

The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator (USPS Standard Mail Permit Number 876) is published monthly (subscription free) by the Central Baptist Church, PO Box 876, Grenada, MS. Postage paid at Grenada, MS 38902.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator PO Box 876, Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Editor: Pastor Bill Lee

billandjan@cablone.net

Assistant Editor: Laurence A. Justice

PLANNING TO MOVE?

If at all possible, please notify us three weeks in advance of your change of address so that we may keep your paper coming. It costs approximately 49 cents to get your new address from the Postal Service and that may take long enough that two papers are returned at a cost of up to \$1.50 before we get the correction. This will mean you miss one or two papers.

Non-profit Org.
Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Grenada, MS 38901
Permit No. 876

The Grace Proclamator & Promulgator
PO Box 876
Grenada, MS 38902-0876

Address Correction Requested

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him (Jn. 1:18).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (Jn. 1:1).



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

To testify the gospel of the grace of God.. Acts 20:24

Published as a mission project of
Central Baptist Church Grenada, Mississippi

February 2021

Page 1

SAVED BY WATER, SAVED BY BAPTISM

WAYNE CAMP

“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” 1 Peter 3:20-21.

The verse before us is not as popular with baptismal regenerationists as are Acts 2:38 and Mark 16:16. But, they do resort to it, especially in a discussion or debate in which they are trying to amass as much evidence that seems to support their position as possible. One of the reasons they shy away from it more than the others is that it is actually a very good verse of Scripture to use against their heresy.

There are some key expressions in the verses that that are very important. I suppose the first and preeminent one is the expression “The like figure.” When Peter uses the word “like” he points back to the second expression that I believe is a key to understanding this passage. That expression is “eight souls were saved by water.” This is a figurative statement. In Hebrews eleven we saw that Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his house. Literally, these 8 people were saved because they were in the ark. Their salvation was revealed to the world by the coming of the flood. The third expression that we will look at as we study the passage is, “not the putting away of the filth of the flesh.”



Baptism does not put away the filth of the flesh. No water has the qualities or power to put away the filth of the flesh. Figuratively, baptism does save; literally, it does not. There are other things in the text at which we will look as we consider the subject *Saved By Water—Saved By Baptism*.

I. THE SALVATION OF THE FAMILY OF NOAH—LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY

A. Paul was speaking of the literal salvation of Noah's family in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

1. In our text Peter makes it clear that he is speaking figuratively.
2. In Heb. 11:7 Paul in no way suggests that what he is saying is figurative.

B. Had their salvation literally been accomplished in water, there would have been no need for the ark.

1. Our text makes it clear that the flood could not come until the ark was ready. 1 Peter 3:20 "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."
2. Just as God's longsuffering and grace prevented him from bringing the flood until the ark which Noah was preparing to the saving of his house was finished, the same longsuffering of God will prevent the day of the Lord coming until all of his elect are saved. 2 Peter 3:3-9 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire

B. The foregoing being true, we cannot hold with the doctrine that men are literally saved in baptism.

1. We must join with Peter in declaring that their salvation by baptism is just as much a figure as was the salvation of Noah's family in the waters of the flood.
2. We must join with Peter in proclaiming we are literally saved in the blood of Christ. I Peter 1:18-20 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

What or whom are you trusting for your salvation? Will you trust the like figure of baptism, or the one to whom the figure points, the dying and rising and ever living Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ? ♦

(Lee—continued from page 10)
teach also.

I will also mention the interpreter Bro. Villandry now has working with him. His name is Bee Shield. From all accounts this is a well-educated, Christian man. Bro. Villandry was talking with him about biblical mission work and the name Adoniram Judson came up in their conversation. Bro. Villandry asked Bee to use his phone and look up Judson. When he did, he came across the fact that Judson was a "particular Baptist". Bee asked Bro. Villandry to tell him what the words "particular Baptist" meant. After Bro. Villandry explained this to him, Bee said "that

is what I am, that is what I believe". We are thankful the Lord has led Bro. Villandry to this man, who also has an intense desire for gospel truth to be taught among his own people.

