

# The Reflector

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## THE GREAT COMMISSION!

In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus gives to the Apostles what is commonly referred to as the "Great Commission." Contained in this commission are the following instructions: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."* (Matt. 28:18-20) *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* (Mark 16:15-16) *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name beginning in Jerusalem."* (Luke 24:47) This is exactly what happened on the Day of Pentecost; Peter told those Jews who believed the gospel that they needed to *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* (Acts 2:37-38) When you consider these things, it makes you wonder why so many churches today do not preach as the Apostles did back in the first century! Does your minister preach about "faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins?" If not, then he is not following the Great Commission as given by Jesus to His Apostles. Maybe you should ask him about this!

## ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Bethuel is the name of the father of Rebekah, who was married to Isaac. (Genesis 25:20)

Rehoboam had 88 children, 60 daughters and 28 boys. He also had 18 wives and 60 concubines. (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 11:21)

## QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What man is referred to in the Old Testament as a ***“mighty hunter before the Lord?”*** (What kingdom had its beginning with this man?)

What Old Testament character was delivered from the mouth of the lion? (What New Testament character was delivered from the mouth of the lion?)

## WHAT WILL TOMORROW BRING?

***“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”*** (Proverbs 27:1) This scripture doesn't teach against planning for the future, but it does warn against the idea of taking the future for granted as though we are assured a tomorrow. The Parable of The Rich Man Whose Barns Overflowed is an example of the danger of ***“boasting about tomorrow.”*** (Luke 12:15-21) James 4:13-17 addresses this subject as well. James teaches us that when we make plans for tomorrow; make sure that we include God in those plans. Our attitude should be, ***“If the Lord wills, we shall live, and do this, or that.”*** Two events that could prevent tomorrow from ever coming our way are ***“death”*** or the ***“2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ.”*** Let's make sure that we live each day of our lives with the understanding that ***“life is like a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”*** Someone once said, ***“I may not know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow.”*** Let us put our faith and trust in God by doing His will every day, and then regardless of what tomorrow may bring, we will be ready for whatever comes. God will see us through each day and give us a home in Heaven later on.

## “PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE!”

A man once prayed to God and said, “**Lord, give me patience, and give it to me right now!**” Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to sometimes have patience, especially when we need it the most? It’s not a bad idea to pray to God for patience, but not like the man above. There are so many circumstances in life that require a lot of patience. Making repairs from the recent hurricanes is going to take a lot of patience. It’s not going to get better overnight, so be patient. The evacuations in the recent storms took a long time and so patience was desperately needed. If you had company staying with you during the storm, it took patience in dealing with that situation as well. Let me ask you a question: “**When does impatience ever accomplish anything?**” Usually it doesn’t and most of the time it only makes things worse. Did impatience in the evacuation make you reach your destination any faster? I doubt it. But it probably made the trip even more difficult. Rather than being impatient, you could have enjoyed the extra time you were having with your family in the car and had some good conversation for a change. Peter tells us that patience is one of those qualities that we need to “*add to our faith.*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:5-8)

Listen to this statement found in Hebrews 12:1: “*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*” The Hebrew writer furthermore tells us that it is “*through faith and patience that we inherit the promises*” of God. (Hebrews 6:12)

Impatient people are not a whole lot of fun to be around. They usually put everyone around them on edge. Unnecessary arguments arise sometimes because of impatience. What a tragedy to waste so much precious time being impatient. Why not learn to “**take life one day at a time, sometimes even one hour at a time.**” This is what Jesus teaches us to do in Matthew 6:34. Life is too short to squander it away with impatience. And so if you are one of those persons who have trouble being patient, then pray to God for His help and then get busy working on improving your patience. It will not only make you a happier person, but everyone around you as well.