

## The Great Commission Part 2 - Titus 2 - 2015-01-04

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:39-40

Scripture Reading: Psalm 37:1-11

Sermon: "The Great Commission - Part 2" Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Tim 5:10, 14; Titus 2:4-5

Benediction: Psalm 37:23-27

### INTRODUCTION

Announce the text as being from Matthew chapter 5

In the "great commission," our Lord Jesus told His church to "Go make disciples of all nations." He also told His church to two things to people who become disciples: to baptize them, and to teach them. But we're working right now on just that first part: "Go make disciples of all nations."

We learned together last time that when the Lord Jesus told His church to "make disciples" He meant that His church should preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name. By the grace of God, and by the power of His Holy Spirit regenerating their hearts, sinners all over the world who hear that preaching will believe in Him, and so become His disciples.

Today we take up the issue of applying that commission of the Lord to His church to ourselves individually. We are, together, Christ's church, and His church is to preach the gospel, so as to make disciples for Him. But each of us only can act individually. What is each of us to do, individually, as part of the whole church preaching the gospel to make disciples for Christ?

"I heard in the sermon that as the church we are supposed to go make disciples of all nations. But what does that mean I am supposed to do tomorrow morning?"

With that question, we look to the Lord's apostles, to the letters they wrote the churches, the epistles---the several letters of Paul and the letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude. We look in the epistles and ask about the great commission.

Is the individual Christian supposed to "go"? The Lord Jesus commissioned His church to "go" make disciples. Did His apostles then teach me, as an individual, to "go"?

No. As the Lord's apostles wrote their letters, they did not tell us as individual Christians to "go." That instruction is not there. Anything like, "Our Savior told us to go, so let every one of you go" is not there. In the pastoral epistles, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus, where pastors are told what to command the church, there is nothing like, "Titus, you must teach all our people to go. Tell

the older men to go, and tell the younger men to go. Tell slaves to go. Tell husbands to go. Tell the wives to go. Tell children they need to go." It's not there. That is not in the bible.

Is the individual Christian supposed to "make disciples"? The Lord Jesus commissioned His church to "make disciples." Did His apostles then teach me, as an individual, to "make disciples"?

No. As the Lord's apostles wrote to us in their letters, they did not tell us as individual Christians to "make disciples." That instruction is not there.

-Can you remember the passage in 1 Corinthians where Paul wrote, "Let everyone who believes in Christ make disciples"? Of course not---there isn't one.

-Can you remember in James 1, where James wrote, "Pure and undefiled religion before God is this: to make disciples." No, that's not there either.

-Does it say in Hebrews 13, "Do not forget to make disciples"? No.

Okay, we learned that when the Lord Jesus said, "make disciples," he meant for the church to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Did His apostles then teach me, as an individual, to "preach repentance and forgiveness of sins"?

No. As the Lord's apostles wrote to us in their letters, they did not tell us as individual Christians to preach the gospel. Certainly they said that they, the apostles preached, and certainly Paul commanded Timothy to preach the word. But did the apostles tell every Christian that he must preach the gospel?

-Does it say in Colossians 4, "Continue earnestly in prayer, and in preaching the gospel"? No.

-Does it say in Jude, "Beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith, and preach the gospel." No.

I trust that you will look for yourselves later, maybe even this afternoon and evening. Page through your bible, or use a concordance, or your phone's bible app or your computer bible program. Examine the scriptures to see whether or not this thing I'm saying is true. I testify that it is true. The Lord's apostles wrote letters to the churches, explaining what the Lord Jesus has done for us, and applying His commandments to us as individual Christians. And in all of those letters they never once told the individual Christian to go, or to make disciples or to preach the gospel.

We cannot get at our question by that method, looking for the apostles to tell us to "go" or to "make disciples" or to "preach." They do not tell us as individuals to do those things.

So, we still have the question before us, “In order to obey that first part of the great commission that our dear Savior gave His church, ‘make disciples,’ what am I, myself supposed to do?”