Once again, I want to thank each one who has joined with us in this work by your prayers and financial support. Through your faithful assistance, the gospel of Jesus Christ is reaching more and more in northern Thailand. Please continue to pray for Bro. Paul Brown and Bro. Matt Villandry. There are many obstacles, oppositions, and adversaries, but we have the Lord's promise that the gates of hell shall not prevail. ♦

(Camp—continued from page 8)

16 “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.”

6. It was a different matter when it came to their literal salvation. 1 Corinthians 4:15 “For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
7. Because it was only a figure Paul could say that he was not sent to baptize. 1 Corinthians 1:17 “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.”
8. Men who make baptism effectual in the literal salvation of the sinner, in effect, make the cross of none effect.

IV. SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM IS THE ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD

- A. Those who believe in baptismal regeneration, of necessity, deny the total depravity of man.
 1. If baptism, as our text declares, is the answer of a good conscience toward God, one must have a good conscience before answering in baptism.
 2. If one has a good conscience before answering in baptism, we must either deny the depravity of man or believe one must be saved before baptism.
 3. Those who hold to the doctrine of total hereditary depravity believe that the mind and conscience of men are defiled and not good. Titus 1:15 “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”
 - a. In the unbeliever nothing is pure.
 - b. His mind is defiled and enmity against God.
 - c. His conscience is defiled.
 - d. His heart is deceitful.

against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

3. May I repeat, had salvation literally been by water, the ark would not have been needed.

C. The salvation by water of the family of Noah was a figure.

1. The words that are translated “figure” in the New Testament have the idea of an image or imprint.
 - a. For years I had an image of wire wrapped around a pump handle imprinted on the side of my face after the pump kicked me. It was not literally the wire; it was an image or a figure of the wire.
 - b. If I put my hand in wet concrete and leave a print of it, years later someone might look at that and say, “That is Bro. Camp’s hand.” Literally, it is only the figure of my hand; it is not my hand.
2. Paul tells us that Adam was a figure of Christ. Romans 5:14 “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” We will come back to this in our next point.
3. The earthly tabernacle and temple were figures of the true tabernacle which God pitched, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”
 - a. One of the problems the Hebrew Christians had was that they attached too much importance to the earthly holy places made with hands which were only figures of the true.
 - b. Paul calls on them to leave those things behind; they were only figures pointing to the true tabernacle which God pitched, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (1) He is our blood-sprinkled mercy seat.
- (2) He is our altar of sacrifice.
- (3) He is our sacrifice.
- (4) The boards of the tabernacle were of imperishable wood overlaid with gold pointing to the two-fold nature of the Jesus Christ—One person with a complete human nature pre-figured in the wood and a Divine nature pre-figured in the gold.
- (5) The boards were set in sockets of silver, the metal used in redeeming slaves, etc. prefiguring Christ our Redemption.
- (6) I could go on but this is enough for me to ask the questions: "Do you trust the old tabernacle with its bloody sacrifices for salvation or do you look to the true tabernacle which God pitched? Do trust the figure or do you trust the literal mercy seat the Lord Jesus Christ?"
- (7) This idea of a figure is very well illustrated in the offering of Isaac. Hebrews 11:17-19 "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."
 - (a) Abraham believed God was able to raise Isaac from the dead even if he did kill him.
 - (b) In a figurative sense he did raise him from the dead for he was ready to be killed as the sacrifice until God provided a substitute.
 - (c) Figuratively he was raised from the dead; literally he never was slain and sacrificed.

D. Figuratively, Noah's family was saved by water; literally they were saved in the ark. Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

1. All those who literally got into the water drowned.

(1 John 1:1). Luke 2:1-20; John 3:17; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 John 4:1-3.

III. THE GOSPEL INCLUDES A DOCTRINAL EXPLANATION.

That *Christ died* was a historic fact known to all at Jerusalem. However, this does not become gospel (good news) until we read the explanation given for his death: *for our sins* (v. 3). Jesus died to save us from our sins. Romans 5:6-9; Isaiah 53:4-10; 1 Corinthians 5:7.

