

## The Growth of the Church through Mission Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20

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### Abstract

*The Great Commission, which reads to make disciples of all nations, cannot be separated from its impact on the growth of the church in terms of quantity and quality. The results of the mission that are growth as increased the number and faith of believers. However, the church is too busy with programs which seem just only an euphoria of its activities, without a focus on the growth impact of the church and congregation. The church often isolates itself by high walls building as like "member only", so that the gospel is not communicated and is not properly nurtured in the wider community. That's why God's church being underdeveloped. To describe a biblical study of mission and discipleship in the Great Commission and its implications for church growth, so then researchers use research methods from literature and related journals to find the meaning of church growth by God's great Commission.*

### Keywords

church growth; great commission; discipleship; impact



## I. Introduction

The great commission is a command from the Lord addressed to His disciples, written in Matthew 28:18-20. This mandate is the call and duty of the church in this world, but unfortunately this is less of a serious concern.

The Church is less introducing the work of salvation in the Lord Jesus to the world because of the church's lack of understanding of this call. The model of church growth that needs to be applied is not only inaction but the need for outward growth. The Church can be called ideal and whole if it is serious about these two aspects. Conversely, if the church ignores one of these aspects, it can be called not growing.

Incomplete understanding causes the church's task to be oriented only to extreme exits that focus on the implementation of evangelism only. On the other hand there is also the extreme task of the church focusing in, namely on the construction so that the great mandate is not fully implemented. Whereas the Bible records the early church accepting the responsibility of preaching the Gospel so that it has an impact on the increase in the number and growth of the faith of the congregation. They carried out the implementation of the Great Commission itself as Christ intended to disciple, baptize and teach it.

The author noted that the call of the great commission is addressed to everyone including young adults, middle adults and late-age adults. Then it is necessary to resuscitate every believer in order to be willing to accept this call. Therefore, practical measures will be discussed as proposed methods that can be used as a reference in implementing the Great Commission that has an impact on the growth of the Lord's church.

## **II. Research Method**

This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative methods. This method is used to reanalyze the growth of the church through the implementation of the Great Commission. As for the source of information both book literature, Bible and journal to support the author's argument in this article. This paper aims to give fire to the spirit of developing the church by carrying out His mission to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth.

## **III. Results and Discussion**

If the expected growth of the church occurs through the preaching of the Gospel of the Word Lord, then first must understand properly and fully what the Great Commission means. The Great Commission is not only viewed in the narrow sense of evangelism or the salvation of the soul of repentance only, but also includes discipleship. Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go, make all the nations my disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do all that I have commanded you to do. And know that I am with you always to the end times." The understanding of the Great Commission is broader because in it there are four verbs that must be considered as a whole, namely the word go, make disciples, baptize and teach. This commission is the greatest plan given by the greatest Person who has the greatest painted power in history.

Why is it said to be a great mandate? Because behind the mandate there is a The plan of God the Father's will manifested in God the Son is Jesus Christ the Lord. It is because of this Mandate that millions of missionaries are redeemed by the blood of Christ to take part in the implementation of the Great Commission.

The Great Commission was carried out by proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus to the world: that God loved the world and His Son had surrendered Himself, even died on the cross and rose victorious over death. Through His resurrection, the Lord has prepared and equipped those whom He has called to preach the good news of the gospel to the whole world.

Peter Wagner said that many people tried to plan strategies for evangelism and missionary ministry, but the mission failed because they only at first glance read the Great Commission and concluded that the Mandate would be fulfilled by preaching the gospel and bearing witness by sending ecclesiastical messengers.

Billy Graham also said that in order to fulfill the Great Commission it must be through much contemplation and obedience to the commandment of preaching the gospel to the ends of the earth. In the Bible both the Old and New Testaments, the commandment has been given, although in the OT it has not really been affirmed the duty to preach the gospel. The Great Commission in the Old Testament. God's mission is to gather for Himself a people by the power of His salvation. God called Abraham and His prophets to bless His people throughout the earth. Abraham accepted God's covenant that he would be the instrument God used to save the whole world, Genesis 12:3. God's call to Abraham is repeated in Genesis 17:1-7. God took the initiative to give the blessing of salvation to the whole world. God's Word in history and His Word becomes a historical reality so that it will be fulfilled in the present and in the future.

