Fulfilling the Great Commission

Acts 8:3-4

[Act 8:3-4 KJV] 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed [them] to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 9:1

[Act 9:1 KJV] 1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Paul was a Jew and a Pharisee who faith in God was so strong that he believed that the Christians were preaching another God…

Let us consider what is the church?

Church in English comes from the Greek word Ecclesia which means called out ones..not called out buildings but called out people

We the people of God are the temple of God for the habitation of God thru the Spirit

The church consists of groups of disciples which are marked out by the following biblical doctrines

1. Justification by faith
2. Repentance
3. The doctrine of baptisms(water & spirit)
4. Doctrine of resurrection
5. The efficacy of the blood of Christ
6. Eternal judgement
7. Virgin birth
8. Humanity of Christ
9. Deity of Christ
10. Laying on of hands
11. Full inspiration of the Holy Scriptures

Hebrews 6:1

[Heb 6:1 KJV] 1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

There are two segments of the church:

1. The local church which is simply located in different cities, states, towns
2. Universal church which is worldwide

The true worldwide church is not found by man’s denominations or sperian walls but includes every nation, kindred, tribe and tongue

Rev 7:9

[Rev 7:9 KJV] 9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

The true worldwide church of today is united of all disciples of past ages, but with common faith built on the foundation of the apostles’ doctrine

Eph 2:20

[Eph 2:20 KJV] 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

1 Cor 3:10-11

[1Co 3:10-11 KJV] 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Bible uses the word church 114 times and 96 of which clearly refer to the local church.

This church that Jesus established in the earth thru his disciples & apostles was given four great commissions which are as follows:

1. Matt 28:16-20 (after his Resurrection)

[Mat 28:16-20 KJV] 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. Jn 20:21(after His Resurrection)

[Jhn 20:21 KJV] 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

1. Lk 24:46-48(after His Resurrection)

[Luk 24:46-48 KJV] 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

1. Act 1:1-8 (after His Resurrection but before Ascension)

[Act 1:1-8 KJV] 1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

This commission was eventually fulfilled according to Acts 9:31.

Acts 9:31

[Act 9:31 KJV] 31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.