Allow me to lay before you a way to that answer. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, spoke the great commission at different times in different terms. Of course He was always commanding His church the same things, but He put it differently at various times. There is a place He spoke that first part of the church’s great commission in terms that His apostles then expounded and applied for individual Christians in their letters. If we look at the great commission in those terms, we’ll see how our Lord commands us as individuals to fulfill that first part of the great commission.

**Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the individual Christian makes disciples largely by living a life of good works, which good works endorse the gospel message when it is preached.**

TEXT: Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (15) Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. (16) Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your GOOD WORKS [G2570 kala G2041 erga] and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

BODY:

**Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the individual Christian makes disciples largely by living a life of good works, which good works endorse the gospel message when it is preached.**

- I. See how when the Lord Jesus said “You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before men” He did indeed mean the same thing as when He said, “make disciples of all nations” and the same as when He said to preach repentance and forgiveness in His name
  - A. Luke 1:76-79 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, (77) **To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,** (78) Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; (79) **To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.**"
    1. the thing is stated plainly first (77)
    2. then two metaphors are used
      - a) give light to those who sit in darkness (79a)
      - b) to guide feet into the way of peace (79b)

- B. Acts 26:17-18 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the **Gentiles, to whom I now send you**, (18) to open their eyes, in order **to turn them from darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive **forgiveness of sins** and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
- II. See how the Savior took the figurative language "let your light shine" and explained it in plain language as "good works"
- III. We need this explained to us
  - A. How can preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins be equated with doing good works?
  - B. What constitutes good works?
  - C. I told you earlier that the apostles do not take up the language of the great commission, "go make disciples" and apply it to us as individual Christians; but he definitely do take up this language of good works and explain and apply it to us as individual Christians
- IV. The apostle Peter's doctrine in 1 Peter 2:11-3:2
  - A. (12) **having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your GOOD WORKS [G2570 *kalon* G2041 *ergon*] which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**
    - 1. The apostle here is taking the brief statement of the Lord Jesus and expanding it for us, applying it to us
    - 2. by "day of visitation" is meant when the Lord sends the preaching of the gospel, accompanied by His Holy Spirit at work in the heart
  - B. Good works have the general characteristic of being an abstaining from fleshly lusts, from the passions of the flesh, from the sinful desires (2:11)
  - C. These good works consist generally in submitting to authority
    - 1. each of us to the government authorities (2:13-14)
      - a) higher
      - b) lower
    - 2. the servant to his master (2:18)
      - a) we find application in "employer to his boss"
    - 3. the wife to her own husband (3:1)
  - D. These good works produce the effect of endorsing the preached gospel
    - 1. sometimes just as far as silencing the gospel's critics (2:15)
    - 2. sometimes as far as winning over an unbeliever to faith in Jesus Christ (3:1)
  - E. So, Peter teaches us that if we as individuals would obey the Lord's great commission, to go make disciples of all nations by preaching the gospel, we do it largely by the good works of living in submission to authorities
- V. The apostle Paul's doctrine in titus 2:1-3:15
  - A. First, let's see if the Lord Jesus' theme of "good works" is what Paul is talking about in this passage

1. 2:7 Titus is told to show himself a pattern of good works
  2. 2:14 the Lord Jesus is so working in us as to make us zealous for good works
  3. 3:8 Titus should constantly affirm that God has saved us by His grace through Jesus Christ, so that those who believe in God should be careful to maintain good works
  4. 3:14 Titus is told that our people must learn to maintain good works
  5. in each of these places the apostle Paul uses exactly the words of Christ, "good works"
- B. Paul does not in this place talk about good works as having the general characteristic of being an abstaining from fleshly desires; he certainly does so elsewhere, as Galatians chapter 5
- C. Peter taught us that these good works consist largely in submitting to authority. Would you be surprised if Paul does, too?
1. the wife to her own husband (2:5)
  2. the servant to his master (2:9)
  3. each of us to the government authorities (3:1)
- D. Peter taught us that these good works of submission to authority have the effect of endorsing the preached gospel; would you be surprised to find Paul writing the same thing? Let's see how he put it to us.
1. 2:5 these good works silence the gospel's critics
  2. 2:10 these good works adorn the gospel
- E. So, as does Peter, so does Paul teach us that if we as individuals would obey the Lord's great commission, to go make disciples of all nations by preaching the gospel, we do it largely by the good works of living in submission to authorities

