

# The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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## Our Prime Directive

What is the Christian's "prime directive?" Do we even have a prime directive in the Lord's church? Someone may ask, "what in the world is a prime directive?" Well, if you are a *Trekkie* nerd, you know in our modern culture the term "prime directive" was most likely coined by the old *Star Trek* television series. In the fictional universe of *Star Trek*, the Prime Directive (also known as Starfleet General Order 1) was the guiding principle of the *United Federation of Planets*, which prohibited its members from interfering with the internal development of alien civilizations. In non-*Star Trek* speak, a prime directive would be the main focus, order, or principal to which a group devotes its primary effort. For example, having grown up in a Scouting family, I would say the prime directive of Scouting is to: "**BE PREPARED.**"

As a Christian and a member of Christ's church I would say the prime directive of all Christians is found in what we often refer to as, "*The Great Commission.*" This command by Jesus helps us to focus on our duty as Christians. It provides us with our marching orders in the Lord's army. A succinct summary of this directive is that it instructs us in our primary mission - to go preach and teach the Gospel of Christ to every sentient being on earth during our lifetime.

Pieces of the original statement are contained in each of the four biographies of the life of Christ. Maybe it originally sounded something like the following compilation. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you. Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 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. 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. Amen" (Jn. 20:21, Lk. 24:46-47, Mk. 16:15-16, Mt. 28:18-20).

Our prime directive from Christ calls for us to do just the opposite of the prime directive of *Star Trek* fame. We are to interfere in the development of those we come in contact with each day. We are to be agents of cultural change. We are to touch souls, change souls and ultimately help to save souls. The Apostle John's conclusion following Jesus' prime directive is a fitting summary of the Lord's order to evangelize. He wrote, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (Jn. 20:30-31). Indeed, when we believe the record of Jesus' life, we are compelled to obey the prime directive and evangelize.

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