



SERIES: Spiritual Fitness: Christian Living

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Thursday April 22, 2021

Scripture: [Matthew 28:18-20](#) / [Romans 1:16](#)

TITLE: Simplifying Outreach

What's the best news you've ever received? Was it the news of a pregnancy? Was it the news of an all-expense-paid trip? Was it the news of a job? Was it the news someone paid off a big bill or debt? Chances are you've had some good news in your life. How do you think it felt for the person delivering that news? I bet it was pretty amazing!

Well, we as the people of God are called to be messengers with the best news of all. What's that? That's what we want to talk about today. Let's listen to Jesus' words in Matthew 28:

[“Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”](#)
(Matthew 28:18-20, NLT)

You may know this passage by heart - at least the short verse – [“Go and make disciples of all nations”](#). This is the Great Commission from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The unfortunate thing about this passage is we've done a poor job of translating it. It's better translated as, [“While going, make disciples.”](#) That subtle change makes all the difference, because most people think that either we are all called to go do global missions, or missions is the work of a few who go. But when properly understood, we are called to make disciples wherever we are, and wherever we go: this means, at the assisted living center; it means the rehabilitation center; it means at your job; it means in your neighborhood; it means at your school, your book club, shooting club, or golf league.

You've heard me say this, but we have completely overcomplicated outreach. It means, living life with Gospel intentionality. It means inviting the lost into your life. It's about showing the difference Christ has made, while delivering the bad news of our fallen condition with the Good News of the Gospel.

You see, we don't save anyone. We don't convict anyone either. It is the work of the Spirit with the delivery of His Word. That's why Romans 1:16 says, [“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.”](#)

As Christians, we may not all have the gift of evangelism, but we are all called to do outreach. So here's my challenge with you today: Who is one person you can invite over to dinner? Who is

one person you can invite over for a cup of coffee or tea? Who is one person you can invite into your golf game, board game night, or afternoon walk? Find that person and invite them in. And before they come over, ask God to open their heart for the Gospel, and open their ears to receive it.

When we embrace our mission as Christians, we will win the day.