IV. THE GOSPEL IS BUILT ON A PROPHETIC FOUNDATION.

"Christ died for our sins *according to the scriptures*; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day *according to the scriptures* (v. 3-4). The gospel is not just the story of the "Christ event", but includes the fact that, for four thousand years, God had given prophecies and prophetic types that would allow Christ to be identified and understood. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 35:5-6; 52:13-53:12; Micah 5:2; Romans 1:1-2.

V. THE GOSPEL IS BACKED BY APOSTOLIC CONFIRMATION.

Paul mentions that Christ was "seen of Cephas, then of the twelve" (v. 5). The apostles were witnesses of the gospel record. They also acted as Christ's historians, commentators and publicists. Hebrews 2:3-4; Acts 1:15-26; 2:14; John 17:11-20; 1 John 1:1-3; Acts 2:42.

VI. THE GOSPEL HAS UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you" (v. 1). Saul the Rabbi had no message for the Greeks, but Paul the servant of Christ endeavored to "teach all nations and preach the gospel to every creature." You cannot take the gospel to the wrong address. You cannot take the "go" out of the gospel! Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8; 17:30; Revelation 22:17.

VII. THE GOSPEL DEMANDS A PERSONAL ACCEPTATION.

The gospel Paul preached was to be *received* (v. 1) and *believed* (v. 2). In Galatia the story of Christ was told; but when faith was replaced with circumcision, the message became *another gospel*. Where men are not called upon to repent and believe the gospel, no gospel has been preached. The gospel invites, implores and demands a response. Acts 17:30; 20:21; John 16:8-9; Proverbs 1:24-26; Luke 24:46-47.

Dear reader, what is your response to the gospel? It is God's message to you. "*Hear and your soul shall live*" (Isa. 55:3). "*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins*" (Acts 10:43). ♦

THE GOSPEL

RON CRISP

When Adoniram Judson returned to America from Burma, the people were anxious to hear from the great missionary the exciting story of his suffering, labors and harvest. They complained when he preached a simple gospel sermon. His response was, “The gospel is the best story I know.”

What is the gospel? We will draw our answer from 1 Corinthians 15:1-5. “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve.”

I. THE GOSPEL IS GOD’S REMEDY FOR A TRAGIC SITUATION.

The gospel is God’s remedy for *our sins* (v. 3). Sin towers above all other problems. Our problems are, in fact, the result of *our sins*. Sin is the breaking of God’s law. All have sinned and are by it condemned, de-

filed and headed to eternal perdition. The gospel alone tells of mercy, cleansing, acceptance and life eternal. Romans 3:23; 3:10-20; 1 John 5:19; Isaiah 1:2-6.

II. THE GOSPEL INFORMS US OF THAT WHICH HAS HAD HISTORIC REALIZATION.

The gospel is alone and unique among the cross-currents of religious dogma. The religions of the world offer philosophy, explanations of reality and rules by which mankind should live. The gospel, however, speaks of a divine intervention in human history. It tells us “how that Christ died...and that he rose again the third day” (v. 3-4). God did not give us a philosophy, he gave us a Savior! Philo, the ancient Jew, spoke of a “logos” (Word) as a philosophical concept, but John could say, “we have seen with our eyes... we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life”.



2. Those who never got wet were saved.

E. This brings to mind a similar lesson.

1. The children of Israel were literally saved by the blood of the Pass-over lamb.
 - a. They were saved from the death on the first born.
 - b. They were saved from the bondage in Egypt.
2. Figuratively they were saved when their deliverance was manifested by their baptism unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.
 - a. Those who went into the water with the blood already applied came out dry and safe on the other side of the Red Sea.
 - b. Those who went into the water without the blood washed ashore after drowning.

