

Making Disciples As You Go
Lesson One: The Great Commission
ABF

I. Introduction:

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 3:12-14)

This morning marks the start of a 12-week journey intended to put all of us on a path toward more fully apprehending the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

II. The Great Commission:

➤ See Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Vs.18

The author of this commission is none other than **JESUS** Himself.

Q. How would you describe Jesus? What things would you include in a summary of His work?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(John 1:1)

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:17-18)

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. - Revelation 1:17-18

- Q. Verse 19 makes it clear that the Great Commission is the outflow of the fact that all authority has been given to Jesus. How does the authority of Christ relate to the Great Commission command to make disciples?

Vs.19-20

The principle verb in this passage is to “Make Disciples”. This command has three subordinate verbs that tell us how we do that. They are to “Go”, to “Baptize”, and to “Teach”.

We have defined a Disciple of Jesus Christ as one who **FOLLOWS** Christ (Matthew 16:24), is **TRANSFORMED** by Christ (Luke 6:40), **OBEYS** Christ (John 14:15), and is **ON MISSION** with Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) to multiply more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

- The command to “Go” can more literally be translated by the phrase “as you go”. It is a call for Christ-followers to live **MISSIONALLY** wherever they are and in whatever they are doing.

¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

- The command to “Baptize” refers to the evangelization and **CONVERSION** of unbelievers.

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

- The command to “Teach” refers to the active and intentional **MATURING** of the new convert into Christlikeness.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

We have sought to capture the Great Commission imperatives in our mission statement which says the following, “Breesport Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making **MORE** and **BETTER** Disciples of Christ.”

Q. What are the dangers of focusing on only one or the other components of the Great Commission (evangelism or discipleship)?

Q. What are some practical things we can do to be effective at both as we “go” about our everyday lives?

III. Conclusion:

The Scriptures make a number of things clear concerning Jesus and the Church. It belongs to Him (Colossians 1:18). He’s building it right now (Matthew 16:18). He loves it as a husband loves his bride (Ephesians 5:25). He’s given it orders to obey (Matt. 28:18-20).

Jesus doesn’t make suggestions. He gives commands. His command to the church is the make disciples. All of the blessings of God in terms of people, talents, and treasure are to be used to this one supreme end. Therefore, the purpose of this course is to equip believers to be able to make disciples who can also make disciples. We cannot afford to fail at this task. It is the primary reason we are here.

IV. Homework:

Memorize the church’s mission statement

Memory Verse for the week:

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¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-19)