

“GO YE” means “GO ME”

JESUS SAID:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Name the last person you personally taught who obeyed the gospel.

DOES “GO YE” REALLY MEAN “GO ME?”

When Jesus said, “go ye ... and teach all nations ...” he spoke only to eleven men. What did these eleven men think? Impossible? In credible? Insurmountable? Unattainable? Absurd? Imagine that Jesus said these words to eleven men today and that you were one of the eleven. What would be your reaction when you heard these words? Impossible? Incredible? Insurmountable? Unattainable? Absurd? Or, would you think,

“yes, Jesus really means me,” and then say with Paul, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13.

Paul told of the reactions of the early Christians in facing this task, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed ...” II Corinthians 4:8-9. What are your reactions when you realize that “Go ye” really means “Go (your name)”? Read “Go ye” and think, “I might be troubled on every side, but I will not be distressed; I might be perplexed, but not in despair; I might be persecuted, but not forsaken, I might be cast down, but not destroyed.”

Paul revealed that Christians today are linked with the eleven men who heard the message, “go ye” by a communication chain (“ ... in earthen vessels ...” II Corinthians 4:7) from generation to generation so that “God ye” is as binding today on Christians as it was upon the eleven, “And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2:2. Each generation is to “ ... teach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord ...” II Corinthians 4:5. This is to be accomplished whether troubled on every side, perplexed, persecuted or cast down, “Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” II Corinthians 4:10

Does “GO ME” really mean “GO ME?”

Ask Jonah. (Jonah 1:1-3:1)

NEW TESTAMENT COMMISSION

“Go ye” is often referred to as part of the Great Commission. While it is great, it is in reality the commission of the New Testament; hence, New Testament Commission. It is the commission for the New Testament Christians to “... go ... teach ...”

Many Christians admit the truth of the message of Jesus in that “go ye” means “go me” as much today as

when Jesus spoke those words from the Mount of Ascension overlooking the Kidron Valley a short distance away from the walled city of Jerusalem, but then they do little about it. Will Christians be surprised to learn at the judgment that the Lord really meant what He said when He commanded all His followers to “go” as well as to be “baptized?”

It is also clear that there are two major efforts to be accomplished by Christians in obeying the New Testament Commission. (1) “Teach and baptize” and (2) “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you ...;” thus, when Christians are unfaithful, personal work with delinquent Christians should be a major effort to help these Christians “observe all things.” Christians are to do personal work with (1) alien sinners and (2) delinquent or unfaithful Christians. Christians have said, “We obey Christ when we have (1) a command, (2) an example, or (3) a necessary inference (a Divine implication –H.L.).” Clearly throughout the New Testament, commands, examples and implications reveal that these efforts are to be accomplished by Christians.

The Greek word “poreuqevnte;,” translated “go” is a participle aorist first verb denoting “action contemporary with the action of the leading verb? (New Testament Greek – J. Gresham Machen New York, the MacMillian Co., 1946, pg. 277); thus, teach as you go or while going. This does not eliminate the thought that Christians should specifically go and teach but does include the fact that as Christians are going they should teach. “As you go, therefore, make disciples.”

OVERWHELMING MINORITY

The minority can be overwhelming. The majority does not mold the thinking and influence the behavior of the world, whether in the realm of politics, business or religion. In the Bible, we always see God and His followers to be in the minority but overwhelming. Noah and his faithful family, a minority, were an overwhelming minority which made it possible for the earth to be repopulated after the world was destroyed by water. Jesus and the faithful eleven apostles were an overwhelming minority which still has a lasting influence. Secular history has proven that the majority does not necessarily have the greatest influence. The majority may be the deciding factor in certain legislative bodies but not so in religion. For the minority following Christ today there is an overwhelming potential. The offensive signal is given to “Go ye” and the promise is “Lo, I am with you always.” The first Christians obeyed the command to “go” and this minority changed the course of events and history. It will be the overwhelming minority that will go forth to help change sinful lives into fruitful lives so that salvation may be gained for the minority.

GO MARCHING OUT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:15-16. Too often, Christians sit and sing “Bring Them In” and fail to “go.” The song, “Bring Them In” requires going out in order to bring them in. Perhaps a song should be written, “When The Saints Go Marching Out.”

PREACH REMISSION OF SINS

“ ... that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” Luke 24:47. Luke records the New Testament Commission emphasizing that “remission

of sins” should be the goal of such efforts. When Christians go out, they must preach “remission of sins,” not win arguments or make a doctrine that is denominational but truly teach the will of God so that “remission of sins” will be a reality.

GREATER WORKS

“Verily, verily, I say unto you he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” John 14:12. During Jesus’ lifetime, he pointed to the fact that Christians would do greater works than He was doing. The thought that Christians could do greater works than Jesus is strange indeed when it is understood that the “servant is not greater than his master,” and that Jesus’ suffering was the greatest ever suffered and that Jesus’ love was the greatest ever shared and that His blood was the greatest price ever paid. This could be difficult to

understand until we notice that the discoveries of such men as Columbus, while great, paved the way for others to build a new life in the new world based upon his discoveries.

Edison invented the electric light bulb. His invention was great but it has given rise to yet greater inventions. The small tree with all of its power and potential for growth and reproduction, when contrasted to the larger tree which can yet in turn produce greater fruits, gives some small idea of what could be a great motivation for Christians to “go and teach.” Someone has said, “Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but no one can count the apples in a seed.” Jesus sent forth His disciples to bear greater fruit.

WISDOM

“He that winneth souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30. Men have been trying to be wise for centuries. Men are constantly putting forth efforts to gain knowledge and in turn share that knowledge in order to be wise (wiser). Much money and effort has been put forth gaining graduation certificates of all kinds but the simplest way to be wise in the sight of God is to “win souls.” This is truly the finest of fine arts.

(Edited and adapted from “Go ye Means Go me” by Ivan Stewart) - H.L. Collett