

Audio Teaching Sermon

Message #2

Knowledge Before Faith

[**A** Intro – Pastor Jefferson 0:00 thru 1:43]

Hello friends, I'm **pastor Jefferson**, welcome to audio **message #2**. In the last message we were first discussing; *"What did Jesus do?"* And secondly, *"What does Jesus want His followers to do?"* As you heard, the short answer to the first question is *"make disciples."* We are to make them in the sense that while acting as agents of Jesus, our primary job is to first find willing persons to enroll. But that's not all of it. The second part of our job is to ensure that our words align with those of Jesus and to keep them on track once they've been enrolled. Our teaching is to match His to the best of our ability. Our secondary task to making disciples is to spot and then correct any faulty thinking, corrupted philosophy or sinful behavior found in the fledgling believer through the use of gentle criticism applied with kindly intent. Remember our teaching must be in concert with Jesus, as He is the One who in reality is doing all the instruction. It happens via the use of the Word of God, as it's being interpreted by the Holy Spirit. This is because other folks and entities will attempt to steer the fledgling disciples away from God's truth, usually by introducing dogma that at first sounds good, but in reality conflicts with the words as written in Scripture. Just like chicks in the nest, these newly minted believers are vulnerable, so our job is to keep them on track, the track that leads to their salvation.

[**B** What Is Our Real Job? 1:43 thru 2:40]

Our job is therefore slightly different from actual instruction. We are instead to be earthly guardians and protectors of the fledgling disciples, in the sense of defending and reinforcing what they are learning in their discipleship training. Our job is to point the new disciples in the right direction to ensure they remain on the right track by making certain the knowledge they are working to assimilate remains accurate and doesn't become polluted with false doctrine. Have you ever noticed when teaching someone a new skill that *"a little knowledge can quickly become a dangerous thing when the pupil is not properly supervised?"* If you've ever instructed someone in what is deemed to be a hazardous activity, like say mountain climbing, learning to properly fire a weapon or perhaps taking flying lessons, then you know exactly what I mean.

[**C** Our Job is to Reprove 2:40 thru 3:41]

So, our job is not only to teach, but rather to also **reprove**. We have been given permission from Jesus to make gentle and kind use of criticism, admonishment and even rebuke in the fight to keep the fledgling disciple on track. Otherwise, forces controlled by Satan will succeed in their effort to steer them off from what the Bible calls, *“The Road to Holiness.”* Now, look back at **Matthew 28:20**. The Greek word we see for **observe** is **tay-RAIN** and it translates to mean **‘to watch over, to guard or to keep intact.’** That’s the purpose of our **reproof**, to keep watch, so as to guard and protect the Word of God, so that it remains pure and untainted in the minds of the fledgling disciples. Our job: deny Satan & members of his evil horde the chance to steer disciples away from God’s truth.

[**D** Work Until Completion of the Age 3:41 thru 4:50]

Look now at the second half of the verse: *“And behold I am with you all of the days until the completion of the age.”* This statement is still part of the Great Commission as spoken by Jesus. He is in essence telling us that until the job is completed, He will be with us until that time. Look now at the word **completion**. In the Greek we find the word **syn-TEL-ee-ahs**, and it means **‘the completion of a joint action or public service.’** The word is only used twice in Scripture, and both times it is talking about this same event—the end of the age. Did you take notice that this is to be a joint action? We are to work in concert with Jesus while doing the whole world a service—teaching them about the Gospel. The Greek dictionary specifically states that this word is *not* talking about the end of the world. This expression actually means **‘at the consummation of the age, when the activity reaches its intended climax.’** It is speaking about the conclusion of the Great Commission.

