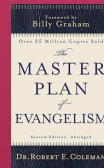


“We train disciplemakers...”



Master
Plan
— p. 2



Great
Commission
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Ministry Updates ...

Making Disciples Naturally Podcast
Oct. 26, Nov. 2: Dr. Jerry White: Finishing Well
Nov. 9, 16: Steve Faltermeier: A Changed life

The Master Plan of Evangelism
— page 1

Completing the work you have received
Goads and Nails excerpt
— page 2

The Great Commission
See the article on pages 3 - 4

Men, mark your calendars for our Spring Men's Retreat, March 28-29, 2025 at Camp David, Hesston, KS

Fall Conference (October 5, 2024): Over 90 people were encouraged, educated and blessed by our time with Bill Mowry, author of *Walk With Me*, *Ways of the Alongsider* and other books. He noted that discipleship involves walking with someone with heart, simply, slowly, deeply and on mission. The participants enjoyed worship time with J. Michael Terrell as well as fellowship around coffee, snacks and lunch. Videos (and audio) and a PDF of the handouts are now available at <https://kansasnavs.org/media-directory>. When you go to that page, type “Mowry” in the search box. Bill’s three messages will pop up.

We urge you to use these resources for your personal study as well as to pass them along to others who would be blessed by them. Consider using them to watch and discuss as you meet with individuals or small groups.

Kansas State Fair (September 9-15, 2024): Once again, the Kansas Navigators staffed a booth in the Meadowlark building at the Kansas State Fair from 9 am to 9 pm throughout the time the State Fair was in operation. Over 27 people volunteered to staff the booth and for that we are so very grateful. We gave away nearly 1000 books and other resources to folks who stopped by. In addition, we were able to hear the stories of many who had come to faith or been disciplined through The Navigators® ministry over the years. Most importantly, we served as a caring and listening ear to many who shared challenges in their lives. Many people were prayed with and for during the Fair.

One lady came to our booth and was studying the books available for a long time. She seemed to want to talk and we asked how she was doing. She tearfully shared that she had lost her 21 year old daughter to a drunk driver in the last year. In addition, she was caring for her elderly parents and had other issues in her life. This allowed us to not only listen to her story, but to demonstrate the compassion of Jesus as we lovingly prayed with her.

(Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible. “The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® <http://netbible.com> copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved”)

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil), and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death”
—Hebrews 2:14-15 (NET Bible)

The Master Plan of Evangelism

Robert Coleman

This classic little (162 pages in the print edition) book has blessed multiple thousands over the years since it was written and published in 1963. In reading through it, one sees the close connection with many of the principles used by The Navigators® over the years.

For example, Coleman highlights the importance of Selection, Association, Consecration, Impartation, Demonstration, Delegation, Supervision and Reproduction. Even though the title is *Master Plan of Evangelism*, in truth the author covers not only the initial sharing and acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but also how people grow into Christlikeness.

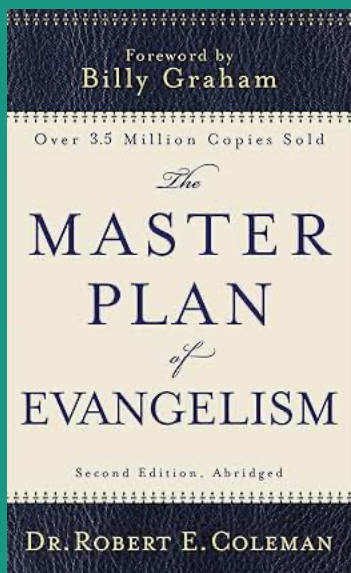
One notes the very strong Biblical basis for his main points as Coleman repeatedly points back to doing things the way Jesus did them as he trained disciples.

Here are some examples:

Selection (Luke 6:13): “His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow ... Men were to be his method of winning the world to God ... One cannot transform the world except as individuals in the world are transformed, and individuals cannot be changed except as they are molded in the hands of the Master.” (pp. 21-24)

Impartation (John 20:22): “He gave Himself away...The disciples understood that they were not just keeping a law, but were responding to One who loved them, and was willing to give himself for them.” (p. 61)

If you haven't read this (or haven't read it recently), I urge you to pick up a copy (or download to your Kindle). It will be an encouragement and blessing, as well as a great reminder that we are to reach the world and make disciples as our Master did and as He demonstrated.



Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Tell Archippus: See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord” — Col. 4:17

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 95-98)

Archippus is referred to in the last sentences of Paul's letter to the Colossians. He is also mentioned in Philemon 2, and referred to as a fellow soldier. Some think that he was the son of Philemon. As a fellow soldier with Paul, he had seen the example of Paul, was acquainted with other disciples and had been given work by the Lord which Paul reminded him to complete. Some surmise that it was a shepherding responsibility in the absence of Epaphras. Without knowing more of the details of his life and ministry, we may only speculate as to the exact call of the Lord on his life as well as the need for Paul's reminder to complete that work.

Since memorizing this verse some thirty years ago, I have often reflected upon the need to complete the work that the Lord has given each of us to do. Although differing in scope from person to person it essentially focuses on the Great Commission. There are three aspects of making disciples included in the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20) These include going (literally, as you go), bringing them into identification with Christ, and teaching them to obey.

