

Crucified and Risen

Matthew 28: 18.

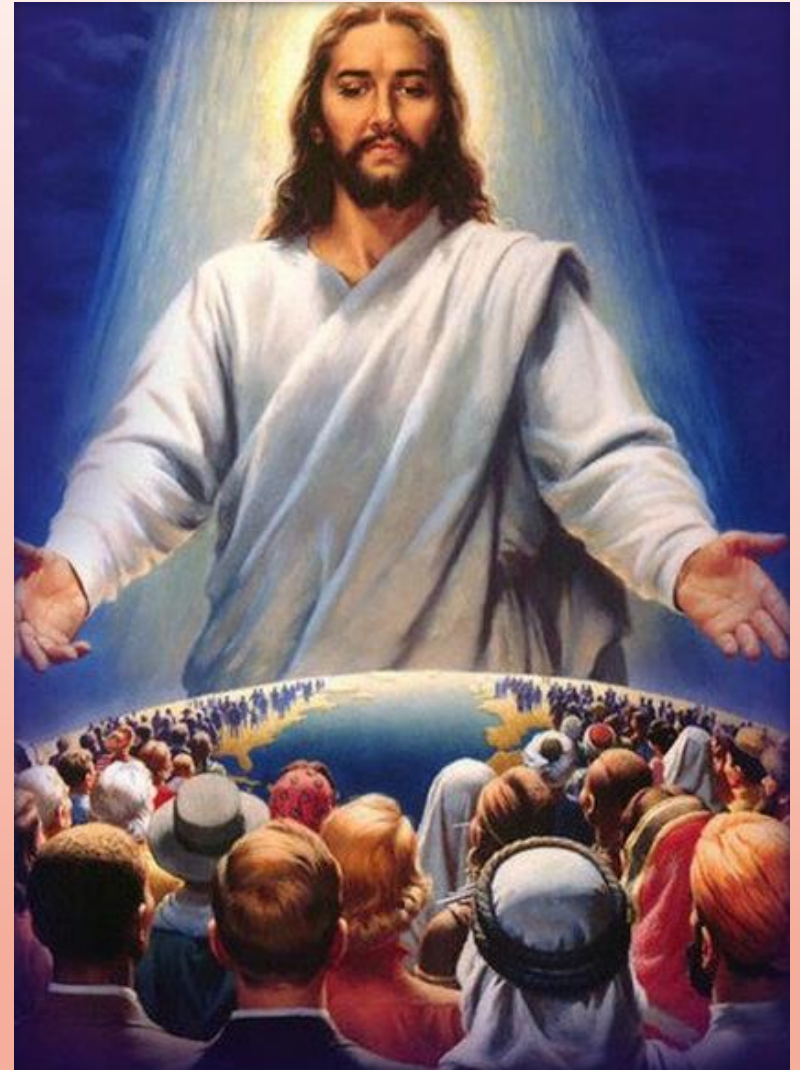


And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
Matthew 28: 18.



I. Introduction: Authority to Make Disciples

Jesus Christ is the source of our mission. He gives us the authority to transform the world for the glory of His name.



“Without this declaration of Jesus' authority [Matthew 28: 18], we could never venture confidently to make disciples. On what possible basis do we have any right to tell anybody they should change their whole way of thinking and acting and become a disciple of Jesus Christ? Only one thing could justify such outlandish proselytizing all over the world—that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and has been given an absolute authority over natural and supernatural forces so that every human and every angelic being will give an account to him. If Jesus has that kind of authority, then we Christians not only have the right but are bound by love to tell other people to change and become his disciples.”

John Piper

“The disciples were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to carry the message to the people. Christ had imbued them with His power; He had laid upon them, His ministers, the sacred work of preaching the gospel of His grace which, from generation to generation, from age to age, would never lose its power. They were to go to the people with hearts softened by His grace. Their influence they were to regard as a sacred treasure. Christ’s work of personal ministry on earth was ended, and they, as His chosen ones, in the spirit of their Master, were to communicate to men the will of God.”
Ellen G. White, 13MR p. 46.



“This is all the authority needed to make disciples, and making disciples is the one thing Jesus has authorized His people to do. When a disciple wonders how much spiritual authority he has, the answer is “all of it.”

Bobby Harrington and Bill Hull,
Evangelism or Discipleship:
How Can They Effectively Work
Together.



