

Midweek Study

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FOUNDATIONS

of Our Faith

As We Go

Article 11: Evangelism and Missions¹ - 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.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

1) The Command

- The command is not just to go, but to disciple. The assumption is that we will go. "as we go"
- Subsets of Discipleship: Baptizing and teaching are subsets under the command to disciple.

2) The Considerations

1. The Seriousness of Sin

- Ezekiel 18:20: "The soul who sins shall die..."
- Luke 13:3, 5: "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

2. The Command of Christ

- Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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.
- Matthew 4:19: "Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

3. The Reality of Hell

- Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

4. The Example of Christ

- Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

¹ From the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000>.

5. The Examples of the Early Church

- Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."
- Acts 20:20: "How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house..."

6. The Necessity of the Gospel

- Romans 1:16-17: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..."
- Romans 10:9-10: "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (also, Romans 10:13-16)

7. The Love of Christ

- Romans 5:5: "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit..."
- John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
- 2 Corinthians 5:14: "For the love of Christ compels us..."

8. The Inner Compulsion

- 2 Cor. 5:20: "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us..."

9. The False Religions and Cults

- John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life...'"
- Galatians 1:8: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

10. The End-Time Considerations

- 2 Peter 3:9-10: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance."
- Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."
- Revelation 5:9: "And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,'"

3) The Confidence

- God's Presence: Jesus promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age.
- Partnership with Others: We are not alone; God partners with us, and so do other believers.
- Courage and Boldness: Courage is stepping out in the midst of fear, knowing God is with us.

Applications:

1. Reflect on your personal journey of faith. How were you reached with the gospel?
2. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel and for the courage to do so.
3. Identify one way you can use your personality and gifts to witness to someone this week.

Matthew 9:37-38: Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."