II. THE SALVATION OF A SINNER—LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY

- A. If you are inclined to trust baptism for your salvation, consider again that Adam was a figure of Christ. Romans 5:14 “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”
 1. Surely no one would try to be saved by trusting Adam; he is only the figure of him that was to come.
 2. Salvation is literally in Christ who is called the second Adam.
 3. Adam was a figure of Christ in that he was a representative man—he stood for a people.
 4. Adam was a figure of Christ in that what he did his people did.
 - a. When he sinned, his people sinned.
 - b. When he fell, we fell.
 - c. When Christ died, all those who had been given to him died.
 - d. When Christ arose, all those who had been given to him arose.
 - e. Adam’s sin was imputed to his people, his posterity.
 - f. Christ’s righteousness is imputed to his people.
 - g. Adam was the root and cause of sin in his people; Christ is the root and cause of righteousness in his people.

5. One may as well trust Adam instead of Christ for salvation as to trust water for salvation.

B. If you lean toward the idea that baptism literally saves from sin, consider again that the earthly tabernacle was and its various furnishings and areas were really only figures of Jesus Christ the true tabernacle which God pitched. Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

1. If you want to trust the figures for your salvation then trust in the tabernacle that Moses built or the temple that Solomon built.
2. If you want to trust the one who truly and literally saves, look beyond the figure to the true tabernacle. Hebrews 8:1-2 “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.”

C. If you may be inclined to trust the figure of baptism for salvation consider the figure set forth in the tabernacle and then consider what Christ accomplished. Hebrews 9:9-12 “Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”

1. These sacrifices and gifts were only figures pointing to Christ and could never make those offering them perfect as pertaining to their consciences.
2. These figures stood only in meats and drinks and different washings and carnal ordinances.
3. But Christ, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle—himself—and by a better sacrifice—his own precious blood—has obtained

THE SMALLEST TRIFLES ARE ARRANGED BY THE GOD OF PROVIDENCE!

CHARLES SPURGEON

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will. ” Ephesians 1:11. It is most important for us to learn that the smallest trifles are as much arranged by the God of Providence—as the most momentous events!

- He who counts the *stars*—has also numbered the *hairs* of our heads!
- Our lives and deaths are predestined—but so, also, are our sitting down and our rising up.
- I believe that every particle of *dust* that dances in the sunbeam, does not move an atom more or less than God wishes.
- I believe that every particle of *spray* that dashes against the steamboat has its ordained orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens.
- I believe that the *chaff* from the hand of the winner—is as much steered by God, as the *stars* in their courses.
- The creeping of an *aphid* over the rosebush—is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence.
- The fall of a *leaf* from a poplar tree—is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche!

When Bro. Matt Villandry and his family moved to Thailand, it was an answer to prayer. There was a great need for the work there to expand, and reach more and more people. This is exactly what is now happening in the Lord's work. Bro. Paul Brown is working in one area, preaching and teaching, while Bro. Matt Villandry is now working in another area preaching and teaching. In doing this, more and more people are being reached with the gospel.

Bro. Paul Brown is conducting services on the purchased property. These services are not only being attended by Christians, but also by Buddhists and Animists. Please join with us in praying the Lord would save many as they hear, many of them for the first time, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The virus, and its accompanying restrictions, has hampered Bro. Brown going to the villages. These restrictions vary from time to time and from village to village. But as he has opportunity, Bro. Brown is visiting villages, preaching the gospel and encouraging the saints. Bro. Brown also hopes to be able to resume the pastor's training in the near future.

Bro. Villandry is experiencing similar restrictions as Bro. Brown in regards to visiting villages. But he

also goes to villages in his surrounding area as often as possible. As I spoke with Bro. Villandry this past week, he informed me of three villages he would be visiting in the next few weeks. Our prayer is that he will be able to go to more and more villages in the near future.

