

SHARPENING THE FOCUS OF THE CHURCH

Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
Act 1:8	
Acts 2:14	
Acts 2:41–47 <sup>8</sup>	
Acts 4:1–2, 4	
Acts 4:31	Acts 4:32
Acts 5:12–14	
Acts 5:19–21	
Acts 5:25	
Acts 5:27–28	
Acts 5:42	
Acts 6:4, 7	
Acts 8:1b, 4	

**James**

*During this period of time, it appears that James, the Lord's half-brother, became the lead elder-pastor in Jerusalem. Subsequently, he wrote a letter to the Jewish believers who were dispersed abroad. Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.*

	James 1:2–4
	James 1:5
James 1:16–18	
	James 1:19
	James 1:22
	James 1:27
	James 2:1
	James 2:26
	James 3:1

CHALLENGING QUESTIONS AND A NEW DIRECTION

Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
	James 3:13
	James 4:7–8a
	James 4:11
	James 5:9
	James 5:14
<i>Continuation of Luke's narrative in Acts</i>	
Acts 8:5	
	Acts 8:12
Acts 8:25	
Acts 8:35	Acts 8:36, 38
	Acts 9:18
Acts 9:20	
Acts 9:31	
Acts 10:42–43	
Acts 11:19–21	
Acts 11:22–26	
	Acts 11:27–30
Acts 12:21–24	
	Acts 13:1–3
Acts 13:5	
Acts 13:12	
Acts 13:13–16	
Acts 13:42–44	
Acts 13:45–49	
Acts 14:1	

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Acts 14:5–7	
Acts 14:19–21a	Acts 14:21b–23
Acts 14:25–28	

**Galatians**

*When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch of Syria, they evidently heard that false teachers had confused the believers in the churches in Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe by teaching works for salvation. Some believe that Paul wrote to these Galatian believers to correct this problem. It appears this happened before the Jerusalem council. If he had written it following the council, he certainly would have mentioned this significant event where the law/grace issue was settled and which he addressed in Galatians. Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.*

Gal. 2:7–9	
Gal. 3:23–26	Gal. 3:27–29
	Gal. 5:1
	Gal. 5:13–14
	Gal. 5:16
	Gal. 5:19–21
	Gal. 5:22–23
	Gal. 5:25–26
	Gal. 6:1–2
	Gal. 6:6
	Gal. 6:10

*Continuation of Luke's narrative in Acts*

	Acts 15:1–4
	Acts 15:22–23a, 30–32
Acts 15:35	
	Acts 15:36, 40–41

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Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
	Acts 16:1–4
Acts 16:5	
Acts 16:9–10	
Acts 16:13–14	Acts 16:15
Acts 16:29–32	Acts 16:33–34, 40
Acts 17:1–4	

**1 and 2 Thessalonians**

*During this time frame in Luke’s narrative, Paul wrote two letters to the Thessalonian believers. Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.*

1 Thess. 1:4–10	
	1 Thess. 2:7–12
	1 Thess. 3:1–5
	1 Thess. 3:9–13
	1 Thess. 5:11
	1 Thess. 5:14–15
	2 Thess. 1:3
	2 Thess. 1:5
	2 Thess. 2:15–17
2 Thess. 3:1–2	

*Continuation of Luke’s narrative in Acts*

Acts 17:10–12	
Acts 17:16–18	
Acts 17:22–34	
Acts 18:4–5	

Acts 18:8–11

Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
<b>The Corinthian Letters</b>	
<i>Paul actually wrote four letters to the Corinthians. Two are included in the New Testament. He wrote 1 Corinthians when he returned to Ephesus and it seems he wrote 2 Corinthians while traveling through Macedonia. Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.</i>	
	1 Cor. 1:4–7
	1 Cor. 1:10
1 Cor. 1:17	
1 Cor. 1:21–24	
1 Cor. 2:1–5	
	1 Cor. 4:17
	1 Cor. 5:9–10
	1 Cor. 6:9–10
1 Cor. 9:16	
1 Cor. 11:26	
	1 Cor. 13:11–13
1 Cor. 14:23–25	
	1 Cor. 15:58
2 Cor. 1:19	
2 Cor. 3:2–3	
2 Cor. 4:5	
2 Cor. 5:18–20	
<i>Continuation of Luke's narrative in Acts</i>	
Acts 18:19–21	Acts 18:22–23
Acts 18:24–28	
	Acts 19:1–7

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Acts 19:8	
Acts 19:9–10, 20	
	Acts 19:23; 20:1–2

**Romans**

*During this time frame, Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Rome, which was probably delivered by Phoebe, a deacon in the church in Cenchræe (Rom. 16:1–2). Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.*

