**All Authority in Heaven and on Earth**

**(Matthew 28:1-20)**

**DISCUSION QUESTIONS**

1. Compare the resurrection account in each of the Gospels (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20). What is similar? What is different? In what way(s) do the variations confirm the truthfulness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

2. How does Matthew’s account confirm the physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? Review the following passages and explain why the physical resurrection of Christ is an important doctrine (Romans 4:25, 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-34).

3. Describe the reaction of the women who saw Christ in his resurrected body (Matthew 28:8-10). What did they do? In your own words, explain how fear and worship can coexist in the life of a Christian. What kind of fear are believers called to exercise? (see also Proverbs 1:7; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:17). In your own words, explain why believers are called to be unafraid (e.g., 2 Timothy 1:7) and fearful at the same time.

4. Describe the reaction of the Jewish leaders (vv. 11-15). What did they do? Why did they do it? In what way(s) does this account reveal their fear and desperation?

5. In his post-resurrection appearance (vv. 16-20), how does Jesus begin his address to his gathered disciples? Why is his opening declaration important in light of the instructions that follow? What does the all-powerful Christ command his followers to do? What promise does Christ give at the close of his address? How would this promise help his followers obey his commands?

6. How do you understand the role of fear in the life of a believer? How do you explain the tension between loving and fearing God at the same time? How is this different from man-centered fear (see Prov. 29:25)? What is the significance of Christ’s claim to have “all authority in heaven and on earth” for your personal obedience to his commands to (i.e., make disciples of all nations…baptizing…teaching)? What area(s) of man-centered fear keep you from fully obeying Christ’s commands? How could a greater fear of God free you to obey Jesus?