

Commissioned Proclamation
Matt. 28:18-20 & 2 Tim. 3:10-4:5

“Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

In our culture, everyone seems to cringe when someone mentions *authority*. Having anything “authoritative” to say smells of arrogance and ignorance. Yet, authority is one of the biggest themes in all of Scripture. When Jesus taught, the Bible says, *the crowds were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like their experts in the law.* (Mat 7:28-29). Ephesians 1 says, *the risen Christ is seated at the Father’s right hand in the heavenly realms, far above every rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And God put all things under Christ’s feet, and he gave him to the church as head over all things* (vs. 20-22).

Not only does Jesus have authority, He is in the business of dispensing authority to us. Jesus says to His closest friends, I don’t call you servants, a servant doesn’t know what His master is doing. You are my friends; you are my witnesses! We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19-21). We are ambassadors for Christ, *as though God were making His plea through us!* Jesus caps it all off with this commission from Matthew 28:18-20,

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 the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Our “right” to speak comes through Christ’s authoritative message. Christ is with me even to the end of this age and He has left me His authoritative words to proclaim! Christ’s chain of authority comes through His revealed Word. As we make disciples of all nations, we have something authoritative to say because we have God’s authoritative Words!

Timothy needed to be reminded of this as well because of the challenging discipleship assignment he was given and his fearful disposition (2 Tim. 1:7-8). Just as Paul predicted to the Elders of the Ephesian church, *savage wolves rose up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves* (Acts 20:29-30). Things were so bad that although Paul and Timothy were heading to Macedonia (Phil. 2:24), Paul had to leave Timothy in Ephesus to shepherd this volatile situation. In the meanwhile Paul is brought to trial in Rome and at his preliminary hearing Paul is all alone (2 Tim. 4:16). He longs for Timothy, his friend and partner in ministry to come to him quickly (2 Tim. 4:9). But in the process, Paul very intimately and tenderly pulls Timothy aside and shares some of the greatest news for those who have accepted this call to be discipled and make disciples.

How is it that Jesus can so confidently send us to make disciples of all the nations? What gives us the right?

Christ gives us all the authority we need for every discipleship work.

- I. Christ makes us capable for every discipleship work because He has equipped us with His infallible and inerrant Word (3:16-17).
 - A. From the very beginning, Satan has wanted us to doubt the trustworthiness of Scripture. Starting with Eve in Genesis 3:1, *Is it really true that God said, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden?”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, all Scripture is God-breathed and completely reliable. It is not man breathed, it is God’s breath, God’s very Words.

Peter explains in 2 Peter 1:20-21, *Above all, you do well if you recognize this: No prophecy of scripture ever comes about by the prophet's own imagination, for no prophecy was ever borne of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

- B. The Bible does not just contain the Word of God somewhere within the 66 Books. It doesn't just become the Word of God under certain circumstances and spiritual conditions; it is God's very Word. It expresses God's heart, character, and will for all of mankind.

Feinberg, *"When all the facts become known, they will demonstrate that the Bible in its original autographs and correctly interpreted is entirely true and never false in all it affirms, whether relative to doctrine or ethics or the social, physical or life sciences."*

- C. Paul makes it emphatically clear the purpose of Scripture. Its purpose is to make us adequate and equipped for every good work. It teaches, reproofs, convicts of error and restores us from error and trains us in righteousness.

II. Our authoritative calling is to proclaim His Word (4:1-2).

- A. "Preach" means to "announce, proclaim, set it forth, deliver the truth, and make it known." Timothy experienced this first in his own home with his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5, 3:14-15). Our commission is to *teach them all that I have commanded you*. We are announcing, liberating and speaking the greatest news any soul will ever hear.
- B. *Exhort with complete patience and instruction*. The "patience" described here is the same "patience" used of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5). It involves a state of emotional calm in the face of difficult circumstances.

Why is this type of "patience" required? Because *there will be a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching. Instead, following their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves, because they have an insatiable curiosity to hear new things. And they will turn away from hearing the truth, but on the other hand they will turn aside to myths. You, however, be self-controlled in all things, endure hardship, do an evangelist's work, fulfill your ministry* (2 Tim. 4:3-5).

- C. We endure every hardship that comes our way for proclaiming the Word because as it says in verse one, our Savior, *the Lord Jesus Christ is going to judge the living and the dead*. We preach, herald the message of Christ because He is coming and we will be judged for our faithfulness to His Word.

	Matthew 28:18-20	2 Tim. 3:10-4:5
Authority	All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me	Every Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness
Make disciples	Go and make disciples of all nations	That the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.
Proclaim the Word	Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.	Preach the message, be ready whether it is convenient or not, reprove, rebuke, exhort with complete patience and instruction.
Endurance	And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.	Continue in the things you have learned and are confident about...endure hardship... fulfill your ministry.