

# What would happen if we fulfilled two mandates from Jesus?

Should we be only concerned about fulfilling the Great Commission? As you already know, the Great Commission Bible passage is Matthew 28:16-20 which says: *"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, 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, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

Or is it possible to combine the Great Commission with the Great Commandment? As you know that passage is found in Matthew 22:36-40 which says: *"Master, which is the great command in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commands hang all the law and the prophets."*

In today's world, a combination approach to ministry through our church organizations may be the answer. Often, when a church eliminates one of these two directives not only does the church itself suffer, but so does the community where the church has been commanded to serve. From my limited ministry experience, I am convinced that we need to live and implement these two great mandates as well as conduct the ministries that we have been entrusted to serve with: obedience, (John 1:6), integrity, (I Peter 2:12), and service, (Matthew 25:35-40).

When we engage in fulfilling both commandments along with the mandates for being the church then we can experience dramatic results as recorded in Acts 2:41-47.

CELEBRATION -- Please join me in praying for the members of Cottonwood Baptist Church. They will be celebrating their 150-year anniversary on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Their pastor is Rev. Peter Wolf, who assumed the role of pastor last year. This fellowship met for several years in the home of Elder Daniel Shipman, who along with eight members served as the founding members of Cottonwood Baptist Church. GOD bless Cottonwood as they continue the work that God has challenged them to fulfill.

GOD bless you, and please continue to pray for the Paluxy Baptist Association which is made up of thirty participating churches; of which Cottonwood is a member.

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