

# THE EVANGELIST



March 7, 2021

**Evangelism:** The spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness.

## *Contents:*

- Romans 5:8-10
- Dale's Viewpoint
- How Then Shall We "Go"

## Romans 5:8-10

Romans 5:8, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:9, *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!*

Romans 5:10, *For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

[RETURN](#)

## *Dale's Viewpoint*

If we read the chapter four of Romans, we see that Abraham through faith and hope was reconciled to God with the hope of life eternal. In chapter five we understand that we are reconciled through Christ with the promise of life eternal. How much easier it is for us! Christ made it so simple for us. It wasn't simple for Him to sacrifice himself as a first fruits of life eternal through His death on the cross. We would have an easier route to eternal life though our belief in Jesus Christ.

If you haven't thanked Him for what He has done for us, then you are missing the boat. Could you have the hope in God as Abraham did? I don't think I could. Sarah and Abraham were old when God fulfilled his promise to make a great nation from him. If God could do that for Abraham against all odds, then it is much easier for us to believe in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Think of these things and thank Him for easing our path to salvation.

In Him,

Bro. Dale

[RETURN](#)

## How Then Shall We “Go”?

It seems like such a simple command. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). But who exactly is supposed to go? Some have claimed that Jesus’ command to go and make disciples was only for the original Apostles and that the Great Commission was subsequently fulfilled by those Apostles. But such an enormous task would have been impossible for just eleven men to complete. And Jesus’ promise to be with them “to the end of the age” implies that the validity of this commission would extend beyond the Apostles’ lifetimes. If that’s so, the church has inherited this commission from the Apostles. And it is the church’s responsibility to obey the command of Christ until He comes again.

It is important to note that Christ’s commission to go and make disciples is given to the entire church, not just to individual Christians.

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It is popular to view the Great Commission as a command for every individual Christian to be involved in evangelism. And some mission advocates have claimed that unless you have a specific calling to stay home, you must become a cross-cultural missionary in obedience to the Great Commission. As well-intentioned as these viewpoints may be, they miss the mark when it comes to putting Christ's command in the context of the New Testament's teaching on the body of Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them”* (Rom. 12:4–6). While every Christian has a role to play in the Great Commission, we don't all have the same role.

Certainly, there are some who have the role of missionary, evangelist, pastor, or Bible teacher. And some will go to the other side

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of the planet to fulfill those roles. There is a huge need in the world today for cross-cultural missionaries, and the mission field is a fantastic place to serve Christ. But it's not for everyone.

When Jesus said, "*Go*," He wasn't commanding all His disciples to go abroad. Just before His ascension, Jesus was very specific about the geographic locations where He expected His disciples to go. He told them, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem when He said these words. Jesus wanted them to start testifying to His life, death, and resurrection right where they were—in Jerusalem.

But they weren't to stop there. Some of them would go to other parts of Judea, sharing the gospel with other Jews. But others would cross cultural and religious boundaries, making disciples in Samaria. And beyond that, some of Jesus' disciples would go to the ends of the

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earth, making disciples in places that were completely unlike their homeland.

Jesus took for granted that some of His disciples would go to the uttermost parts of the earth. But He did not envision all of His disciples hopping on a boat to some far-flung part of the world. The New Testament puts a much greater emphasis on faithfulness in the situation that we find ourselves than it does upon physical travel. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “*Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one*” (1 Thess. 4:11–12).

Even though we won't all be flying across the globe to share the gospel or teaching and baptizing in our local church, it doesn't mean that we can't be involved in the “going” aspect of obedience to the Great Commission. Like the original disciples who were in Jerusalem, we seek to live faithfully in the place where we find ourselves, “*always*

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*being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).* And regardless of our station in life, there are ways that we can have a part in making disciples of all nations.

For starters, we can learn about evangelism and missions. Read a missionary biography such as the story of Adoniram Judson or John Paton. Find out which missionaries your church supports. Get on their mailing list, read their prayer letters, and pray for them. Support missionaries financially.

Also, remember that in our globalized world, people are traveling like never before and the nations are coming to us. Have an international student over for a meal or befriend the immigrant family who moved in across the street. Keep an eye out for those in your church who might be good missionary candidates and encourage and support them in that direction.

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While not all Christians will “go” in the physical sense, we are all a part of the body of Christ and have a role to play. How will you “go” today?

RETURN