

The Great Commission Part 5 - Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7 - 2015-01-25

Call to Worship: Isaiah 52:9

Scripture Reading: Exodus 18:13-23

Sermon: "The Great Commission Part 5" Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Benediction: Isaiah 52:10

## INTRODUCTION

1. The first week we considered this question: What did the Lord Jesus mean for us to do, by saying to His church, "Go make disciples of all nations"? Comparing these words with what the Lord said another time, Luke chapter 24, we learned that He means His church is to go preach repentance and forgiveness in His name to all nations. When His church goes and preaches, He will work by His Holy Spirit to produce in the hearers faith and repentance; and they will become disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. The second week we considered this question: If the Lord's great commission is for the church as a whole to go preach the good news, what am I as an individual Christian supposed to do? We did not find the apostles teaching each of us individually to preach repentance to everyone. Instead we found the answer to be this: 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.
3. The third week we looked in more detail at the life of good works the apostles taught us to live. We saw that it is a denying the sinful desires of the flesh to live in submission to authority: everyone in submission to the government; the servant in submission to his master, and the wife in submission to her own husband.
4. Last week we worked through this question: If I as an individual Christian am not commanded to go preach the gospel, in what way am I commanded to speak about the Lord? We found that the apostles put it to us this way: Combine your life of good works with a pattern of speech that gives grace to your hearers and has no corruption in it, so as to be ready to give an answer to anyone regarding your hope.
5. I intend for today to be the last Great Commission study for a while. It seems to me that we have one more question or issue to consider.

We have talked alot about how the typical individual Christian is not commanded to go anywhere, and is not commanded to preach the gospel. These are things the church as a whole is to do, and each person is to do his own part in it, but not to take the whole thing upon himself.

Okay, but if the Lord Jesus told the church to go make disciples of all nations, to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations,

Isn't someone actually supposed to "go"?

Isn't someone actually supposed to "go make disciples"?

Isn't someone actually supposed to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations?!?

Of course the answer is: YES!

**In obedience to the great commission, the church should send qualified men to go preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in other places, so as to make disciples for Jesus Christ. In getting those men ready to go, there is Great Commission work for every one of God's people.**

TEXT

Titus 1:5-9 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- (6) if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. (7) For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, (8) but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, (9) holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. (2) A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; (3) not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; (4) one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (5) (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); (6) not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. (7) Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

BODY

**In obedience to the great commission, the church should send qualified men to go preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in other places, so as to make disciples for Jesus Christ. In getting those men ready to go, there is Great Commission work for every one of God's people.**

- I. Those who go to make disciples, who go to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, must be men, and men qualified to serve as church elders.
  - A. Please do not hear me to say that anyone who goes somewhere to help in some Christian work must be a man or a church elder
    1. someone who will help build a church building
    2. someone who will work in the office of a missions headquarters
    3. or any number of other things that could be done
    4. I'm talking about those who go to make disciples, to preach repentance
  - B. Only if he is judged to be qualified may a man serve as an elder among a group of people who already believe and already are settled into a church.
    1. Church elders are to be chosen only from among men who are blameless
      - a) 1 Tim 3:2 a bishop, then, **must be** blameless
      - b) Titus 1:5b-6a appoint elders in every city as I commanded you---**IF** a man is blameless
    2. Church elders are to be chosen only from among men who are blameless and capable of the primary function of an elder
      - a) 1 Tim 3:2 "able to teach" KJV: "apt to teach"
      - b) Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort, and convict those who contradict
  - C. How much more, then, must a man be qualified who is going out to preach to people who do not yet believe, and who, once they believe, will need to be settled into a church!
    1. He who preached to them will, in effect, be their soul pastor for a while
    2. Then He will lead the church in the process of choosing pastors
- II. Such qualified men do not appear magically out of thin air, but must be made; of course the Lord God Himself makes them, but He uses us, by the normal means, to make them
  - A. Such a man must be born in the first place; some woman must devote herself to bearing and caring for that baby
  - B. That young woman should be trained for her duties by the example and instruction of the older women
  - C. Such a man must be provided for as he grows up; some man must earn his family's living to provide for that child and his mother
  - D. It is best if that child is taught to fear the Lord, taught what the scriptures say even as a child
    1. such a start in life can help make him ready to be a qualified man while he is still a young man, as Timothy
    2. the father and mother, especially, but also others, should teach the child what the bible says

