

circumstances, as no command had been issued forbidding it.

XLII.—THE GREAT COMMISSION.

198. When was the great commission given?

After the resurrection of our Lord and just previous to his ascension.

Matthew 28 : 18-20: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 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."

199. What does this commission teach respecting infant baptism?

1. The commission teaches that we are to make disciples of all persons—all nations. A nation includes the children of the nation. They were therefore to make disciples of the children. This is to be done by, first, baptizing them, and then teaching them. After they have been baptized, let them be taught so that they shall grow in grace, in wisdom, in knowledge, and in usefulness. The immersionist exegesis, which requires that we shall first complete religious instruction and then baptize, is manifestly wrong.

2. According to two of the most important uncial MSS., the Vatican, (B.) and the Cambridge Codex, (Codex Bezae or D,) the Greek reading is: "Make disciples of all, and having baptized (*baptisantes*) them, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teach them to observe," etc. LANGE says, this is the more correct reading, and that the text implies "two acts, a missionary and an ecclesiastical—the antecedent baptism, the subsequent instruction." MEYER