

Rev. G. A. Ford.

Session No. 1.

The Great Commission.

(The voice of the Father.)

Is. 2:3 + Micah 4:2.

(The voice of the Redeemer)

Luk. 24:46, 47, John 20:21, 22,

Mt. 28:18, Ac. 1:8, Mark, 16:15,

Mt. 28:19, 20.

(The voice of the Disciple)

Rom. 1:16. (with Ac. 10:38) Rom. 10:14, 15.

1 Co. 9:16, 17. + Rom. 1:14.

This Commission draws its dignity & preciousness from being linked to the person of Christ,

And He linked it with the prophecies concerning Himself, (Luk. 24:46) with His own Commission by the Father, (Jno. 20:21.) with His own endowment with power (Mt. 28:18)

To us it is linked most of all

to His example which is even
more sacredly binding than
His verbal command.

This commission is to all believers,
delivered as it was to the
entire body of believers, (upwards
of 500) male & female, upon the
Galilean hillside.

It is for all men. Paul in
Rom 1:14 brings out this feature
most explicitly by spanning the
2 extremas of humanity the
Gr & Barb, wise & unwise, so that
we are forbidden to pass by the
lowest as if they were hopeless, or
the highest as if they could dis-
pense with it.

Paul's interpretation of this
commission as a debt is he-
rinous. (Rom. 1:14) The Church
& her Missions are suffering
from the heresy that this mis-
sionary Commission is not
only limited to a few but
is optional with all. But
see (1 Co. 9:16, 17)

This being an unmistakable
command, every one who has
sworn allegiance to Christ as
His King is solemnly bound
by it. No man may enlist
in the army of the Lord, without
vowing obedience to all His
commands. & He will save none
who repudiate any of these.
Yet how many professed Christians

have & still do openly repu-
diate this Great Commission
as far as they themselves are
concerned.

Here again, Nature in all
her departments, by her
implicit obedience puts to
blush the - Very Church of God!
(Here quote the Verses.)

"For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."—Ps. 33:9.

'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'—MAR. 16:15.

Jehovah! All-Mighty, All-Loving, All-Wise,
Who reignest supreme, from Thy throne in the skies;
I bow at Thy Majesty, awed and subdued,
Beholding thy wonders, my faith is renewed.

How true to Thy gracious and perfect design
Is every work of Thy wisdom Divine!
How loyal is each to Thy sovereign command
Of all Thou hast wrought with omnipotent hand!

The mountains, Thy summons once heard and obeyed,
And rose from the deep in their grandeur arrayed.
The *deep* heard Thy voice and fled back at Thy call,
Hemmed in by Thy Will as with adamant wall.

The sun and the moon in their stately career,
Awaiting Thy direction with reverent fear;
And the numberless stars beaming bright overhead,
Keep time to Thy Law in their orderly tread.

The clouds as they sweep thro' th' eternal expanse
At thy bidding dissolve, or recede or advance;
The tides of the ocean and seasons that roll,
Accept thy dominion and love Thy control.

The thunder's loud peal and the lightning's keen flash,
The hurricane's roar and the earthquake's dread crash,
No less than the dew-drop and soft rustling breeze,
And blossoming flowers, fulfil Thy decrees.

The beams of the morning and showers that fall,
Wild beasts of the jungle and beast of the stall,
With the birds in the air and the fish in the sea,
And the trees in the forest yield homage to Thee.

E'en the reptiles and insects and marvelous host
Of life microscopic to reckoning lost,
And the springs as they bubble and streams as they flow,
Instructed by Thee on their missions do go.

Then why should the "lord of creation" alone,
Resist Thy commandments, refusing to own
Allegiance to Thee, in whose image sublime,
He was formed, by Thy breath, in the morning of time?

And why are the children so slow to respond,
By bearing the Gospel to "regions beyond,"
When Thou hast commanded "Go! carry the news
Of grace and salvation to Gentiles Jews?"

O, Thou who hast loved us and freely didst give,
The Son of thy Love, that we sinners might live!
So teach men to love Thy commands and obey,
That the *blot of creation* may vanish away!

Geo. A. Ford.

Far from all abodes of men, and alone with God one evening upon the moonlit summit; listening to His voice in nature and praying for a blessing upon my parish of 2,500 sq. miles, in the midst of which I then was, and 250 villages of which I had counted on one clear morning, as visible from that spot; most of them destitute of gospel light; my mingled adoration and lamentation found utterance in the following lines."

"In Aug. 1872, my tent was pitched in a grove of mountain oaks upon a solitary spur of Labanon, 6,000 ft. above the blue Mediterranean that was lying in full sight just below. The eye could see Westward, along its shore, Sidon, Sarepta, Tyre and Carmel, To the South lay Galilee with its sea and lake and hills and towns from Dan and Ijon onward. Then, in the dim background, mountains of Moab, and the nearer volcanic hills and pasture lands of Bashan. Eastward there rose in lonely grandeur, colossal Hermon, his whole form exposed to view and his head tinged with lingering snows, while Upper Jordan rolled between. To the North stretched the goodly range of Lebanon, piled heap on heap, till it dissolved in the far distance 'at the entering in of Hamath.'"