

**Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:19-20 / Acts 1:8**

**Date: September 22, 2013**

**Title: "Carrying the Light"**

Focus: Christians have a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people (Biblical World View Series 9 of 10)

**Intro:**

1. This statement is known as the "Great Commission."
2. We have understood it to mean going to China, Africa, and such places to tell people about going to heaven.
3. While this is one way to apply this command, there are others.
4. For in reality this imperative statement to followers of Christ is a call to live so as to impact the world with the Good News of Jesus.
5. This command is a call to focused living by those in relationship with God.

**Body:**

**"Go....."**

This is a participle, an action word, an "ing" word. A participle can denote activity either in the past, present, or future.

In this case, Jesus is saying, "*Going.*" He understood that life and the leading of God would take them many place

As He explained in Acts 1:8, they would be going to "*Jerusalem... Judea and Samaria...even to the remotest parts of the earth.*"

But, as they went, would they go with intent and purpose? Would their lives have meaning beyond the moment or their personal desires for going?

What is to be the intent?

**To "... *make disciples of all the nations....*"**

Going, would they do so with the intent and purpose of "making disciples"?

Making disciples involves more than telling people about being a sinner, the danger of hell, and the need for Jesus. Though, that is a part.

It entails "*...Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...*"

We have exclusively made this about the manner in which people are baptized. What good is it to baptize people in a *proper* manner that have not been exposure to the *fullness* of who God is?

Making disciples means "*....teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;....*"

Learning to live with God, you are to teach others about His reality and what it means to live in relationship with Him.

In this, they were to live with intent among "*all nations*"?

The word here for "*nations*" is "ethos." We get the word ethnicity from it. It does not mean literal geographic nations.

It is a call to touch every life, regardless of ethnicity.

Col. 3:10-11; *"have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all."*

Judaism had become an exclusive religion. Christianity is in danger of following the same trail.

The Good News that a relationship with God is possible is not to be kept from anyone.

That God might be made available to every person is one of the reasons for the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8; *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

## **"...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age**

The prospect of living life with the focus of exposing every person we can to a discipleship relationship with God is daunting.

This task is beyond the capacity of any person.

It is impeded by lack of discipleship, focus, and sin. Not to mention the difficulties of circumstances and the opposition presented by people and Satan.

That is why Jesus has promised His presence and accompanying grace in the endeavor.

### **Closing:**

1. The Great Commission is not a command to go somewhere and tell people they need Jesus or they will go to Hell.
2. It is a command to live a life of discipleship seeking to touch the lives of anyone and everyone we encounter that they might know the Good News of a relationship with God.
3. Is this the focus and intent of your life? What impedes your obedience to God that His presence is not enough to overcome?