[**E** Consummation is the Goal 4:50 thru 5:54]

The word we find for **age** is **aye-OHN-nos** and its meaning indicates **‘a stretch of time characterized by containing a specific task.’** That task being the fulfillment of the Great Commission—just what Jesus commanded us to do. When we look up the word **consummation** we discover that it means **‘the ultimate end, or the finish.’** It comes from the word **consummate**, which is defined as **‘complete in every detail, or perfect.’** So, just from this half of the verse, Jesus is promising us, He will be right there with us until the completion of our joint action with Him, that of making disciples. He is also saying that

the making of disciples is impossible apart from His presence. It's because no matter how sincere, knowledgeable or prepared we think we might be, we have absolutely no power to replace Jesus in this process. It is entirely a joint effort with Christ.

[**F** What is the Rapture 5:54 thru 6:44]

There are two thoughts which come out of this. First, there is an end to the time of making disciples. That will happen when Jesus comes to remove His church—or flock of true followers. Christianity calls this the **Rapture**, or **'the bodily removal of the church up to Heaven.'** The Rapture marks the completion of the Great Commission, as commanded of us by Jesus. After we are all taken away up to Heaven, all discipleship ceases on the earth. Contrary to what you may have heard, there will be no more getting saved after this point in time. Stop and think about it for a long moment: If Jesus removes Himself, along with all of His true followers, who is going to be around to complete the Great Commission? No one.

[**G** The End of Discipleship 6:44 thru 8:02]

And secondly, the end of discipleship does not coincide with the end of Adam's reign. These are two different dates on the prophetic calendar. The End of Adam's Reign happens at the battle of Armageddon, when Christ comes and destroys the Antichrist and all those who remain on the earth bearing his mark. Now, there will be a contingent of Hebrews alive and well, who will not be wearing the mark, and they will be safe, having been sequestered in a place we think will be located in Petra, Jordan. There will also be 144,000 witnesses, who God left in place to serve as proof that those so removed by the Rapture are indeed with Jesus up in Heaven. They will warn all who will listen to refuse taking the Mark of the Antichrist under any circumstance. Hey folks, there is so much information on this subject that I don't have the time to get into it right now. We will be discussing all of these events in much greater detail in future messages. For now, just understand that the time for making disciples does indeed have an ending date on man's calendar.

[**H** Saving Knowledge is a Thing 8:02 thru 9:24]

Listen my friends, there is so much to uncover when discussing the deeper content found in Scripture. I guess I would equate it to studying physics, mathematics or

chemistry. Bible study is also a wide field of learning. You can't hope to gather in very much information over a short period of time. I don't think it was an accident or happenstance that Jesus spent three and one-half years training His disciples. I believe it takes about that amount of time for a person to accumulate sufficient Biblical information to come to what **1st Timothy** chapter 2, verse 4 describes as *"a saving knowledge of the truth."* ¹ The Greek word we see used for **knowledge** here is profound. It is *eh-pig-NO-syn* and translates to having *'complete recognition, a full discernment of knowledge which is directed towards a particular object.'* In this case God's Truth—which the Bible says that Jesus is the Truth. Discipleship is then an effort to achieve complete recognition, full discernment, which is all directed squarely towards Jesus. Have you been doing that?

[**I** **Hearsay and Rumor** **9:24 thru 10:33**]

And the dictionary goes on to point out that this knowledge can only be gained through a *"firsthand"* relationship. Did you hear that? It doesn't say secondhand or thirdhand—it says *"firsthand."* This is an important point. If you are making statements in a court of law, in order for them to be acceptable as evidence, they must be delivered via direct testimony. **Direct testimony** is where *'a witness is giving sworn statements regarding what they themselves have directly observed.'* Secondhand testimony is deemed **hearsay**, which is defined as being *'the equivalent of a rumor.'* And a **rumor** is *'a statement or report made without having known authority for its truth.'* Hearsay is not generally admissible as evidence in a court of law. So, anyone attempting to teach disciples apart from Jesus and the Word of God are perpetrating hearsay. Timothy's statement totally supports that the teaching of disciples must be firsthand, if a person is to be eventually saved.