## CONCLUSION

**Our Lord Jesus teaches us that the individual Christian makes disciples largely by living a life of good works, which endorse the gospel message when it is preached.**

John Broadus quoting Cornelius Tyree, a Baptist pastor in Virginia in the 1800s, from his book *The Living Epistle*. The best commentary on the Bible the world has ever seen is a holy life. The most eloquent sermon in behalf of the gospel that the world has ever heard is a uniform, active piety. The best version of the written truth that has ever been made is a consistent religious example. The Christian whose light thus shines not only correctly renders, but beautifies the sacred text..... While the truth is being read from the Bible, and proclaimed from the pulpit, let all the members of our churches second and enforce that truth by the silent eloquence of holy lives

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that **they may see your GOOD WORKS [G2570 *kala* G2041 *erga*]** and glorify your Father in heaven.

How does the Lord's apostle, Peter, interpret this for us, or apply this to us?

1 Peter 2:11-3:2

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, (12) **having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your GOOD WORKS [G2570 *kalon* G2041 *ergon*]** which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

(13) Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, (14) or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that **by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men**-- (16) as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. (17) Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. (18) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. (19) For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. (20) For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable

before God. (21) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: (22) "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH"; (23) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; (24) who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. (25) For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (3:1) **Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, (2) when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.**

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your **good works** [G2570 *kala* G2041 *erga*] and glorify your Father in heaven.

Broadus:

**The shining of the light consists in good works.** (Compare Tit\_3:8) In order thus to shine, the works must not merely be morally good (agatha as Rom\_13:3), but also morally beautiful, (*kala* here and in 1Pe\_2:12), attracting the admiring attention of others

-quoting Tyree: "While the truth is being read from the Bible, and proclaimed from the pulpit, let all the members of our churches second and enforce that truth by the silent eloquence of holy lives"

Poole:

every true Christian; not only a burning light, burning with love to God, and zeal for God, and love to and zeal for the souls of others; but also a shining light, communicating his light to others, both by instruction and a holy conversation.

Titus 2:1-15 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: (2) that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; (3) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.** (6) Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to **be a pattern of good works**; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (9) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.** (11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.** (15) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so **that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed.**

Titus 3:1-15 **Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (2) to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.** (3) For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. (4) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, (5) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom He poured



out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (8) **This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable to men. (9) But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. (10) Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, (11) knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (12) When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. (13) **Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. (14) And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.** (15) All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

1 Timothy 5:9-10 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, (10) well reported for **good works**: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Colossians 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every **good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Timothy 2:8-10 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; (9) in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, (10) but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with **good works**.

1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise, the **good works** of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

In the New Testament, where do we see the Greek word “go” that the Lord Jesus said, used to mean “go somewhere to preach”?

Romans 15:24 whenever I **journey** to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for while.

Tucker

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I **went** into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. (35) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one another."

John 17:-21 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; (21) that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

When the nations see the way the church is *living*, they will believe what the church is *saying*.

Henry:

"Let them see your good works, that they may be convinced of the truth and excellency of the Christian religion, may be provoked by a holy emulation to imitate your good works, and so may glorify God." Note, The holy, regular, and exemplary conversation of the saints, may do much towards the conversion of sinners; those who are unacquainted with religion, may hereby be brought to know what it is. Examples teach. And those who are prejudiced against it, may hereby be brought in love with it, and thus there is a winning virtue in a godly conversation.