

Go! Our Great Commission: Part 3

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Go! Our Great Commission!**
- This is about a command Jesus gave us called “The Great Commission.”
 - o Let’s read it. **Matthew 28:18-20**. This is the mission of the church.
- **This Week: Go and Baptize!**
- Today we talk about baptism. **Matthew 28:19**
 - o Baptism means “wash” or “dip” in a religious ceremony. There wasn’t a suitable English word, so they just used the Greek and turned it into an English word.
- Baptism was part of the initiation into the group and into the faith.
 - o “Go and make disciples” has two parts:
 - Baptize them into the group and into the faith.
 - Teach them to follow the ways of God.
 - o The “joining the group” part of baptism has faded some...
 - But we still have it as an expectation for Partners at Good Hope.
 - o But the “I’m following Jesus now” part of baptism is still very strong.
- At Good Hope we do Baptism by immersion for those of age, and baby dedications for infants.
 - o I think that is good solid Biblical stuff, but let’s not fight about that!
 - It’s not about finding the religious ritual forms that appease God. It’s about the heart.
 - Christianity is not a religion of technicalities and loopholes, but a religion of communion with the Spirit of God and of living the ways of God as a lifestyle.
 - o Baptism is primarily symbolic.
 - A public demonstration of what has already happened in your heart.
 - But spiritual things can happen then too! Interesting – **Luke 7:29-30**.
- Let’s look at two major types of baptism mentioned in the Bible:
- 1) Water Baptism.
 - o Starts with John the Baptist. **Matthew 3:1-12**
 - o Jesus continues with water baptism. **John 4:1-2**
 - The continuation of this in the Great Commission is what we do today.
 - A baptism of repentance (turning to God) and a pledge to follow God.
- 2) Baptism in the Spirit.
 - o Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit. **Matt 3:11, Mark 1:6-8, Luke 3:16, John 1:32-33, Acts 1:4-5**
 - o This is a significant thing, not a side issue.
 - Special services Feb 8th and Sun evenings during Lent.
- Work through **Romans 6:1-18**
 - o Buried with Christ into death.
 - o So we can live a new life.
 - o And have assurance of eternal life!
 - o We are dead to sin, and must not insult the Spirit of grace.
 - o Then we pass from death to life!
 - o Free from the control of sin! And compelled to follow the ways of God!
- Closing Scripture: **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!