[**J** **Trust But Verify** **10:33 thru 11:44**]

Can you see how this dovetails in perfectly with Christ's great commission? We need to learn as much as we can about Him by studying, listening to and then heeding His words. Apart from that it is impossible to achieve the necessary appreciation for not only who God the Father is, but also for what He did for each and every one of us, *visa-a-vie*

¹ **1st Timothy 2:3 & 4:** *In the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth.*

His Son, Jesus Christ. I do hope that after you listen to each of these messages, that you go back and listen to it a second time, where now you stop the recording and look up the verses I mention, as they are the key to your discernment to be able to gain the understanding what I am saying. I also want you to go back and look up the definitions of the Greek words on **BibleHub.com**. Trust what I am telling you, but go and verify that my words are indeed of the truth. Otherwise, you cannot be sure that what I am telling you is any different than the messages being delivered by the modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees.

[**K** **Derailing the Cause of Christ** 11:44 thru 12:50]

In the next message I am going to speak more about those who seek to derail the cause of Christ. Yes, they do exist and there are actually quite a few of them. We are soldiers and citizens involved in a war. It's a war between forces of good and forces for evil. Satan is alive and well and doing all he can to try and trip us up. He doesn't want a single person to come to Christ. The devil is the one who is seeking to drive all fledgling disciples away from the truth. And he accomplishes his mission via the use of deceit and lies. This is why true followers of Jesus were given the responsibility of protecting God's Word. Jesus was attacked at every turn by forces of evil to try and stop His message from reaching willing ears. And sadly, It is no different today. The Bible tells us that Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour.²

[**L** **Verification Comes Before Trust** 12:50 thru 13:40]

Allow me a few moments to be quite candid. I am well aware that the forces of evil will tell you that I am not preaching the word of God. I know that some of what I'm teaching might seem to go against what you've heard in your church, or other Christians you associate with. That is why I am urging you to check out my words. Notice that I only use the Holy Bible as my textbook. Also, observe how I use the dictionary as my prime supporting document. And especially notice that every word goes in support of what Jesus Himself spoke. Now some will tell you that this is just my personal interpretation or opinion. Nope. When it comes to Scripture, that is expressly forbidden.

² **1st Peter 5:8:** *Be clear-minded and alert. Your opponent, the devil, is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.*

[**M** Interpreting Scripture on Our Own 13:40 thru 14:48]

With that in mind, now open up your Bibles to 2nd Peter 1:20: *“But know this first of all that no prophesying of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation.”* The Greek word used here for **prophesying** is *prof-ay-TEE-ee-ah*, and it defined as **‘the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth.’** And while in a narrower sense it means the foretelling of future events, here it is talking about all of God’s word. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon defines this word to mean **‘dialog such as with teaching and sermons emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden.’** When folks speak concerning Scripture, they must be working jointly with the Holy Spirit, who is the One that provides the meaning for all of the text.

[**Z** Some Closing Thoughts 14:48 thru 16:38]

Listen friends, I am not a preacher who is seeking the approval, consent nor admiration of my audience. I honestly don’t care what you think about my preaching, or what you might think about me either for that matter. The simple fact is, I don’t work for you. I am laboring at the behest of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I am being guided by the Holy Spirit, and I promise that I strive to adhere to the guidance of God Almighty Himself, our Heavenly Father. The bottom line is I am determined in my quest to present God’s truth to you, from my mouth to your ear. These messages are not intended to become any kind of daily motivational moment. In fact, they are just the opposite. They are going to stomp down hard on the toes of your errant learning. That’s why these messages are targeted at teaching you about what the Word of God actually says. If that sounds like something you are seeking, then please, do yourself a favor and continue to listen. Try hard to take to heart what God is saying to you, and if you will do that, then I can promise you will be greatly blessed. Take a few moments and reflect on what has been said here. Look up the verses and meditate on them. I promise that Jesus will be right there with you. And the Holy Spirit will gently guide your thoughts to see what He would have you to know. That’s how true discipleship works. I introduce the message, and it is God Almighty who brings it home to you. Hey folks, my time is up for this time. **So, until next time, this has been Pastor Jefferson, speaking in God’s Holy name and for His glory alone. Amen.**