### 3.1 The Great Commission of the New Testament

Good news, good news, about God seeking a lost man Because of sin. God's quest to save man at its peak was through His immediate presence as the man Jesus Christ. He was willing to be poor, living suffering torture and dying on a despicable cross. He had succeeded the man who should have received punishment for his rebellion, but God was so great was the Father's love for the world that Jesus gave His Only Begotten Son that whoever believed in Him did not perish but gain eternal life. The Great Commission is contained in the Gospel of Matthew, but implicitly there is also

In The Gospel of Mark 16:15-18, Gospel of Luke 24:44-49, Gospel of John 20:19-23 and in Acts 1:6-8. Each author has different emphasises, for example:

- a. Matthew emphasized the authority God sent his disciples. He also opens and closes the door to the mission, for He is the Master of the harvest.
- b. The Lord himself also defends therefore do not be afraid because He the Almighty Lord will be with him and who will strengthen every one of His disciples. (Mt.28:19-20)
- c. Mark, the Gospel must be preached to all beings, without restrictions on regions, tribes, languages, nations, rich or poor, educated or not. God's mission is very broad. (Mark. 16:15-16).
- d. Luke, the context of the Great Commission in Luke's Gospel is so important that in the name of Christ the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins must be conveyed to the whole world, starting from Jerusalem (Lk 24:44-49).
- e. John said, "As the Father sent me, so I sent you." John created a model of mission in which His disciples were assigned to continue His missionary duties, because the Holy Spirit would equip him. (Jn. 17:18-22). The Acts of the Apostles, Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He again reminded His disciples to preach the gospel. That all efforts of the gospel message are under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and proclaimed by Him. So the story of the Holy Spirit's deeds in the gospel message will not stop until it reaches the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8).

### 3.2 The Nature of the Great Commission

#### a. Supernatural

Liberal theologians reject the deity of Jesus and only emphasize the nature of Jesus. His morals were so that their church retreated. If God does not have absolute sovereignty then the preached gospel has no true basis. So a person who does not know places the position of the supernatural christ in his heart is one who does not know and at the same time cannot carry out the command of the preaching of the gospel. The supernatural God is the God who has triumphed over the universe. This supernatural nature is the basis of the nature of the Great Commission.

#### b. Nature of Authority

His power transcends all the powers of heaven and on earth, and he gives power in heaven and on earth to the church, so that by this power we are sent to preach the gospel to all. Active and initiative traits Upholding the concept of "go" to affirm the spirit of preaching the gospel. Universal Nature Do not think only of the nation and oneself but the Universal is not limited to any area of environment, tribe, culture and nation all included in God's eternal plan.

1. Ecclesiastical Nature

The word "baptize" brings believers to a community of church members.

That those who belong to the fellowship of Christ may be the body of Christ may establish a church on earth.

2. The Gospel is one, the gospel is only one.

The founder of many religions, the Gospel is only one. There are many moral teachers but intercessor is only one. The gospel does not come from history but arises from God's plan.

3. Eternal Nature

Jesus' words "I am with you to the end of the age" means that the gospel must be preached until the earth is over.

God's commandments are always accompanied by His promises.

4. Doctrinal Nature

Many people have preached the gospel but underestimated the true doctrine. Stephen Tong argues that both are not appropriate. If theological doctrine is taught wrongly, then the church is going in the wrong direction so that it cannot stand firmly on a firm foundation. In conclusion, the doctrine is necessary and must be accompanied by the spirit of preaching the gospel that flares. Do not only attach importance to theology but do not like to teach the Gospel

### 3.3 Theology of the Great Commission (evangelism)

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross contains four meanings:

The sacrifice of the substitution (Markk. 10:45 redemption that replaces)

The sacrifice of the propitiation ( redemption that restores)

The sacrifice of the redemption

The sacrifice of the reconciliation

The specifics of atonement can be elaborated in more detail to open a deeper understanding, namely: Personal atonement with God through Jesus Christ, self-atonement with oneself, atonement between person and others through Jesus Christ, To reconcile others with others, to reconcile others with God.