The term “as you go” directs us to form relationships with those with whom we come into contact. This includes neighbors, relatives, co-workers and those with whom we carry on business ... Some years ago I was challenged by the example of Lorne Sanny. After retirement from the Navigators, he made a list of all his relatives no matter how distant genealogically or geographically. He and Lucy then set out and personally visited each of them with the intent of finding out where they were spiritually and building a relationship with them. They were completing the work that God had given them to do.

Although there are a number of possible reasons why we don't complete the work the Lord has given us in the lives of individuals, let me mention just three. These are doubt, delay, and discouragement. ... It is His power that will fulfill and complete His work in the lives of others. Do we have the faith that will prompt us to the acts that lead to the completion of the work He has given? If so, then we can rest in His power to enable us, like Archippus, to complete the work we have received in the Lord.

In Christ, Richard Spann

The Great Commission by Richard Spann

When we think of the Great Commission, our minds automatically go to Matthew 28:18-20. One of the speakers at the Navigator conference in Glen Eyrie reminded us years ago that it was only one of five times that the Great Commission was given. In each situation there was a different emphasis to be considered. It was the last command, and in each of these five instances, it was only given to the eleven apostles. The reason for this is that only a disciple is able to make another disciple. In Matthew 28:18-20, we see the *substance* of the Great Commission. In Mark 16:15, we see the *scope* of the Great Commission. In Luke 24:46-47 we see *how* it is to be accomplished. In John 20:19-21, we see the *cost* involved in proclaiming the Gospel and in Acts 1:8, we see the *strategy* of the Great Commission.

The substance of the Great Commission has been extensively studied in Matthew 28:18-20. The main verb is to “make disciples,” and there are three participles to this command. “Go,” or “as you go,” “bring them into identification with Christ” (Baptize them into Christ), and “teach them to obey everything that I commanded you.” All three of these are important. Wherever we are, whatever we do, we are to allow the invisible Christ to be made visible in our lives. “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.” (II Corinthians 2:14) This part of the Great Commission will require time, prayer, and much cultivation in preparation for the planting. The sowing is usually a gradual process involving patience, prayer and perseverance. Following regeneration in Christ, the third aspect of making disciples must not be neglected, which is transformation into Christ likeness. “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” (Colossians 1:28)

As you are going ... MAKE DISCIPLES

In Mark 16:15, we find the scope of the Great Commission. “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.’ ” The focus on “all creation” reminds us that there is no one who is outside the reach of His Grace. Not only your neighbors, but the immigrants, the homeless, and those in prison must be a recipient of our prayers, compassion, and communication. God has called some to travel, to translate languages, and to penetrate different parts of the world with His message of salvation. It is incumbent upon those He has not called to this particular mission, however, to give themselves to prayer and financial support to these efforts. “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’ ” (Matthew 9:37-38) As we stand before Him in Glory, He is going to have an interest in our faithfulness to his command to pray for, and to support these laborers.

Luke 24:46-47 tells us how the Great Commission is to be accomplished. “He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’ ” The preaching is to include the need for repentance, a “changing of the mind,” as well as forgiveness in His name. In our eagerness to have others receive Christ, repentance may be easily bypassed resulting in “a decision” for Christ but without regeneration. The first word that Jesus spoke when He began to preach was “repent.” “From that time on Jesus began to preach ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’ ” (Matthew 4:17) Those who heard Peter’s sermon on the day Pentecost asked, “ ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ ” (Acts 2:37b-38) *(continued on next page)*

“Follow-up is personal. It must be done by someONE; not by someTHING. For it to be effective we must set the pace. We can't permanently sell something we don't make time to get into our lives.” —Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators®, quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/24943-Dawson_Trotman#google_vignette

The Great Commission (Continued)

In John 20:19-21, we are given a visual demonstration of the cost involved in sharing the Great Commission. “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’” His wounds were a visible testimony of the cost that would be involved. As He was sent into a hostile world which crucified Him, we are also being sent. In John 15:20, Our Lord said the following words to them. “Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.” He also gave them his promise in John 16:33. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”



The strategy of the Great Commission is given to us in 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.” The strategy is first and foremost dependence upon the Holy Spirit to live the life of Christ in us, to direct, empower and accomplish His work through us. It cannot be accomplished otherwise. To allow this to take place, we must be ever attentive to not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), to quench not the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19), to be filled (by being continually controlled with the Spirit) (Ephesians 5:18), and to be led by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:18)

The Lord, on five separate occasions, gave the Great Commission to these eleven men. It was only until the coming of the Holy Spirit ten days later that they received His life anew and were enabled to obey His last and greatest command. Our relationship with and dependence upon the Holy Spirit is vital to accomplishing anything the Lord has for us to do. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead you into a life that fully reflects our Savior and accomplishes His work in and through your life.

In Christ, Richard Spann

"We must remember that the shortest distance between our problems and their solutions is the distance between our knees and the floor." ~ Charles Stanley, Pastor, Author. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/14004-Charles_Stanley