

# The Great Commission

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*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

—Matthew 28:18-20

When Christ’s redemptive work was complete, he gathered his disciples and, with “all authority in heaven and earth”, commissioned them (and every subsequent generation) to get serious about their job of propagating the gospel (*Mt. 28:18-20*). The central verb of this passage is straightforward and notably uncomplicated: “make disciples”! Between the two advents of Christ, His followers are to be busy “making” more Christ-followers.

The three participles that surround the central verb are helpful in showing us how this gets done. Firstly, we are to be “baptizing”. Of course, the “baptism” (i.e., “place into”) that saves, is when people repent of their sins, trust Christ and by God’s grace, are “placed into” a genuine relationship with God. That transaction is then symbolized by being ceremonially “placed into” water as a rite initiation into God’s family. Secondly, we are to be “teaching them to observe all that Christ commanded”. All the followers of Christ with whom we associate, are to be continually encouraged and exhorted to “follow Christ” in their words, thoughts, and behavior. Lastly, the first century disciples had been thoroughly equipped by Christ to “get out there” and make more disciples. (“Go” translates a third Greek participle.)

The preparation to their “going” included training in the message and meaning of the gospel, and a lot of time learning that Christ commanded. In short, to “make disciples”, we must be engaged in “reaching” people for Christ, “teaching” people to be like Christ, and training people to serve Christ. Jesus gave us a clear assignment and promises ‘to be with’ us until it’s done. So, let’s get/go to work.

**Jesus, you have called us to follow in Your footsteps and to lead others to do the same. Let Your Great Commission shape my day today...Amen.**