Bro. Villandry is also completing plans to establish a teaching center on the property where he is now living. His plans are to have men come from surrounding villages who have been called to preach, and have expressed both a need and desire to learn more of God's Word. Please pray for Bro. Villandry regarding this matter. This is an opportunity for the truth of God's Word to be carried by these men back into their own villages. There is a cost of about \$5,000 involved in Bro. Villandry's preparations for these men to come and basically live with him during the week, and return to their villages on the weekends. This initial cost includes the purchase of a refrigerator, washing machine, beds and bedding, as well as Bible, books, and other school supplies. Once these basic needs have been met, Bro. Villandry will begin these classes. We are thankful for this new endeavor of Bro. Villandry and trust this will not only benefit those who come to be taught, but also those whom these men will be able to

(Lee—continued on page 15)

eternal redemption for those who trust the literal Saviour and not the figure of baptism.

4. If you are trusting baptism for your salvation, you would probably also have trusted the blood of a bull or a goat to save you.
5. Look beyond the figure to him to whom the figure points—Jesus Christ, the lamb of God who has obtained eternal redemption by his precious blood offered on the altar of his own person and sprinkled on himself who is our blessed and only seat of propitiation, our mercy seat.

III. BAPTISM DOES NOT LITERALLY SAVE FOR IT CANNOT PUT AWAY THE FILTH OF THE FLESH

A. We saw in the messages on verse 18 the terrible state in which men are found by nature, therefore I will just briefly remind you.

1. We were all conceived in a sinful state and nature. Psalm 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."
2. We walked naturally according to the course of this world and were by nature the children of wrath. Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."
3. We were born of the flesh and it is so decidedly filthy that there is no good in it. John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit". Romans 7:8 "But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead."
4. The result of this depravity is seen in the fact that we were hateful and hating one another and had to be washed with the washing of regeneration. Titus 3:3-5 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man

appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

5. The notion that mere waters of baptism could put away the filth of the flesh is as far-fetched as believing that an Israelite could be saved by the blood of a goat.
 - a. Both are figures of the true and figures do not save.
 - b. Figures point to the one who can and does save.
 - c. As in the Lord's supper we show forth his death till he come, in baptism we show forth his literal death and resurrection by which we are literally saved.
- B. All our salvation is dependent on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. It is by his stripes that we are healed.
 2. It is by his broken body and shed blood that we have eternal life. John 6:54-56 “Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.”
 3. Our salvation is in the Christ of the gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”
 4. It is the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 5. Because it is only a figure, and not the literal salvation of the sinner, Paul could say without regret that he was glad that he did not baptize many of the Corinthian congregation. 1 Corinthians 1:14-

(Camp—continued on page 14)

THAILAND MISSION REPORT

PASTOR BILL LEE

The commission the Lord gave unto His churches is complex. By this I simply mean the commission has various parts, each equal in importance to the others. In Matthew 28:19-20 the Lord instructed His churches in this manner: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nation, 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. Amen”.

It should be noted in the commission, the very first word is “Go”. Without the “going” there could not be the fulfilling or obeying of the Lord's command to His churches. In Mark 16:15 we have these words; “Go ye therefore into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” I understand these words to mean; “As you are going into the world, preach the gospel to every creature”.

The word “teach”, as recorded in Matthew 28:19, carries the meaning of the verb form of “disciple”. Disciples are to be made through the agency of the Lord's churches. And, disciples are made by the Lord's churches going into the

world preaching the gospel.

But the commission the Lord gave to His churches does not end with the making of disciples and then baptizing them. True mission work, as ordered by the Lord, also involves teaching those who have been made disciples. I have been told by some that mission work only involves the preaching of the gospel. While I would never diminish the primary importance of the preaching the gospel, I do believe the commission also involves teaching and giving instructions to those who have been made disciples.

I have mentioned these things to point out the emphasis of the mission work of Paul Brown and Matt Villandry in Thailand. May God help us to never lose sight of the importance of the preaching of the gospel. This should always be first and foremost in the thoughts and purpose of all true missionaries. But once disciples are made and baptized, we do not abandon them, without spending the time to teach them and establish them in the faith. Without this time of teaching, there is the distinct possibility these new converts would be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine”.