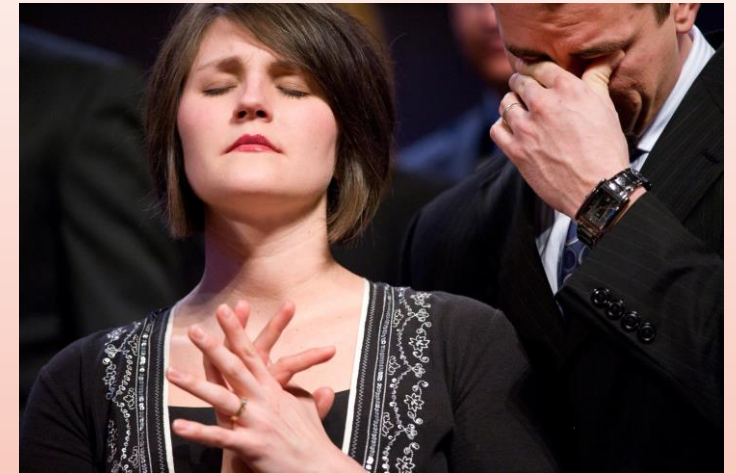
'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me... Go, therefore, and make disciples... It's time for our local leaders... to get back to the basics. Not least, they need to set the example by their commitment to the Word of God. Otherwise our church buildings will become museums, restaurants and concert halls. And Christ and Christianity will become a footnote in history.'

Paul Barnett



“Always keep in mind that spiritual authority is based in a Person. The Scriptures present God as that Person and not as an impersonal force or mechanism. Our authority comes from faithfulness to God and His Word; and it resides in us not as a right, but as a gift. Spiritual authority must be nourished or it will become oppressive and harmful both to others and us... A title may describe what a person does, but it does not provide spiritual authority for the individual.”

Nikolaus Satelmajer, Authority through credibility,
Ministry Magazine, may 2010



“All nations were to be
discipled. Power was
provided. The word used for
power carries the higher
sense of authority. But
dynamic is doubtless
included. The power would
be derived from the personal
presence and the prestige of
the King himself, to whom
had been handed all authority
both in the heavens and on
the earth.”

Alvin E. Cook



“Jesus mandated a clear mission on the basis of His universal authority. For that reason, any form of neglect, negation, or territorial restriction to the mission of the Christian church contradicts the marching orders of Jesus. Note that the commission is preceded by the enunciation and establishment of universal authority by Jesus. After all, “mission is the summons of the Lordship of Jesus.”
Zebron Masukume Ncube



II. Context



The Great Commission, given by Jesus to His disciples, is Christ-centered. He is at the origin of the call, He has all authority, and He promises to be with them continuously. Therefore, the Great Commission should never be the object of concern for His disciples. When they understand that their mission is about Him, they will enjoy to share the beauty of His love.



The Great Commission

Matthew 28: 18 – 20.

Structure

A	18	Jesus Confirms His Authority (CHRISTOLOGICAL)
B	19. 20a	Jesus gives the Mission to His Disciples: MAKE DISCIPLES (MISSIOLOGICAL)
		How the Mission will be Accomplished: BAPTIZING THEM
		How the Mission will be Accomplished: TEACHING THEM
A'	20b	Jesus Confirms His Continuing Presence (CHRISTOLOGICAL)

III. There is a great authority for those who fulfill the Great Commission



1. Jesus holds
the absolute
and unreserved
authority
"All authority"



Jesus has all authority... To forgive sins (Luke 5:20; 7:48); to be the Mediator of the New Covenant (1 Tim. 2:5); to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26). to open the hearts and minds of His people (Luke 24:45); to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27; Luke 10:22); and to give eternal life (John 10:27-28).



“You will notice in these verses [18 – 20] four amazing universals, each marked by the word "all": "all authority", "all nations", "all that I commanded you", and "all the days". Some of you might know that these verses are commonly referred to as "The Great Commission"; this is where Jesus gives His "marching orders" to His disciples. I want you to notice, however, that before Jesus tells us to do anything, He tells us what He can do for us in verse 18.”
Bryn MacPhail



"The word "authority" denotes permission. It denotes privilege. It denotes power. It denotes rule, control, influence. When someone has authority, that means they're on top of other people. They have responsibility beyond the norm. They are able to determine things, to decide things, to render judgments, to wield certain rights and privileges. And we say in the home there's authority resting with the father, the parents. In the government there are authorities, the police and those who govern us. In the schools there are authorities. In business, in the plant, in the job, in any dimension of life there are authorities. People who have the privilege, the power, the permission to set the rules, to determine the judgments and the verdicts. But there is one who has authority that surpasses all other authorities... It's Jesus."

