

“Therefore go”

Evangelism and Missions

Matthew 28:18-20

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18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** 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, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

“Therefore go”

“It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ.”

“The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.”

“Therefore go”

Evangelism:

“The central component of the church’s mission, which involves telling others the gospel of salvation with the goal of leading them to repentance and faith in Christ.”

“Therefore go”

“The divine obligation of soul-winning rests without exception upon every child of God. The Christian receives the essence of this obligation and call at the time of [their] salvation.”

Lee Scarborough

“Therefore go”

“This [Matthew 28:18-20] was the final point Jesus made to His disciples. It appears that He regarded evangelism as the very reason for their being.”

Millard Erickson

Duty and Privilege

“The call to evangelize is a command. Having accepted Jesus as Lord, the disciples had brought themselves under His rule and were obligated to do whatever He asked.”

Millard Erickson

Duty and Privilege

John 14:15, 21

15 “If you love me, you will obey my command.

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

Duty and Privilege

John 15:14-17

14 You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you to go and bear fruit—
fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

Duty and Privilege

“Today opposition to evangelism can come from a variety of sources. Theological liberalism has abandoned the understanding of divine judgment and any threat of hell. Thus, evangelism is often transformed into social liberation or another form of social activism. We must resist the charge that Christians who share the Gospel are engaging in cultural imperialism or religious bigotry.”

Duty and Privilege

John 14:6

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Duty and Privilege

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Duty and Privilege

“No one in the New Testament came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ merely by observing Christians and their lifestyle. A verbal presentation of the Gospel is absolutely necessary and is central to God’s plan for the spread of the Gospel and the expansion of the church.”

Duty and Privilege

Romans 10:13-17

13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” **16** But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” **17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The Gospel

“Paul viewed the Gospel as centering on Jesus Christ and what God had done through Him.”

Millard Erickson

The Gospel

Romans 1:1-4

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,
called to be an apostle and set
apart for the gospel of God —
2 the gospel he promised
beforehand through his prophets
in the Holy Scriptures : Jesus
Christ our Lord.

3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, **4** and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

The Gospel

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. **17** For in the gospel the righteousness from God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

The Gospel

Luke 4:16b-21

16b And he stood up to read. **17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **18** “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, **21** and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel

“The essential points of the Gospel are Jesus Christ’s status as the Son of God, His genuine humanity, His death for our sins, His burial, resurrection, subsequent appearances, and future coming in judgment.”

Millard Erickson

To All Nations

Missions:

“The church’s God given responsibility to bring God’s love and the Christian Gospel to all people through evangelism, education, and ministry.”

To All Nations

“The Great Commission clearly assigns both evangelism and missions to the church, with missions understood to be the strategy for taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth.”

To All Nations

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

To All Nations

- **Jerusalem: our local neighborhood**
- **Judea: our state**
- **Samaria: our nation**
- **the ends of the earth: the world**

To All Nations

“Therefore, if the church is to be faithful to its Lord and bring joy to His heart, it must be engaged in bringing the Gospel to all people. This includes people whom we may by nature tend to dislike... In a very real sense, local evangelism, church extension or church planning, and world missions are all the same thing.”

“The only difference lies in the length of the radius. The church must work in all these areas. If it does not, it will become spiritually ill, for it will be attempting to function in a way its Lord never intended.”

Applications

- **We all are to evangelize wherever we are**
- **We are all on mission wherever we are**
- **If you are not: “Therefore go”**

Final Thoughts

“Evangelism and missions are not for religious professionals alone. Every Christian is charged with the responsibility to share the Gospel and tell others how they can come to know Jesus Christ and receive the gift of everlasting life.”

Final Thoughts

Mark 1:15

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”