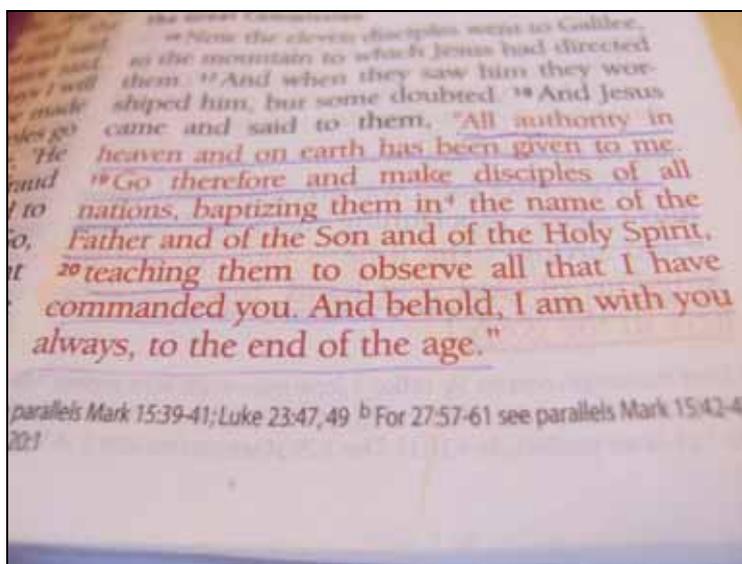


Study 20

The Commission

JESUS

commanded



What does Jesus want *us* to do? We end this series where we started: *The Great Commission*. Evangelism is the central *task* of the Great Commission but it is not *central* to the Great Commission. Christ is. The Great Commission is not just about reaching people for Christ, rather, it is about giving Christ the honour and glory that He deserves. Read Matthew 28:17-20.

1. How much of what we do according to 1Corinthians 10:31 should be about giving Christ glory? Does this mean being more or less “religious”?
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THE GREAT COMMISSION STARTS WITH DISCIPLES

2. Can you be a Christian and not be a *disciple* of Christ? Explain.
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A disciple is a learner. A disciple is a follower. A disciple is a servant. Being *discipled* involves being taught, being led, and being corrected.

3. How did Jesus disciple his disciples?
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Would you have liked to have been discipled by Jesus? Explain.

The primary role for Christian discipleship rests with Christian parents (Eph. 6:4). The home of Christians is meant to be a discipleship-centre!

4. How does Hebrews 12:5-11 support this?
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5. Note Matthew 28:18-20. Who are we commissioned to disciple?
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Over the next few years consider how you can involve yourself with as many other Christians as possible in discipling people in Christ. Ultimately our discipling influence is commissioned to affect entire nations.

BAPTISING

While I don't think that "*making a decision for Christ*" is entirely irrelevant, it is curious that nowhere in the New Testament does it appeal to anyone to "make a decision". In fact, Scripture says that an unsaved person cannot *decide* to follow Christ because they are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-4) and blind (2Cor. 4:4).

6. How then, according to Ephesians 2:5 are we converted to Christianity?
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Because salvation is entirely the gift of God, there is nothing we can do to earn it or deserve it. This is why salvation is by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9).

7. Why then should Christians be baptised? (Note Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; 1Peter 3:21)
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TEACHING

The goal of Christian teaching is to make the Bible (1) known, (2) understood, and (3) applied.

8. According to 1Timothy 3:16-17, why is the Bible so special?
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Paul wrote to Timothy that the reading of *Scripture* should be integral to the public worship service of the Church (1Tim. 4:13).

Our goal as teachers of God's Word is to make sure that we are doing 1, 2, 3. Only 2% of all Christians have ever read their Bibles through from cover to cover. At a recent youth pastors' conference a quick show of hands revealed that none of those present had read all four of the Gospels! It is my prayer that our church will be disciplined into daily readers of the Bible. It is also my prayer that the Bible teachers within our church will be able to give the supplementary backgrounds to God's Word that will enable us to understand it better. It is then my prayer that the pastors and leaders within our church will help us to *live* the teachings of the Bible.

9. What is the outstanding characteristic of the Christian who knows, understands and applies the Bible to their life? (Col. 3:14; 1John 2:5)

10. As our church grows in our knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible, how might we as a church change?

11. Similarly, what sort of impact upon our community could we likely expect if our church becomes more Biblically literate (1√, 2√, 3√)? (Note John 13:35)

The Great Commission should be the reason why we draw breath. We should acknowledge that we are alive for God's glory and that He was given, and will give, us everything we need to fulfil it. May God help us to become a Great Commission Community where we love, accept, affirm people and yet disciple.

Amen.