

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

TOPIC: The Great Commission

A Church on Mission with Christ's Authority, Christ's Presence, and Christ's Assignment."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:16-20

April 14, 2026

1. Setting the Scene (vv. 16–17)

The eleven disciples meet Jesus on the mountain in Galilee—just as He instructed. Even in this climactic moment, Matthew notes, **“some doubted.”**

Jesus builds His mission not on perfect people, but on willing disciples. Faith and hesitation can coexist, yet Christ still calls and commissions.

God uses ordinary believers—deacons, ushers, choir members, youth, seniors—to advance His Kingdom.

2. Christ's Authority (v. 18)

Jesus declares, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

This is the foundation of the mission. We go because He reigns.

- His authority over heaven means the mission is spiritually empowered.
- His authority over earth means no culture, nation, or generation is beyond His reach.

Our evangelism is not based on personality or persuasion but on the authority of the risen Christ.

3. Christ's Assignment (vv. 19–20a)

The central command is **“make disciples.”**

The three supporting actions show how we do that:

a. Going

Not necessarily crossing oceans—sometimes crossing the street, the office hallway, or the family room.

The church is not called to be **stationary** but sent.

b. Baptizing

Baptism marks public identification with Christ and incorporation into the community of faith.

Baptists especially cherish this as a believer's conscious response to grace.

c. Teaching

Teaching is not merely the transfer of information—it is formation.

We teach believers to obey, not just to know.

Discipleship is lifelong. Sunday School, Bible study, small groups, and preaching all serve this mission.

4. Christ's Presence (v. 20b)

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The Great Commission ends not with a burden but with a promise.

Jesus does not send us alone—He goes with us, empowers us, and sustains us.

Mission is not a program; it is a partnership with the living Christ.

5. Bringing It Together

The Great Commission is not optional—it is the identity of the church.

- Christ gives the authority
- Christ gives the assignment
- Christ gives the assurance

This is the heartbeat of Baptist life: evangelism, discipleship, and mission rooted in Scripture and empowered by the Spirit.

Breakout Room Discussion Questions

1. The Call to Go

- What does “going” look like in our church’s context today?
- Where might God be calling you to be more intentional in your witness?

2. Making Disciples

- What is the difference between making converts and making disciples?
- Which part of disciple-making—going, baptizing, or teaching—does our church do well, and which needs strengthening?

3. Baptism and Belonging

- How does baptism shape a believer’s identity and commitment?
- How can our church better support new believers after baptism?

4. Teaching to Obey

- What practices help believers grow in obedience, not just knowledge?
- How can we cultivate a culture of spiritual formation in our congregation?

5. Christ’s Presence

- How does the promise “I am with you always” encourage you in sharing your faith?
- Where do you sense Christ inviting our church to trust His presence more deeply?

6. Mission as a Church Identity

- What would it look like for our church to be more mission-shaped in the next year?