

THE GREAT COMMISSION

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Matthew 28:19&20

1. “Go”

“Go” here means “as you are going.” This command is for all Christians, not just preachers and missionaries.

2. “Make disciples”

A disciple is a “learner” or “student.” We are to be looking for those who want to learn about spiritual matters and answer their questions from the Bible.

3. “Baptizing them”

When a disciple understands the gospel and desires baptism, the one who is teaching has the responsibility to make sure the disciple knows what he is doing and what he is committing to. This includes: true repentance, belief in Christ, counting the costs, taking up one’s own cross daily, and no turning back; as well as the forgiveness of sin and receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit. In most cases the one who discipled should do the baptizing.

4. “Teach them to observe all Jesus commanded”

Not only is the one who does the baptizing responsible to follow-up and continue teaching the disciple, but now the emphasis concentrates on “observing” or doing; putting into practice what Jesus commanded. The goal is to help the new Christian to grow up in the faith, equipping him to “go” and work the great commission within his sphere of influence.

Steve Compton
Circa 1985