

The Great Commission

Matt.28: 18-20

We saw last Sunday that our Mission as a Church is based on the Authority that our Lord Jesus has

Authority Over:

Satan, Devils, Angels, The Universe, Plant Life, Animal Life, Human Life, Nations and their Governmental Systems, The Military and the Terrorists, The Economy, Leisure, Education, Crime and Violence, Families and neighbourhoods, The Church, Every Human Soul .key

There is nothing in heaven or on earth over which Jesus does not have authority, that is, does not have the right and the power do with as he pleases.

Both the right of absolute authority and the force of absolute power has been given to him.

The scope and the magnitude of the authority of Jesus is infinite, because Jesus is one with God the Father.

The Father has given him ALL AUTHORITY not because the Father can give up being God, but because Jesus is God.

And when deity shares infinite authority with deity, he neither loses nor gains anything, but remains infinitely full, triumphant and all sufficient.¹

Matt.28:19

Since Christ's AUTHORITY extends over the WHOLE EARTH we must go to ALL THE NATIONS, ALL THE ETHNIC groups on this planet.

¹ By John Piper. © Desiring God. Website: www.desiringGod.org.

Our Mission:

- Make Disciples of All Nations

Our Vision:

- Building Christ centred Churches that are Intentionally Multicultural

Our Strategy:

- 10 Strategic Cities by 2020

There is no culture and no religion beyond the authority of Jesus and therefore no culture and no religion beyond the great commission. .key

- Universalism is not the Answer
- Religion is not the Answers

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

Jesus Christ is exalted over every culture and every religion.

With his ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY he lays ABSOLUTE CLAIM on EVERY PERSON in every place.

That's the foundation of all our ministries and missions.

And so our mission is to "MAKE DISCIPLES" for Jesus. "GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES."

The most important word I think Jesus ever said about becoming a disciple was Luke 14:27,

"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Bearing a cross does not mean primarily having hard times. It means going to Calvary.

It means dying with Christ -- dying to the old attitudes of envy and strife and jealousy and anger and selfishness and pride; and turning to follow Jesus in newness of life.

When we make disciples we proffer people to come and die to their old, destructive ways and to live for Jesus, who loved them and gave himself for them.

Now let us look at the Disciple making in depth!

1) to be a disciple of one

a) to follow his precepts and instructions

2) to make a disciple

a) to teach, instruct

A Disciple is a Learner. A Follower! .key

- Mandate to "**make disciples of all nations**" given by Christ to his disciples following his death and resurrection
(**Matt 28:16-20**; **Mark 16:15-18**; **Luke 24:46-49**; **John 20:21-23**; **Acts 1:8**).
- Because Christ has been given ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth (**Matt 28:19**), THE GREAT COMMISSION is to be taken with the utmost seriousness by ALL OF HIS DISCIPLES, "to the very end of the age" (**Matt 28:20**).
- The IMPETUS for MAKING DISCIPLES springs from the heart of God. He loved us and gave his Son for us (**John 3:16**).
- The disciples are sent out to accomplish what God had started in the sending of his Son (**John 20:21**).

- The MAKING OF DISCIPLES is therefore linked to God's words to Abraham: that "*ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU*" (**GEN 12:3**).

- DISCIPLE MAKING is accomplished through

WITNESSING (**Acts 1:8**)

PREACHING (**Mark 16:15**)

BAPTIZING

TEACHING (**Matt 28:20**).

- Jesus' disciples are to reproduce themselves in the lives of those who respond to the Good News.

The Holy Spirit is the empowering agent for those who witness (**Acts 1:8**), as well as the one who convicts sinners of their need for Jesus (**John 16:8-11**).

- The disciples will have success because Jesus, the Lord of heaven and earth, will be with them as they undertake their assignment (**Matt 28:20**).
- The Great Commission necessitates taking the gospel message to "THE ENDS OF THE EARTH" (**Acts 1:8**), to "ALL NATIONS" (**Matt 28:19**).
- The Gospel is to be shared with all peoples, for all are sinners, Jews and Gentile alike, and in need of deliverance from sin (**Rom 3**).

- All peoples, by faith, can receive God's provision and are baptized into Christ. In Christ, all distinctions between Jew and Gentile disappear (**Rom 10:12-13; Gal 3:28**).²

² Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology

We aim to make disciples in every group and build up the church among every people.

We do not spread our faith by war or by violence, but by the proclamation of great news and persuasion and by the demonstration of love.

Jesus said in John 18:36,

"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then my servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, my kingdom is not of this realm."

And Paul said, "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh." 2 Corinthians 10:4

They are spiritual weapons.

We make disciples with truth and prayer and love and sacrifice, not with swords or bullets or bombs. In Luke 10:3, Jesus said, "Go, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves."

THE CARING COMFORT - "I WILL BE WITH YOU"

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:2

Notice three things:

IDENTIFICATION, PROLONGATION, AND DURATION.

IDENTIFICATION: ³

Who gives the Caring Comfort? Jesus Christ, the one with ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth.

The Great Commission

³ O, plead with God to open your eyes to what this means for you. This Jesus, with all authority over every enemy and every disease and every calamity and every futility, promises to be with you. O the preciousness of the new covenant bought for us with the blood of Jesus: I will be their God and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31:33)

"...I will not turn away from them to do them good (Jeremiah 32:40).

I will work everything together for their good (Romans 8:28).

"I will help you, I will strengthen you, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).

So when we face the worst threats we can say with the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:16-17,

"Everyone deserted me, but the Lord stood by me and gave me strength."

Then there is PROLONGATION in the loving comfort (verse 20b):

"Lo, I will be with you always."

Literally: **"ALL THE DAYS."**

By PROLONGATION we mean "WITHOUT BREAK."

The all-powerful, all-ruling Christ does not take breaks from his promise of always being with you. Hebrews 13:5:

"Be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never fail you, and never forsake you.'"

Then there is the DURATION of the COMFORT, namely, to the end of the age:

"Lo, I am with you always to the end of the age."

Not only is there no break in the prolongation, there is no end to the duration in this world.

As long as the world lasts, Jesus will be with us in this world.

THIS IS THE CARING COMFORT:

The One who has put all his enemies under his feet and has died for us and risen for us and triumphed over sin and guilt and condemnation and suffering and death and Satan, and who has ALL AUTHORITY in heaven and on earth - He - comforts us by promising that he will be with us continually to the end of the age to do us good and to bring us safely to everlasting joy.