

### The Great Commission (given by Jesus to His Apostles in His Church)

**John 20:21-23**, “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” <sup>22</sup>And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

**Matthew 28:18-20**, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>**teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**Luke 24:46-49**, “Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

**Mark 16:15-16**, “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and **preach the gospel** to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

The Latin *missio* is sending. The Apostles are **sent** to make disciples by baptizing and teaching. The Book of Concord is called “The Confessions of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church**.” Evangel means gospel.

### The Church

**Acts 2:41-42**, “Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls **were added to them**. <sup>42</sup>And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**John 10:16**, “And other sheep I have which are not of **this fold**; them also I must bring, and **they will hear My voice**; and there will be **one flock** and one shepherd.”

Small Catechism: “But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies **the whole Christian church on earth** and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. **In this Christian church** he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.”

Large Catechism, II: “I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as his name implies.” <sup>41</sup> How does he do this? By what means? Answer: “**Through the Christian church**, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” <sup>42</sup> In the first place, he has a **unique community in the world. It is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God.** The Holy Spirit reveals and preaches that Word, and by it he illuminates and kindles hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.... <sup>45</sup> Therefore there was no Christian church. For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call, and gather the Christian church, and outside it no one can come to the Lord Christ.

Summary: **Romans 10:14-17**, “How then shall they **call on Him** in whom they have not believed? And how shall they **believe in Him** of whom they have not heard? And how shall they **hear without a preacher?** 15And how shall they **preach unless they are sent?** As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” 16But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” 17**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

### **Believers do Good Works in Their Vocations**

AC VI. [The New Obedience] It is also taught among us that **such faith should produce good fruits and good works** and that we must do all such good works as God has commanded,<sup>6</sup> but we should do them for God’s sake and not place our trust in them as if thereby to merit favor before God.

Luther’s Sermon for Epiphany -The church has the Gospel, the world already has everything it needs with natural knowledge to do its job. **Insert quote here.**

Small Catechism’s Table of Duties “Certain Passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.”

Believers are directed to do good works. However, believers doing good works do not create and strengthen faith in someone else.

### **Believers do Bear witness in their Vocation**

1 Peter 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear;”

Luke 10:2, “Then He said to them, ‘The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**’”

Ephesians 6:4, And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Galatians 6:6, “Let him who is taught the word **share in all good things with him who teaches.**”

1 Timothy 5:17-18, Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. <sup>18</sup>For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, **“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”**

John 4:28, “The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup>“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” ... <sup>39</sup>And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.