John MacArthur

“When the Church tries to embody the rule of God in the forms of earthly power it may achieve that power, but it is no longer a sign of the kingdom.”

Lesslie Newbigin



2. The power of Jesus was
given to Him by His Father
“Has been given to Me”



"Yet the 'Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father.'"
Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 495.



"The world's Redeemer was equal with God. His authority was as the authority of God. He declared that he had no existence separate from the Father. The authority by which he spoke, and wrought miracles, was expressly his own, yet he assures us that he and the Father are one."

Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, Jan. 7, 1890, p. 1.



“Before the Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples, He asserted His authority to do so. Here is the claim of universal and unlimited authority. We should note first the source of His authority: He received it from His Father. In His state of humiliation (His earthly life prior to His resurrection), He possessed authority, but He voluntarily limited the exercise of it. However, He would at times assert it with great power.”
Roland Barnes

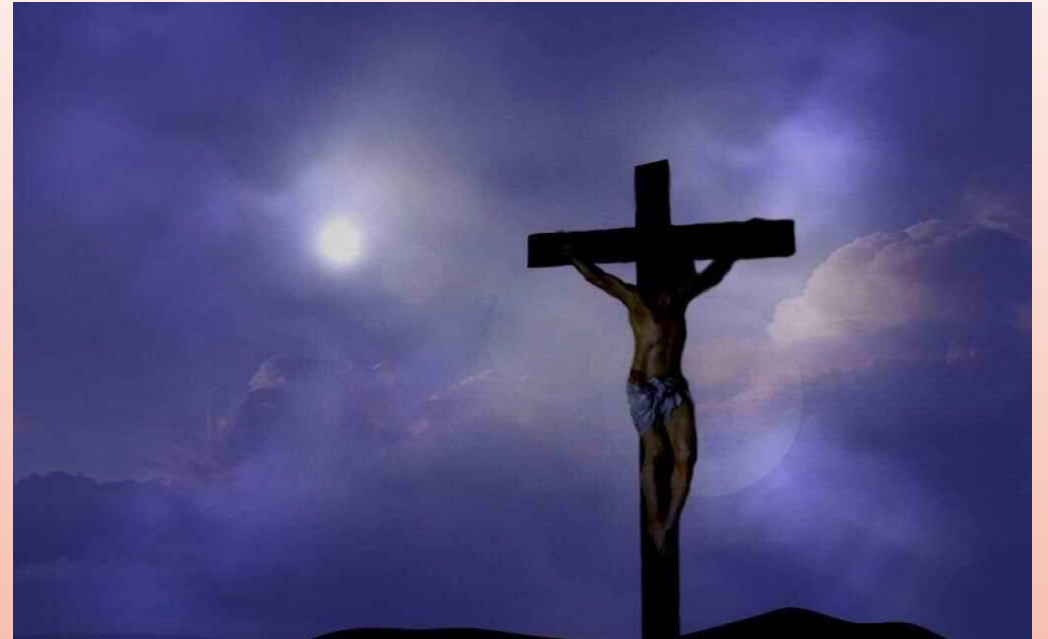


3. The power of Jesus
cannot be contested
on this planet or in
the entire universe.
“In heaven and on earth.”



“The cross of Christ only triumphs in the breast of believers over the devil and the flesh, sin and sinners, when their eyes are directed to the power of His Resurrection.”

