



## Daily Verse and Comment

### [Matthew 24:14](#)

(14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

### [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

(19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

*New International Version*

[Matthew 24:14](#) is not a commission to anybody in particular—not to the first-century apostles nor to anyone else. It is simply a statement of fact by [Jesus Christ](#), prophesying that [the gospel](#) will be preached in all [the world](#) as a witness and then will the end come.

[Matthew 24:14](#) and [Matthew 28:19-20](#) are not synonymous. In the latter verses, though preaching as a witness is included within the scope of the commission, it actually places more emphasis upon the entire *process* of conversion, feeding, growing, and overcoming than merely witnessing, as in [Matthew 24:14](#). The key word here is "process."

The word "teach" in [Matthew 28:19](#) is the key to this understanding. Many Bibles have a marginal reference beside it: "[make disciples](#)." "Go you therefore into all the world and *make* disciples."

"Teach" is not wrong as long as we understand that it implies a *process*. All the teaching required to make a disciple cannot occur merely in making a witness. There are major differences between the two. At best, preaching the

gospel to the world begins the process of teaching. Disciples are created through steady feeding, a believing response in those who hear combined with overcoming.

The second factor appears in verse 20: "Observe *all* things whatsoever I have commanded you." The key here is "all things." That cannot be done merely through a witness. As we are learning, observing all things is a lifelong project requiring the structure of a church. This is the reason why the church exists.

What is being emphasized in verses 19-20, though witnessing is included in it, is the feeding of the flock because it is the called, the elect—God's children—who are His greatest concern. These are the ones who are being prepared for the [Kingdom of God](#). It takes a great deal of feeding and experiences with [God](#) for Christ to be formed in us.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

[What Is the Work of God Now? \(Part One\)](#)



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