

Study Aids
Discussion Questions and Suggested Reading
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 107

Comment:

In connection with the Great Commission and the Ascension, Dr. Paul Maier writes: “His last message (to the disciples, as recorded by Luke) was both blessing and assignment, a solemn commission to do what must have seemed overblown and impossible at the time: to spread His story across the entire world! The other Gospels echo this categorical goal: make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19) . . . Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation (Mark 16:15).

Such phrases forever set the New Testament apart from other books. Certainly, they are unparalleled in the ancient world. No dying philosopher ever uttered so all-embracing a charge to his followers, nor did any world conqueror . . . Jesus, however, was not dying. He was instead establishing an almost limitless objective for Christianity, and the only thing more amazing than the words themselves is the fact that they have been *fulfilled*.”

Discussion:

Discuss Dr. Maier’s claims in the above paragraphs. What significance do you see here? What is most important to you?

What does the Ascension mean to you? What does the Great Commission mean to you?

Suggested reading for further study:

Dr. Maier is the author of several books, and they are all easy-to-read, informative, enjoyable, and worth adding to your personal library. The one cited above is **In the Fullness of Time**, published by HarperCollins.