

*“Go Therefore and Make Disciples of All the Nations”*

Matthew 28:16-20

In the command to make disciples, the church is engaged in the campaign for world conquest. Matthew 28:16-20 provides the people of God with a divine pattern for expanding the work of God. There is no guess work involved. Anything other than this is less than what we should be about. The mission can be more than this, but it can never be less than this. We must come face-to-face with the bottom line. All things are to be sourced in and flowing from the command to make disciples.

Jesus has every right to do and say as He does. This right has been secured by Him through birth, through obedience, and through inheritance.

There are three salient features in the three verses that follow and have been the subject of many studies.

I. The power of our Lord is highlighted (v. 18).

A. This power is regal (“All authority”)

B. This power is universal (“In heaven and on earth”)

The means whereby this authority is exercised over the inhabitants of the earth is expressed in verse 19. It is through the disciple making process that what is stated in verse 18 becomes a reality in verse 19.

II. The program of our Lord is described (v. 19).

A. This program is intentional (“Make disciples”)

“The heart of the commission is in the one word [make disciples].” (Lenski, Matthew, 1172).

As a fellowship, we wish to have real strength, real muscle, real health and this only comes through the disciple making process.

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B. This program is inclusive (“Of all the nations”)

For us to make disciples of all the nations, we must be going. It is absolutely crucial that we endeavor to make disciples of all nations beginning in our Jerusalem.

God will keep His word. There will be worshippers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation who will kneel before His throne in holy and unadulterated worship.

III. The presence of our Lord is guaranteed (v. 20).

A. This presence is personal (“With you always”)

B. This presence is perpetual (“Even to the end of the age”)

His power guarantees that every resource has been made available to insure the success of the mission. His program guarantees that instruction has been given and direction is clear. We will never have to wonder if we are doing the right thing. His presence guarantees that we will never be left to feel that we have been abandoned by God. What an exciting thought!