

Mt 28 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ 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.”

► In his Great Commission, Christ makes four main points:

(1) He is _____ over all things, including this fallen world and this fallen age; (2) He is sovereignly guiding all things toward the end that all nations become _____ nations; (3) His church is to make Christ’s goal its own, so that they _____ all things, including current events in chaotic times, through that lens, and that they _____ and _____ accordingly; (4) In this endeavor, Christ will not _____, nor will his church, for Christ is with us to the end of the age.

1Cor 15 ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

► Christ’s Great Commission is especially relevant to Christians living in chaotic and confusing times, such as we are today. In such times, it is difficult to know what to believe, and it is easy to end up believing _____.

“This constant lying is not aimed at making the people believe a lie, but at ensuring that no one believes anything anymore ... [S]uch a people, deprived of the power to think and judge, is, without knowing and willing it, completely subjected to the rule of lies. With such a people, you can do whatever you want.” (Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*).

Christ does not want his people to fall into that state, which is one of the reasons he first gave the Great Commission to disciples living in some of the most chaotic and confusing times in recorded _____. People often jump at solutions to encroaching totalitarianism that are not solutions at all, but just smaller scale forms of tyranny and _____.

Gen 11 ⁵ [T]he LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be

withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language”

Judges 17 ⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

► God’s solution is neither totalitarianism nor anarchy, nor anything along the spectrum between them, for it is all man playing _____ in some form. God’s solution is redeemed man living under God’s _____ and _____, which is what disciple nations are all about. God’s prototype disciple nation was _____ under the reign of David and early Solomon – a God-worship-ing nation ordered and governed in accordance with God’s _____, with God’s blessing upon it – a nation that lived not only for God’s glory and its own blessing, but the blessing of all _____ by showing them the way.

Eze 16 ⁸ “I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine ... ⁹ Then I washed you in water; ... and I anointed you with oil. ¹⁰ I clothed you in embroidered cloth ... fine linen and ... silk. ¹¹ I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck ... ¹³ ... You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. ¹⁴ Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you”

Deut 4 ⁶ “[B]e careful to observe [the LORD’s statutes and judgments]; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

⁷ “For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? ⁸ And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?”

► Christ in the Great Commission makes a covenant relationship with the one true and triune God _____ to being a disciple nation under the blessing of God. In baptism, we take the name of the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, upon us, we _____ that name before the world, and that name is to _____ us.

Ex 20 ⁷ “You shall not take [lit., *bear*] the name of the LORD your God in vain [lit., *lightly*].”

A nation as a nation cannot be baptized, but neither can a marriage or a family as a family or a school or a business. Yet all these things can be _____ – they can bear the name of God, be shaped by that name, and bear testimony to that name.

► When Christ says to make all nations his disciples, he is saying the _____ thing as:

Mat 6 ¹⁰ “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Isa 9 ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder ... ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end

Isa 11 ⁹ [T]he earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.

Dan 2 ⁴⁴ “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; ... it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

“[T]hese kings” and “these kingdoms,” refer to the kings and kingdoms of the ancient empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome, that in God’s providence served as the figureheads for all of fallen man’s grande efforts, ancient and modern, to play _____, following in the footsteps of the evil one.

Isa 14 ¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God ... ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

This is the heart every fallen _____ is imitating when he seeks to be independent of the living God – autonomous, a law to himself, his own supreme authority and object of devotion, his own _____. He is walking in the footsteps of the evil one. Autonomy is just _____ masquerading as freedom.

2Tm 2 ²⁶ ... that [unbelievers] may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

► Where is freedom, blessing, fulfillment, and glory? Is it in serving _____, trusting and obeying His word? Or is it in serving _____, trusting and obeying your own opinion?

Mat 4 ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” ⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

Prov 3 ⁵ “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. ⁸ It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”

This is the _____ for every person, marriage, family, church, school, business, community, and nation.

Every nation a disciple nation – this is God’s kingdom _____ to totalitarian tyranny, to the everyman tyranny of anarchy, and to all tyranny in between.

► What are some of the fundamental characteristics of a disciple nation? In a disciple nation:

- 1) All human authority is _____

and subordinate to the word of God.

Deu 17 ¹⁶ [Your king] shall not multiply horses ... ¹⁷ Neither shall he multiply wives ... nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold ... ¹⁸ [H]e shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book ... ¹⁹ And ... he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law ... ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside ... to the right hand or to the left”

Lev 19 ¹⁵ “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

- 2) The individual is given his proper _____,

as is every relationship and covenant bond we were created for and on which our happiness depends — marriage, the family, the local church, and the local community. Only life based on the living God and in fellowship and submission to him provides a _____ for these rights.

- 3) The good _____ is not characterized by sameness or equality of outcomes, nor in assigning evil to private property, wealth, profit, fair competition, or division of labor, but by rejoicing in God’s goodness, giving thanks, and inviting others to come enjoy God’s goodness with you.

Deut 8 ¹³ when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied ... ¹⁸ you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers

Micah 4 ⁴ But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid

Zech 3 ¹⁰ “In that day,” says the LORD of hosts, “Everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree.”

- 4) The perfect does not become the _____

of the good, for a disciple nation recognizes that while God showers blessings upon nations He loves, there is no perfection until we and the earth are on the other side of Christ’s second advent and the resurrection of life.