

## Sunday Morning Message

January 28, 2018

*First Love / First Works*

*Fulfilling the Great Commission – Discipleship*

Text for Today's Message – 2 Timothy 2:1 – 2; 15

Congregational Reading – 2 Timothy 2:1 – 2; 15

### Introduction

#### Turn to Revelation 2

Several weeks ago, we began a series of messages surrounding our theme for 2018 – *First Love/First Works*. We discussed the overall context of the Letter to the Church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:1 – 7. In the first message, we discussed the “first love” aspect of our theme. (Read v. 4) We stated that the first love was our love for the Lord Jesus, particularly when we first got saved – when it was fresh and new.

In the second message we talked about the “first works” (Read v. 5)

The word “first” comes from the Greek word, πρῶτος (*prōtos*), which can either mean first in a succession, or first in priority or importance. My understanding of the meaning of “first works” in our text is that Jesus wants to get back to doing, back to promoting, back to emphasizing the things that are of primary importance to Him. The word “works” is plural, which indicates that there are more than one of these works. It is critical that we remember that we are not saved because of our good works, but rather we do good works because we are saved and because of the “first love” that we have for the Lord. A first love will produce first works

The first “first work” we discussed, was going to church. We decided to discuss the importance of church attendance first because if God's people can get in the habit of attending church faithfully, then they will be continuously bombarded and reminded with truth regarding all of the other “first works.”

In the last two messages, we talked about the “first work” of fulfilling the Great Commission, which includes winning souls, baptism, and discipleship.

Remember, these “first works” are all of primary importance, and the order in which we are discussing them does not mean that one is more important than another.

#### Read Matthew 28:18 - 20

As we can see from these verses, the Great Commission has three facets to it:

**Evangelization** – *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations”*

**Baptism** – *“baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

**Discipleship** – *“teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”*

Today, our focus will be on the third part of fulfilling the Great Commission, which is discipleship.

Discipleship is the third part of the Great Commission. It begins with the learning of foundational truths from the Scripture regarding the Christian faith, and the Christian life. It continues beyond that into the rest of your life as you walk with the Lord and participate in the services and programs of the local church. The focus of this study will be those foundational truths that we must learn soon after our salvation and baptism that will give us the solid ground that we need in order to build our lives upon the Lord.

The word *disciple* means to be a learner or a pupil. It literally means to be a disciplined one. It is the responsibility of the local church to provide the training for the disciple so that the disciple has everything he needs to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **Discipleship Verses**

Turn to 2 Timothy 2:1 – 16

Paul disciple Timothy, and now Timothy would disciple others.

*"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)*

*"And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:24-28)*

*"And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus." (Acts 9:26-27)*

Turn to Luke 14:25 – 33

### **I The Commitment To Discipleship**

#### **A The Church must be concerned about the spiritual growth of her converts.**

- 1 Provide a plan for training.

2 Provide a place for training.

**B The Disciple must be committed to being faithful.**

## **II The Curriculum For Discipleship**

**A The King James Bible**

**B The Sunday School Program**

**C The Discipleship Material**

1 Who God Is

2 Who Jesus Is

3 Who Satan Is

4 What it means to be saved

5 What it means to be secure in Christ

6 What is the church?

7 What it means to be a Baptist

**B Bible only rule of faith and practice**

**A Autonomy of the Local Church**

**P Priesthood of all believers**

**T Two Ordinances – Baptism and Lord’s Supper**

**I Individual Soul Liberty**

**S Saved Membership Only**

**T Two Offices – Pastor and Deacons**

**S Separation of Church and Government**

8 What is Heaven?

9 What is Hell?

10 How should I pray?

11 What does God want me to do?

12 What is going to happen in the future?

13 Which is the right Bible?

### III The Compassion of the Discipler

#### A The Discipler must have a genuine concern for the well-being of the convert.

Paul referred to both Timothy and Titus as his sons (in the faith). Most parents have a love for their children; they care deeply for them. The disciple must have this same attitude for their spiritual children. He must pray for the disciple.

#### B The Discipler must have a guard in place protecting their young convert.

- 1 Guard them against Satan and the world without.
- 2 Guard them against the tares and Pharisees within.

#### C The Discipler must be willing to go the second mile with his convert.

- 1 He must understand that the convert is a babe.
- 2 He must allow him to make mistakes.
- 3 He must be willing to give him another chance.

### Conclusion

Discipleship is not just the third step for the Christian after salvation and baptism; it becomes the way of life for the Christian. From the moment that we get saved God intends us to *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*.

“We have suffered from the preaching of cheap grace. Grace is free, but it is not cheap. People will take anything that is free, but they are not interested in discipleship. They will take Christ as Savior but not as Lord.” – Vance Havner

“No matter how high the powers of reason, no matter how deep the intellect, no one can discover God's secret messages without paying the cost of true discipleship.” – Winkie Pratney

Jesus said:

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31)*