

April 2016 Newsletter

Eleutheros Books Looks Worldwide

A good translation of [Matthew 28:19](#) would go something like this: *Having gone therefore make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

The commission in this verse presents quite a challenge to those who know Christ as Savior! Actually, the imperative here is not to “go,” as some suppose. “Having gone” (a participle) in this verse is adverbial to “make disciples”; thus “going” is not the command, but rather it is the *presumption*.

In other words, the idea would be this: *wherever you go...*

The real challenge here is to “make disciples.” We are to do this *wherever we go*.

The word disciple means “learner.” Obviously, the making of learners requires teachers. Thus the command is to train (teach, disciple) new believers.

Of course, in order to train new believers, evangelism must be a regular part of the Christian walk!

Just as important, new believers, *according to the mandate of this verse*, MUST be taught the essentials of their faith.

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to two great causes:

A revival of evangelism throughout the world, and
A revival of Biblical thinking among God’s people.

It is the heartfelt mission of Eleutheros Books to keep these two goals as the highest priorities in an attempt to live up to [Matthew 28:19](#).

It is also a high priority to get such books as *The Ramifications of Our Salvation* and *A Portrait of Jesus* into the hands of Christian leaders and new believers in countries all over the world!

Please commit to praying for this!

Liberty

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed ([John 8:36](#)).

When Jesus spoke the words of [John 8:36](#) (quoted above), $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world was in slavery. The only way for parents to get themselves and their children out of slavery was to pay a great price. In the vast majority of cases people never did get out of slavery during their lives on this earth.

Today soldiers labor and sometimes die in an attempt to provide security and liberty to the citizens of their country. The efforts that they make are at best temporary, because there are always outside forces working to enslave or dominate, and soldiers of the next generation will be called upon to continue the process.

In salvation, however, God offers a freedom that is eternal.

The Bible has quite a bit to say about the freedom God provides. Listed below are some of the great truths about it:

The truth is the way to freedom.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free ([John 8:31-32](#)).

Truth ultimately is found in Jesus Christ ([John 14:6](#)) and God's Word ([John 17:17](#)). There are many sources that offer information, some of it true, but in the end it is God Who is the only One Who knows all things and cannot lie.

There are many *wrong answers* to the simple arithmetic of "2 plus 2 equals what?" There is only one *correct* answer. Truth is actually a very narrow thing!

When it comes to spiritual matters, religion offers many ideas about salvation, but God offers only one way. That one way is through Jesus Christ ([Acts 4:12](#)). Religion generally offers bondage to rules, regulations, man-made teachings, and long held traditions. Simply put, religion kills, but only Jesus saves!

God offers freedom of choice in many matters as long as it is not sinful.

Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God ([1 Corinthians 10:29-32](#)).

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him ([Romans 14:1-2](#); read also [Romans 14:5-8](#)).

These two passages speak of freedom of conscience in Christianity when it comes to certain foods. Some feel it is good to eat foods that others feel is wrong. God is saying that as long as there is no direct prohibition against a certain food, then it is a matter of conscience. The believer can make up his own mind about what to do or not do in these areas.

The Bible is not a “rules manual” that tells us the right and wrong of *every* issue about this liberty. It is, rather, a book that spells out what is right or wrong in certain areas, allowing liberty in other *areas*.

There are two main considerations that should be understood about this liberty. In all matters we are to “do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). God wants us to have hearts that seek to honor Him. The second matter is the conscience of those who may disagree with their own conclusions. We are entitled to our own convictions, but we are also obligated not to offend a brother for whom Christ died.

In other words, if we feel something is perfectly acceptable to God and we are seeking to honor Him in the matter, when we come into contact with a brother who feels it is wrong (and he is also seeking to honor God), then we should refrain from that thing. Why? The principle is that we would then be offending a brother when it is totally unnecessary and unwise to do so. We are, however, entitled to our own feelings and convictions about these kinds of things. God provides liberty in these matters.

We will look at more Scriptures about this subject in the next newsletter.

At Calvary

William R. Newell

*Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary!*

*Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
On Calvary!*

*Mercy there was great
And grace was free!
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty
At Calvary!*