

# K.E.Y. Bible Study (2012-2013/Year V)

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**K.E.Y Bible Study** is a systematic study of Scripture that equips participants to become acquainted with the major truths of the Bible over a five-year period. Each lesson is self-contained, so, you can join the study at any time during the five years.

**Purpose:** To teach the most significant events, passages, and doctrines of the Bible in a manner and using methods that encourage and empower the student to:  
Keep the Faith We Have Received  
Be Equipped to Serve the Body of Christ  
Become Yoked in Ministry with Other Believers

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## Session 13 November 14, 2012 "The Great Commission" Matthew 28:18-20

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Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt 28:18-20

### Why is Matthew 28:18-20 a K.E.Y. verse in the Bible?

The Great Commission is perhaps the first place the church turns to for our "marching orders." This comes from the lips of our Savior as the call to action by His followers.

### Who?

As is the case with all Scripture, God is the central character. He is God the Father, creator of heaven and earth, sovereign over all; He is God the Son, savior and redeemer, who desires to have the message of the gospel made known to all; He is God the Spirit, who is with us in this endeavor and who will be with us to completion of it all.

### When and Where?

Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus showed himself to his disciples over a 40 day period after the resurrection and before the ascension. His first appearances were in and around Jerusalem over an 8 day period. We see in John's gospel account (chapter 21) that after these first appearances, the disciples went back to many of their regular duties, such as fishing. Matthew's account tells of Jesus instructing the disciples to go to Galilee where he would appear to them. So this event must have been about 15 to 20 days after the resurrection. This would also allow for them time to return to Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives to be present when he ascended on the 40<sup>th</sup> day. Some feel that Paul's account in 1 Corinthians 15 of Jesus appearing to 500 is this event. Galilee would be a better place to have such a large gathering, away from the hostility of Jerusalem.

### Context:

Matthew 28:16-20: This passage fits into the final days of Jesus appearing to his disciples prior to the ascension. The Bible tells us that over this 40 days he instructed them and opened their eyes to the truth of who he genuinely is and his call to lead people to know him in the forgiveness of their sins. What he shared with them was of utmost importance because he would soon be gone from their sight. He promised his continued presence through the Holy Spirit and presented to them a task for which they were to be devoted. This task has never been supplanted, changed or replaced.

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## Word Study

- **"authority"** – to exercise the power of one whose will and commands must be obeyed by others. His authority or power in his earthly life had been great (Matt. 7:29; 11:27; 21:23f). Now it is unlimited and boundless and includes earth and heaven.

**Heb 2:8** ... and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

**1 Peter 3:22** ...who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

**Eph 1:19-23** ... and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

- **"go"** – a participle, literally "going" or even more accurately "having gone." It is a given fact that we are to go and do our job as witnesses to what we have experienced. It is intentional going and not just happenstance, just as the next two participles that we will see are intentional. The gospel is to be offered to all; those who believe will be saved.

• **"disciples"** – this is the imperative of this sentence – to make disciples or learners. One who is attached to a teacher. It is not enough that we just present a "shot-gun" spreading of the gospel message. It is imperative that we lead the lost to become attached to Christ as a follower who then is a witness to others.

**2 Tim 2:2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

• **"nations"** – a word whereby we derive our word ethnic. It is not a geographic or political boundary term. It is a people group term (common ethnic identity and language). The International Mission Board of the SBC presently identifies 11,341 people groups in all countries of the world. Of that number there are 6,422 people groups where the number of Evangelical Christians comprises less than 2% of the total population. There are 3,142 people groups where no one is engaged in a Christian witness. Approximately 80% of these groups are oral communicators, or do not communicate by literate means.

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

• **"baptizing"** – "to immerse" – the mode is important in that it identifies with the message. It is a memorial act of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our identifying with him in this by our own dying to self and being resurrected to walk in newness of life. It is a one time event that is a statement of faith and a commitment to follow God as revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is an outward act of an inward faith.

- **"teaching"** – notice the order here: baptize and teach. It is not "teach until you baptize." The goal is to make disciples.

**1 Tim 4:6-9** If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

**Deut 6:4-7** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

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Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- **“obey”** – literally means to “keep watch over” (see Matt 28:4 “the keeping ones”). It is used of the keeping power of God exercised over His people. Used in the NT to mean “to observe” or “give heed to” as in keeping what Christ has commanded.

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

**John 15:10-14** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

- **“commanded”** – a term used of moral and religious precepts (see above verses)
- **“surely”** – literally “behold” (“lo and behold!”) an imperative term meaning “take notice.”
- **“always”** – wholly, completely, all your days.

**Heb 13:5-6** Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

**Isaiah 41:10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

- **“very end of the age”** - when the Kingdom of Christ will be fully ushered in. Until He comes in His kingdom, He will be here in His presence.

## **Which of the six areas of spiritual competencies is emphasized in this K.E.Y. verse?**

The Doctrine of the Church. This verse tells us as believers in Jesus Christ to be faithful to fulfill the purpose and practice to which we have been commissioned. Everything must be evaluated as to whether or not it is adding to our effort to be in compliance with this call.

## **What am I to know as a result of having read and studied this K.E.Y. verse?**

Know that as a believer you have a personal responsibility to be at the task of making disciples. Know that Jesus has the power to command – we are to submit; He has the plan in place – we are to obey; He has a promise that He has given – we are to believe.

## **What am I to be or become as a result of having studied this K.E.Y. verse?**

Be an intentional witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Be a disciple maker

## **What am I to do in order to apply this K.E.Y. verse in my private and public life?**

Invest yourself in the life of others, especially in matters of eternal importance. Who can you put on your prayer list today? What can you do tomorrow to build that relationship and open doors for witnessing opportunities?