

The Great Commission

Earl Haynes
Capstone Course for MA and MDIV
Professor: Dr. Iria Abram
Beulah Heights University
Fall 2017

Abstract

Topic: Exploring and developing the Bible verse Matthew 28:19, commonly referred to as the "Great Commission". The verse has a deeper implication than what is normally given to it.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

Application and understanding this key verse takes on many different meanings. There is the period and time that this command was issued and how it is applied and viewed today.

Jesus has been crucified and his followers as well as his selected disciples are very despondent that their leader has been crucified and buried. The disciples are gathered on the mountains of Galilee when he appeared to them and announced that all authority had been given Him. And based on that Jesus says "Therefore" make disciples.

The command has an ongoing responsibility on those who seek to be disciples and their response should require action on the part of the disciple maker and the one being made a disciple. It is not just enough to tell the new comer about Jesus but the disciple maker must become involved in the new comers life and their spiritual development. There is more to make and becoming a disciple beyond the words it is, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Jesus told us explicitly what to do. We have a manual, just like the car owner. He told us, as disciples, to make disciples. Not converts to Christianity, nor to some particular "faith and practice." He did not tell us to arrange for people to "get in" or "make the cut" after they die, nor eliminate the various brutal forms of injustice, nor to produce and maintain "successful" churches. These are good things and he had something to say about them. They will certainly happen if—but only if—we are (his constant apprentices) and do (make constant apprentices)

what he told us to be and do. If we just do this, it will little matter what else we do or do not do.¹

¹ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*, (New York: HarperCollins, 2006), xii.

Bibliography

- Bahr, Ann Marie B. *Christianity: The Illustrated Guide to 2,000 Years of the Christian Faith*. North Narrabeen, NSW: Millennium House Pty Ltd, 2011.
- Ehrman, Bart D. *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014.
- Grudem, Wayne. *An Analysis of More Than 100 Disputed Questions: Evangelical Feminism & Biblical Truth*. Sisters: Multnomah Publishers, 2004.
- Hayes, John H. and Carl R. Holladay. *Biblical Exegesis: A Beginner's Handbook*. Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.\
- Kouzes, James M., Barry Z. Posner, John C. Maxwell, David McAllister-Wilson, Patrick Lencioni, Nancy Ortberg and Ken Blanchard. *Christian Reflections on Leadership the Challenge*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, 2004.
- Ogden, Greg. *Essential Guide to Becoming a Disciple*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016.
- Robbins, Vernon K. *Exploring the Texture of Texts: A Guide to Socio-Rhetorical Interpretation*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1996.
- Sande, Ken,. *The Peace Maker*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2004.\
- Tiffany, Frederick C and Sharon H. Ringe. *Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Townes, Emilie M. *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspective on Evil and Suffering*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1993.
- Trull, Joe E. and James E. Carter. *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation For Church Leaders*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing Group, 2004.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014.
- Wogaman, Philip J, and Douglas M Strong. *Reading in Christian Ethics*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.