



GO; PREACH THE GOOD NEWS !

Study 16 Great Commission

In Luke 19: 10 Jesus states simply and plainly the reason he came.
*"For the Son of man came **to seek** and **to save** what was lost."*

However Jesus also made it clear that **our mission** was to continue to do what he had begun. (See John 17: 18) Write Matthew 4: 19.

Now look at Mark 16: 15. Jesus had taught his disciples how to seek the lost, and now he was telling them to do it.

Write **"GO"** in the box opposite. This last command of Christ is called "The Great Commission."
Go to your family; go to your neighbours; go to strangers; go to friends! This is a commandment to **action!** Jesus is saying, "If it's good enough for me to come, then it's good enough for you to go."

But what are we supposed to go and do?

Write one word from Mark 16: 15. We have come to think of this word as standing behind a pulpit and speaking to a public audience. However the original meaning was to "proclaim" or "announce," that is, to simply communicate the message in whatever way possible, and to whoever would listen. You don't have to be a professional minister to do it. For example, read the encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8: 30-35.

And what are we supposed to preach? Answer from Mark 16: 15 again, in the next box.

There is no point in opening our mouths, unless we've got something to say! Some churches seem to have lost sight of this basic fact. Their message has become a "social gospel," or "political," or they become stuck on a "hobby horse" doctrine. (cf. Titus 3: 9) However Luke's account of the great commission tells us exactly what to preach. Identify the message by completing Luke 24: 47-48 below.

*"and _____ will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **You are witnesses of these things.**"*

Write down 1 Corinthians 2: 2 in the box.

Now look at Matthew 28: 18-20.

!! GO WITH AUTHORITY !!

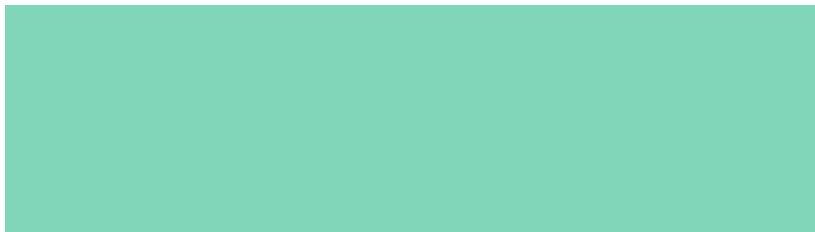
Whenever Jesus spoke or acted he never apologised or lacked confidence, but always spoke with a sense of **authority**. Now Christ gives us his name to speak in the same authority as he did.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore (you) go ...**" (Matthew 28: 18)

This authority is the right of every true disciple who remains in close relationship with Christ, and under discipline. Look at Luke 9: 1-2. What does Jesus give to those he sends?

_____ and _____

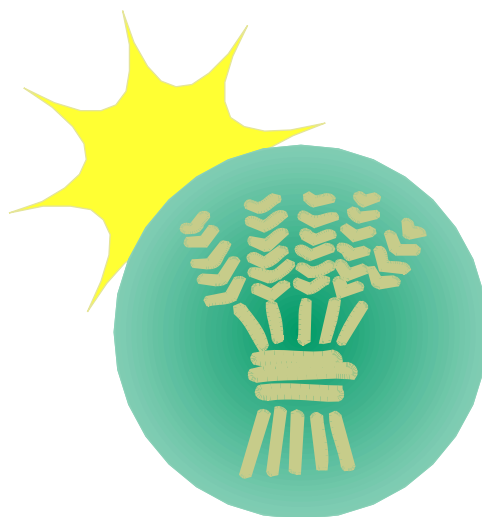
Read Luke 10: 16, then write the first half of Romans 1: 16 and **learn it off by heart.**



!! GO WITH PURPOSE !!

Successful people always have a goal, a purpose upon which they set their sights. Our goal has **three objectives** which Jesus sets before us in his great commission. Study Matthew 28: 19-20 again carefully, then cross out those objectives which are not correct. (Note: Three lines should remain. Only these three are truly correct.)

- To get lots of people to make **instant decisions** for Christ.
- To make **disciples**. (trained, disciplined followers)
- To make **your church** bigger than the others.
- To **baptise** those who believe.
- To teach them to **do the same** as Christ commanded us.
- To make a **personal reputation** as a great evangelist.



!! GO WITH URGENCY !!

Jesus said, "*as long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.*" (John 9:4)

Have you ever been racing against time to get a job done before the end of the day? Preaching the good news to a dying world is like that. The unsaved are like a field of hay that needs to be harvested before it's lost. That's why it is so wrong to be complacent, or to say that the harvest is for a later date. Write out John 4: 35.



!! GO WITH EXPECTATION !!

No one is pretending that our mission is easy. It's not. However God gives us this guarantee, that our labour will **not be in vain**. (1 Corinthians 15: 58) God's word is powerful. It **will yield results!** You **will** see souls saved! You **will** see needs met! Look up Isaiah 55: 10-11. This is God's promise to those who carry the words of life.

*"It will not return to me empty, but **will accomplish** what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

More studies (and answers) here:
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