
- Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
- Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
- Ladies Bible Class 3rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

OUR PLEA:

BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
P.O. Box 381
Belle, MO 65013

The Informer

Belle church of Christ

Volume 18

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Number 18

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Gary McDade

The challenging command of Christ which closes each of the synoptic gospels is often called "the great commission." It reads, "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" (Matt. 28:19, 20). Many reasons exist for this commission to be modified with the adjective "great." Perhaps a study of some of them will be edifying, and when appreciation for the commission of Jesus is deepened a higher level of involvement may result.

God is described as "the great God" in Titus 2:13, and he has planned man's salvation from eternity past through Christ and his church. The apostle to the Gentiles wrote, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:10, 11). God's plan of redeeming man through Christ expresses "his great love wherewith he loved us" (Eph. 2:4). The Psalmist said, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable" (Psa. 145:3). So, the great commission is great because it was the great God who planned it.

The angel Gabriel prior to Christ's birth said to his mother, Mary, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Lk. 1:32, 33). The fact of Jesus being the Son of God was attested to by the miracles he did. The gospel of Luke records the reaction of the many people who watched as Jesus raised the widow of Nain's son to life again. Luke wrote, "And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and That God hath visited his people" (Lk. 7:16). The people correctly viewed Jesus as a great prophet.

The writer of the book of Hebrews saw Christ as a great high priest and a great shepherd of the sheep also. In chapter four he wrote, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens,

Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession" (v. 14). At the close of the book the reader is admonished, "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (vv. 20, 21). Christ has indeed become great, and three particular areas in which he is said to be great are as prophet, high priest, and shepherd.

Another reason for the commission being ascribed as great is because of its contrast with the limited commission during the earthly ministry of Christ to the Jews only. When Jesus sent out the twelve he said, "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not; But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:5, 6). Whereas this charge to the twelve (Matt. 10:5) and to the seventy (Lk. 10:1) was limited in its scope, the great commission was "into all the world," "to the whole creation" or "to every creature," and to all the nations.

The great commission is analogous to the great supper prepared by a "certain man" whom Jesus told about in Luke 14:15-24. The invitation issued was, "Come; for all things are now ready." The great commission is God's invitation for "all the world" to seize upon the opportunity for salvation in Christ. Excuses made for not accepting the "certain man's" invitation to the great supper resulted in a forfeiture of the invitation. Others of less fortunate circumstances were then invited to the great supper, and they came. When room for more guests was still available, the servants were urged to compel those out on the highways to come in. Their objective was to fill the spacious house. This story teaches at least two lessons. One, men and women are quick to make excuses, even about something as consequential as their eternal destiny. Two, God's gracious invitation of salvation occupies the focus of his attention regardless of the reaction men have to it.

The great commission was accompanied by convincing attestation. At the end of Mark's gospel the great commission appears followed by two statements from Mark. He wrote, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" (Mk. 16:19, 20). To confirm the word preached, inspired men with great power did wonders and miracles. Luke records, "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. . . .And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (Acts 4:33a, 6:8). The convincing nature of these "great wonders and miracles" comes boldly to the forefront as even the antagonistic religious authorities composed of Annas the high priest and Caiaphas, the other priests, rulers, elders, and scribes find that they can "say nothing against it" and "cannot deny it" (Acts 4:14, 16). Hebrews 2:3, 4 proves that the various signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit served to confirm the word of Christ.

Finally, the commission is great because of the great things that accompany it. Luke recorded that "great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33b). A great sense of wonder, awe, and fear possessed the Christians (Acts 5:5, 11). Luke presents the great commission being associated with "great joy" from the first of his gospel account (Lk. 2:10) to the last of it (Lk. 24:52) and right on through to the task of carrying out the great commission as the church spreads (Acts 8:8, 15:3). Not only is "great joy" a feature of the commission of Christ but "great consolation" or comfort and encouragement is, too (Philem. 7). "Exceeding great and precious promises" come out of the commission (II Pet. 1:4). The great commission should be of paramount interest to everyone because of the "great gain" and "great reward" it promises (Matt. 5:12; Lk. 6:23, 35; I Tim. 6:6; and Heb. 10:35). In summary, the great commission speaks of "so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3, ASV) (Continued on page 4).

CHURCH NEWS

PRAYER LIST

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreyse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace, Sandy Sarchette, and Olivia Shanks. Let us also continue to remember Andy Shanks, Nettie B. Shirley, Chesley Shanks, Dixie Wallace, and Darrell Conley in our daily prayers. Logan Shanks is going in for out patient surgery in Jefferson City for problems with his lymphnodes. Let's keep him in our prayers. Gary Cooper is going in for surgery on his heart in two weeks, so let us keep him in our daily prayers.

<p>THOSE TO SERVE May 3, 2009 A.M.</p> <p>Greeters.....Jerry McDonald & Rick Popejoy Announcements.....Jerry McDonald Song Leader.....Will McLin Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace Lord's Supper...Danny Keeney & Elwood Runge Sermon.....Rick Popejoy & Brandt Stubblefield Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks</p> <p>P.M.</p> <p>Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge Sermon.....Rick Popejoy & Brandt Stubblefield Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Song Leader.....Jerry McDonald Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace Devotional.....To Be Announced Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney</p>	<p>THOSE TO SERVE May 10, 2009 A.M.</p> <p>Greeters.....Danny Keeney & David Shanks Announcements.....Gary Wallace Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks Lord's Supper...Elwood Runge & Taylor Shanks Sermon.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....David Shanks</p> <p>P.M.</p> <p>Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Danny Keeney Sermon.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer.....Gary Wallace</p> <p>WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks Devotional.....Jerry McDonald Closing Prayer...../Elwood Runge</p>
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FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children's Home this week are "Miracle Whip," and "Sugar."

Fellowship Meal

Don't forget that we are having a fellowship meal this Sunday to get to know the brethren from Oklahoma who come up to help us knock doors. Let's all plan on attending.

Sermons For The Next Two Weeks

May 3, 2009: A.M. lesson: "The Marks of Christ Is Mine." P.M. Lesson: "The Mind of Christ Is Mine."

May 10, 2009: A.M. lesson: "Hope: The Anchor of the Soul." P.M. Lesson: "Having Love and Faith Toward God."