

Continuing “The Complete Green Letters”
Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Chapter 66, The Silent Minority - Pg 295-299

I. The Spirit’s Work in Making Disciples

A. The Great Commission

1. Mt 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. –
 - a. Only Command – Make Disciples
 - b. All verbal’s are participles
 - i. Go – (as you are) going
 - ii. Baptizing
 - iii. Teaching
2. Includes
 - a. Preaching the Gospel – Mk 16:15; Lk 24:46-47
 - b. Instruction
 - i. Teaching them to Observe all things that I have commanded you.
 - Teaching what Jesus Commanded
 - Inspect what you expect - Teaching them to Observe.
 - ii. Loving God, Neighbor, Enemy, etc. – Mt 22:37-40; Jo 13:34; 15:12
 - c. Baptism
 - i. baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - ii. Water Baptism is representative of Spiritual Baptism
 - Represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
 - Spiritual Baptism – The old man died with Christ, was buried with Christ, and the saved are raised with Christ unto newness of life.
 - d. Dependence upon Christ
 - i. and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
 - ii. Ac 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
 - and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, - Jews – Ac 1-7
 - and in all Judea and Samaria, - Samaritans – Ac 8
 - and to the end of the earth.” – Gentiles – Ac 10-28
 - iii. Abiding in Christ – Jo 15:1-10

B. The Early Church’s Method

1. The Message

- a. Follow Christ – 1 Pe 2:21

- i. Serving the Lord – Jo 12:26; Ac 20:19; Ro 12:11; Col 3:24; 1 Th 1:9
 - ii. Serving the Brethren – Mt 20:26; Eph 4:12; 6:7; 1 Pe 4:10
 - b. How?
 - i. Self-denial, taking up cross – Mt 16:24-25; Lk 9:23-24
 - ii. Recognition of Christ ownership – Ro 12:1; 1 Co 6:19-20
 - iii. Recognition of Position in Christ – Ro 6:1-14; Ga 2:20
 - c. How they know that they are following Christ
 - i. They believe and hold to Christ’s teaching – Ac 2:42; 6:1-7
 - ii. They love each other – 1 Jo 3:14
 - iii. They bear fruit – Ga 5:22; Col 1:10
 - d. The Result
 - i. They will become fishers of men – Mt 4:19; Mk 1:17; Lk 5:10
 - ii. They will be concerned for the growth of those saved – Col 4:3-4; 1 Pe 2:1-2
- 2. The Method
 - a. The Participants
 - i. The Godhead
 - ii. The Individual
 - iii. The Church
 - b. The Godhead’s role
 - i. the Father grows the Church – 1 Co 3:5-7
 - ii. the Son builds the Church – Mt 16:18
 - iii. the Spirit transforms the Church – 2 Co 3:17-18
 - c. The individual’s role
 - i. open or closed to being discipled – Heb 3-4
 - ii. the ebb and flow of having a hungry heart or being content with the status-quo
 - d. The Church’s role – Mt 28:19-20
 - i. Reaching the crowd – evangelism
 - 2 ministry outside of Church
 - 3 individual ministry through Spirit filled living – 1 Pe 3:15
 - i. House churches or small groups
 - ii. One-on-one relationships
- C. The Modern Church’s Approach
 - 1. Programs
 - a. Active
 - 1 SS, AWANA, Bible Studies
 - 2 Usually attempting to teach some of the basics -
 - b. Passive
 - 1 where the disciple gets to listen.
 - 2 Usually not held accountable for learning more than what will conform their life externally to what is expected of a good Christian.

2. Wrong Thinking of the Church
 - a. Only For Beginners
 - i. For new believers
 - ii. Teaching basic doctrine or evangelism, etc.
 - b. Only For Leaders
 - i. Leadership classes
 - ii. Evangelism
 - iii. Counseling – for people with problems
 - c. Not seeing the need for the Holy Spirit - If they learn certain things, they will be ready to live the Christian life.
3. Wrong Thinking of the Individuals Involved
 - a. Thinking that anything labeled Christian is Christian
 - i. Self or emotionally-oriented in contrast to Spirit-oriented
 - ii. Engage in sharing confessions, testimonies, non-doctrinal, dealing more with self than Christ
 - b. Ecumenical or worldly leaders
 - c. Compromising - Attempting to descend to the level of the people in order to gain a hearing.
- D. Where Some are getting it right
 1. Bible Studies teaching Identification Truths
 2. Book Studies – Growth Literature
 3. Teaching how to walk in the Spirit
 - a. Learning to be patient in the learning process
 - i. being established in new birth truths
 - ii. then learning growth truths
 - b. Learning to walk with the Spirit being used to bring conviction – Jo 16:9-11; 1 Pe 3:15