John Calvin



“There is an unlimited power of Jesus Christ, available to all His followers. Health issues, financial crisis, rejection, depression, etc. nothing can separate us from Him and His power. He has the last word, and the last word is VICTORY.”
(DS)



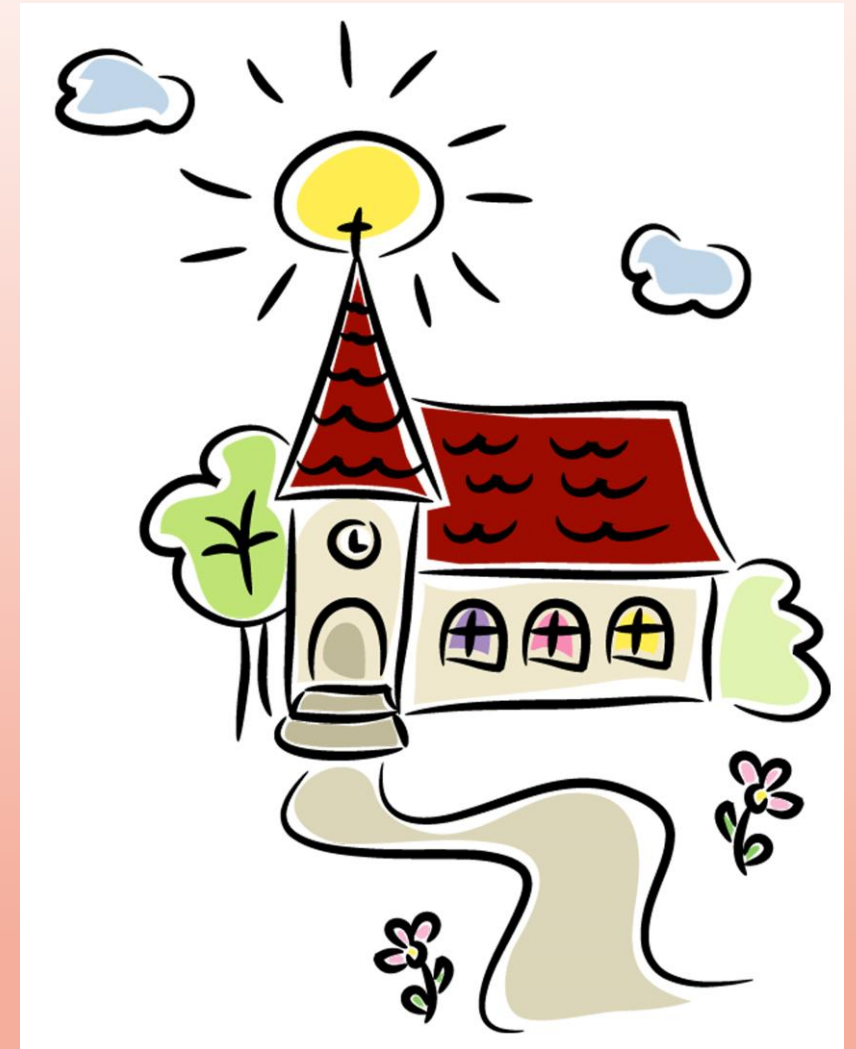
“My ministering brethren, as you stand before the people, speak of those things that are essential, those things that will instruct. Teach the great practical truths that must be brought into the life. Teach the saving power of Jesus, “in whom we have redemption, ...even the forgiveness of sins.” [Colossians 1:14.] Strive to make your hearers comprehend the power of truth.”
Ellen G. White, Gospel Workers, p. 147.



V. Conclusion



“The church is to become a continuation of the gospel scheme of love to flow forth untrammelled to the world. Its offices are not to be confined to itself; for this would bear the representation of putting the light under a bushel or under a bed. The light is to be put upon a candlestick, to give light to all that are in the house, the world.”
Ellen G. White, Ms165-1907.4.



“The wholistic and prophetic evangelistic task as exemplified in the ministry, life, and teaching of Jesus, John the Baptist, and the apostolic church this is what the twenty-first century church needs. As the Holy Spirit rested upon Jesus (Luke 4:18) and the disciples (Acts 2) and anointed them to proclaim and practice the whole gospel (see Luke 4:18,19, and Acts 2:41-47), so today we must appropriate the Holy Spirit's anointing so that when we engage in evangelism we do not do so in the narrow sense of exclusively proclaiming propositional truth. Our evangelism must meet the everyday needs of our communities in a way that will indeed make the "good news" even better.”

Pedrito U. Maynard-Reid

“Let us lay hold of the Great-Commandment mandate, loving God with our total being. Let us rededicate ourselves to the Great-Commission mission, convinced that as we focus on people more than programs, proclamation more than presentation, incarnation more than institution, celebration more than information, and intercession more than condemnation, we can fulfill the plan for every ear to hear that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father!”
David Gyertson



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