Rom. 1:8–9	Rom. 1:10–13
Rom. 1:14–15	
Rom. 3:23	
Rom. 5:1	
	Rom. 6:1–2
	Rom. 12:1–2
	Rom. 12:4–5
	Rom. 12:10
	Rom. 12:16
	Rom. 13:8–10
	Rom. 14:19
	Rom. 15:5
	Rom. 15:7
	Rom. 15:14
Rom. 16:25–27	
<i>Continuation of Luke's narrative in Acts</i>	
	Acts 20:5–7
	Acts 20:17–20

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<b>Making Disciples (Evangelism)</b>	<b>Equipping Disciples (Edification)</b>
Acts 20:21	
Acts 20:22–25	Acts 20:28–32
<i>Read the following chapters and note Paul's witness.</i>	
Acts 22	
Acts 23	
Acts 24	
Acts 25	
Acts 26	
Acts 27	
Acts 28:23–24	
Acts 28:30–31	

*During Paul's two years in prison in Rome, he wrote four letters:*

**A Letter to Philemon in Colossae**

	Philem. 9–10
	Philem. 15–16a

**A Circular Letter to the Ephesians**

	Eph. 1:3
	Eph. 1:15–19
	Eph. 2:19–22
Eph. 3:8–9	
	Eph. 3:14–19
	Eph. 4:1–3
	Eph. 4:11–16
	Eph. 4:17
	Eph. 5:1–2

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Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
	Eph. 5:8
	Eph. 5:15–16
	Eph. 5:22
	Eph. 5:25
	Eph. 6:1–4
	Eph. 6:10–18
Eph. 6:19–20	
<b>A Letter to the Colossians</b>	
	Col. 1:3–5a
	Col. 1:9–12
Col. 1:25–27	
Col. 1:28	
	Col. 2:2–5
	Col. 3:16
	Col. 3:18–23
Col. 4:5–6	
<b>A Letter to the Philippians</b>	
Phil. 1:3–5	
Phil. 1:12–14	
Phil. 1:27–28	
	Phil. 2:1–4
	Phil. 2:5–8
	Phil. 2:19–24
	Phil. 4:9



Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
<i>After Paul was released from prison, he wrote three pastoral epistles. His first letter was to Timothy, followed by a letter to Titus. He then wrote a second letter to Timothy, which is his final letter before his execution. Following are selected directives and objectives for carrying out the Great Commission.</i>	
<b>Paul's First Letter to Timothy</b>	
	1 Tim. 1:3–7
1 Tim. 2:1–4	
	1 Tim. 3:1–7
	1 Tim. 4:11–16
	1 Tim. 5:17
1 Tim. 6:1–2	
<b>Paul's Letter to Titus</b>	
	Titus 1:5–9
	Titus 2:1–7
Titus 2:8	
	Titus 2:11–14
<b>Paul's Final Letter to Timothy</b>	
2 Tim. 1:6–8	
2 Tim. 1:11–12	
	2 Tim. 2:2
	2 Tim. 3:14–17
	2 Tim. 4:1–2
2 Tim. 4:4–5	
<b>Additional Letters</b>	
<b>Hebrews</b>	
	Heb 3:12–14
	Heb 5:12–14

CHALLENGING QUESTIONS AND A NEW DIRECTION

Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
	Heb 6:1
	Heb 10:24–25
<b>1 and 2 Peter</b>	
	1 Peter 2:1–5
1 Peter 2:12	
1 Peter 2:18	
1 Peter 3:1–2	
1 Peter 3:15	
	1 Peter 4:10–11
	1 Peter 5:1–3
	2 Peter 1:3–7
2 Peter 3:8–9	
	2 Peter 3:14
	2 Peter 3:17–18
<b>1, 2, and 3 John</b>	
1 John 1:1–2	
	1 John 1:3–4
1 John 1:5–6	
	1 John 1:7
	1 John 2:1
	1 John 2:3
	1 John 2:10
	1 John 2:15–16
	1 John 3:11
	1 John 3:14

Making Disciples (Evangelism)	Equipping Disciples (Edification)
	1 John 3:16
	1 John 3:18
1 John 3:23	
	1 John 4:7
	1 John 4:11
	1 John 4:12
1 John 4:14	
	1 John 4:19
	1 John 4:21
	2 John 6
	2 John 10
	3 John 5–7
Jude	
	Jude 12
	Jude 22–23

### An Exciting Marathon

In retrospect, I am indeed thankful for the questions I faced from my students in the late 60s and early 70s. Ultimately, they resulted in a new and fresh perspective on the great mystery that was revealed to the apostles and to Paul particularly—the church of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:3–6).

### A Question for Thought and Discussion

*What are some limitations in interpretation and comprehension when we fail to study and understand events as they unfold chronologically in the biblical story?*