

## GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIANS IN A POST 911 WORLD

### MATTHEW 28:16-20

#### Introduction:

In some ways 911 changed everything in our world, at least the world of the United States. It took away from us any idea that we might have had that our country was invulnerable and safe. We feel the impact of the change every time we fly on a commercial airline, or attend some big public event. To attend a professional sports event, any bag you carry with you will have to be checked. When you travel abroad, you immediately become wary of people who seem to be dressed in muslim dress.

It is doubtful that the financial condition of our country will recover in my lifetime. You rarely hear anyone indicate that the conflict with this world-wide terrorist network has had any impact on our the economy of the United States, but this is because it is not politically correct to make such an association. Ben Laden has accomplished more than we want to admit. The aftermath of 911 definitely affected the funds that Alice and I have available for our retirement years.

But we are not just Americans; we are Christians first and above all. We are followers of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God. There is a real sense in which 911 changed nothing for us. It surely did not change our mission in the world. Christians get their sense of mission from our Lord and what we call the Great Commission. This title has been given to the closing words of the Gospel of Matthew which Jesus our Lord spoke after the resurrection and just before his ascension to heaven as the risen Christ. They were spoke to a representative group of his disciples; some think that the 500 hundred mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 may have been there. We know for sure that the 11 remaining loyal disciples were there. In a lasting sense these words made GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIANS out of all of us.

Standing in the dark shadows of 911 ten years after the pain and shame of that day, let me review with you what this means. What does it mean to be GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIAN?

## I. GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIANS HONOR THE SAVIOR.

1. They worship Him.
2. They acknowledge His authority.
3. They obey Him.

## II. GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIANS MAKE DISCIPLES.

1. They lead people from all nations into a saving relationship with Christ.
2. They teach them to follow His commands and do His will.

## III. GREAT COMMISSION CHRISTIANS ENJOY HIS PRESENCE.

1. He gives them strength to makes disciples.
2. He guides them as they make disciples.
3. He blesses us as we do His work in the world.

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan told about an experience in his life that involved this statement. Early in his Christian life, Morgan used to visit several ladies once a week to read the Bible to them. When he came to the end of Matthew's Gospel, Morgan read, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of this age." He added, "Isn't that a wonderful promise?" One of the ladies quickly replied, "Young man, that is not a promise—it is a fact!"

From Wiersbe, Matthew 28