- E. Since boys admire young men, and often immitate them, the young men in the church should be serious rather than silly about the Lord, setting a good example for him to follow
  - F. The older men should show the boy or younger man what it is to be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, loving, patient
  - G. The church elders, and other gifted brothers who stand before the congregation to preach and teach, should faithfully declare the truths of the faith, as they have been faithfully taught, so boys and men can learn them, become convinced of them, and get ready to preach and teach to others
  - H. The man himself must work hard to get qualified
    - 1. walking by the Spirit, putting to death the desires of the flesh
    - 2. studying the scriptures, to know well what the Bible teaches us
      - a) the truth about the Lord Jesus has done for us
      - b) the truth about people as sinners in need of salvation
      - c) the truth about what the Lord commands us to do
  - I. Since all of this cannot be done unless the Lord help us, we should pray to Him for His help in this work
  - J. Since only the Holy Spirit can do the necessary work inside the man's heart, we should pray to Him that He will do so
  - K. Since it is only the Lord of the Harvest, ultimately, who can send forth workers into His harvest field, let us pray that He will do so
- III. Such qualified men cannot go unless they can leave the local churches in good hands
- A. every church needs elders; the bible talks about elders in the plural: "elders in every church," so even a small congregation is lacking something desirable if it doesn't have at least two elders
  - B. larger churches often find they do not function well without even more than two elders, very large churches needing a large body of elders
  - C. if there are only elders sufficient for the health of the local churches, none can be spared to go
  - D. qualified deacons are intended to maintain the effectiveness of qualified pastors
- IV. APPLICATION
- A. see everything the Lord has commanded us in His word as part of the church going to make disciples of all nations; everything we do adds to the church's ability to have some qualified person go, or subtracts from it
  - B. if you, as a man or boy, have some sense that you aspire to being a deacon, and elder, or even an elder who goes to preach somewhere else, concentrate on getting yourself qualified
  - C. let girls and women be sure of their valuable position regarding the Great Commission
    - 1. you yourself are not told, as an individual, to go as a preacher to another country to make disciples

2. but the wonderful womanly work that you do in your household and in the church of Jesus Christ is essential to getting ready the men who will go preach the gospel to all nations
  3. a preacher going has the right to take a believing wife along with him, which was the practice of most of the apostles, including Peter; live in such a way that your husband is greatly helped by your what you say and do; that you will be ready to help him well if he ever serves as a deacon, a local church elder, or even a preacher who goes
- D. if you, as a man or boy, have no sense whatsoever that you would ever be a preacher, work hard on getting yourself qualified anyway; this is obedience to Christ;
1. you may be one who will serve regarding temporal things, that others may serve regarding the gospel; or
  2. you may be one who will serve as an elder, you just don't know it yet!

## CONCLUSION

Those who go to make disciples, who go to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, must be men, and men qualified to serve as church elders.

Such qualified men do not appear magically out of thin air, but must be made; of course the Lord God Himself makes them, but He uses us, by the normal means, to make them.

Such qualified men cannot go unless they can leave the local churches in good hands.

**In obedience to the great commission, the church should send qualified men to go preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in other places, so as to make disciples for Jesus Christ. In getting those men ready to go, there is Great Commission work for every one of God's people.**

Men and boys: so live as to be blameless

All: pray

All: teach the holy scriptures to the young

IS NOT

self-willed

quick-tempered

given to wine; given to wine

violent; violent

greedy for money; greedy for money; covetous

quarrelsome

a novice

IS

blameless; blameless

husband of one wife; husband of one wife

having faithful children; rules his own house well, having his children in submission

hospitable; hospitable

lover of what is good  
sober-minded; sober-minded  
just  
holy  
self-controlled; temperate  
holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught  
of good behavior  
able to teach  
gentle  
having a good testimony among those who are outside

“blameless”

JRY: your way of living for the past several years leaves little doubt in the minds of the church members that you are a solid Christian

The presence of multiple competent elders in a church, or in a group of churches, allows some to go preach the gospel in other places.

-five in Antioch

-Dale to Dallas

-Jeff to prison

-Steve G to Georgetown

The presence of multiple competent deacons in a church . . .

A.D. 29

Acts 4:34-37 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, (35) and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. (36) And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, (37) having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

A.D. 36

Acts 9:26-27 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. (27) But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

A.D. 43

Acts 11:19-24 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. (20) But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. (21) And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. (22) Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. (23) When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. (24) For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

A.D. 43

Acts 11:25-30 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. (26) And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (27) And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. (29) Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. (30) This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.



A.D. 45

Acts 13:1-4 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. (4) So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.