### 3.4 Method of Implementation of the Supreme Mandate

To achieve a goal, a method must be required as a system how to work to facilitate implementation in order to achieve the desired goal. The purpose of developing the church through the implementation of His Great Commission, Need effective ways in the process of discipleship and winning souls

#### a. Methods of Personal Evangelism

There are several situations that are an opportunity for the preaching of the Gospel in person one of which is when the church serves sorrow. In sorrow there may be deep regret, hope of being reunited then through a reasonable method of conversation between two or more people can be communicated about the gospel that provides good news for every human being. Recognize the general principles of adjusting the needs of each person's personality. For example, the story of John 4 where the Lord Jesus evangelizes the Samaritan woman. God deliberately seeks and meets him, gives special time, converses to listen to his presentation and finally gives answers to the needs that are the secret of his heart (salvation) especially spiritual things.

Do not hesitate to show your sins and what is pleasing to God. Since everyone has their own personality, personal evangelism must include elements of personality, intelligence, feelings and willpower. Let through this personal evangelistic conversation guide one's mind so that one's feelings are moved and his will is finally left to the Lord Jesus.

### **b. Methods of Bible Understanding (PA)**

Like the Cell Group (KOMSEL) or the Joint Growing Group (KTB), a Care Group consisting of several families, friends, relatives in small numbers is also an evangelistic strategy. Komsel encouraged the growth of the faith of its members so that the formation of the group was finally to win the soul for Christ. The Gospel can be preached through testimony in every routine meeting with a variety of creative activities. So this approach will eventually bring a new soul to the church. The result of evangelism in this way is very possible for the establishment of the growth of the church. Weeding also prepares the next generation leader qualitatively and also regenerates quantitatively.

### **c. Methods of Education**

Education is a very important human need because education has a duty to prepare Human Resources (HR) for the development of the nation and state (Pradana et al, 2020). According to Astuti et al (2019) Education is an obligation of every human being that must be pursued to hold responsibilities and try to produce progress in knowledge and experience for the lives of every individual. Education is one of the efforts to improve the ability of human intelligence, thus he is able to improve the quality of his life (Saleh and Mujahiddin, 2020). Education is expected to be able to answer all the challenges of the times and be able to foster national generations, so that people become reliable and of high quality, with strong characteristics, clear identities and able to deal with current and future problems (Azhar, 2018). Education and skills are the main keys in gaining social status in community life (Lubis *et al*, 2019).

The basis of Christian education is the true teaching of God. Teaching Biblical is needed in the implementation of evangelism. Theological education is very important so that cadres of God's servants in carrying out the Great Commission can stick to the teachings of the Bible and evangelicals so as to carry out their vocation duties. The Church should educate the congregation ranging from children to adults and the Elderly to carry out the duties of the Great Commission. General Education is also a strategic practical means for evangelism.

Starting from kindergarten to college level. Adults can be teachers of Christian educators who are role models in teaching and life that means being light and salt for their students. Evangelism can be accelerated in this way.

## **3.5 The Growth of the Church**

The Church means the one who is called out of sin to be united by God. The Church is God's people who are called out to belong to God where as something truly separate, simply because of His vocation. They are not called to enjoy communion with God but also to witness life in relation to God. Everyone who is called and has a relationship with God, it is obligatory to witness it by carrying out the Great Commission. Those who love God are those who are active in carrying out the Great Commission. Because it means that we take part in the growth of the church and save the world.

To carry out this mission, every adult must be guided and built in order to be a good and true witness to glorify God. This call is a holy call therefore we must live holy because the God who calls us is holy. The Holy Spirit will help and enable to live in holiness and also live in His righteousness so that he can then witness it to the world. Christians must be one with Christ, Jesus the vine and we are His ways. This call will bear fruit for God's glory. The life of Christ flows and bears fruit to reach lost souls.

#### IV. Conclusion

The Great Commission is the command to make disciples which means not to stop at the salvation of the soul and repentance alone, but to include discipleship. The growth of the church is not only quantitative but also qualitative, meaning discipleship requires that someone who has been evangelical not only decides to follow Jesus but also decides to become a disciple of Jesus, and then can disciple others as well so that there is a certain certainness. By carrying out this Great Commission it means also striving for a growth of the church through the mission of evangelizing God's salvation to the world and becoming all the "disciples" of Jesus.

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