

June 1, 2025

CFBC... *"First Words of the Resurrected Christ"*

"A WORD OF ACTION"

Matthew 28:16-20

Do you ever get annoyed with the constant barrage of ads on TV, radio, social media platforms, emails, and websites? The messages are short and to-the-point—*"Buy now, download, plan your dream vacation, contact us, sign up, learn more, play video, etc."* In the world of marketing, they are called *CTA's*. This stands for a *Call To Action*. A CTA is designed to be clear, concise, and persuasive. The object is to get the consumer takes the next step.

I have no desire to sell you something today. However, I do want to introduce you to the ultimate *CTA* assigned to the church by the risen, exalted Christ Himself. Here it is . . .

Matthew 28:16–20... But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. 18

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And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The New Testament indicates that there were *at least* ten appearances of the risen Lord. A few years later He manifested Himself to the apostle Paul. All four of the gospels and the book of Acts include some form of what we call, *The Great Commission*. Our Lord's CTA to the church He created and to every believer He saves is simply this . . .

MAKE DISCIPLES EVERYWHERE!

I'm afraid that many church members have bought into the idea that now that they're saved Jesus has given them the green light to. . .

- **show up to church when it's convenient**

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- **give a little money to keep the church afloat**
- **read the Bible and pray as often as they can**
- **support conservative moral issues**

Jesus did not shed His blood for you on the cross so that your sins could be forgiven and you could then do what you want to do for the rest of your life. It's clear. Everyone of us in one way or another must be involved in kingdom action.

MAKE DISCIPLES EVERYWHERE!

Before I get too deep into this CTA let's dissect the resurrected Christ's word of action. The context is important . . .

Matthew 28:16–17... But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful.

I'm sure these 11 men were still a little shell-shocked. They had experienced rapid fire highs and lows emotionally and physically they were

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probably worn out. They were thrilled to be in the presence of the resurrected Christ. At the same time, they were on edge.

Don't forget. Jesus had told them that . . .

- **the world would hate them**
- **they would be persecuted**
- **they could be martyred for their faith**

No wonder their worship was mixed with a little doubt. Most of that doubt was probably directed at their own ability to be all that Jesus intended for them to be and to do all that Jesus intended to do through them!

Now for the Lord's CTA. I want you to see . . .

1. THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

Matthew 28:18... And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

"Authority" refers to the freedom and right to speak and act as one pleases.¹ You must understand who is speaking here. This is the Son of God, the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. During His ministry, He exercised His authority over . . .

- **demons**
- **nature**
- **death**
- **angels**
- **disease**
- **judgment**

John 5:27... and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.

John 10:18... "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down,

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., [Matthew](#), vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985–1989), 338.

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and I have authority to take it up again.
This commandment I received from My
Father."

What right do we have to go to the people groups of the world and challenge them to reject their religion of choice and embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Because He is the only Savior that God has provided for the world . . .

John 10:9... "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Listen, Jesus has the authority to forgive your sins, to give you the gift of eternal life, and bring you to heaven when you die. Have you received Him as your Savior and Lord? He has the authority to call you out of your comfort zone to make a kingdom difference for His glory. We share the gospel with others based on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has given us His CTA . . .

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Okay, we've seen the authority of Jesus. Now let's look at . . .

2. THE COMMAND OF JESUS

Matthew 28:19–20... *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...."*

The main verb in this passage is *"make disciples."* I want you to understand that this CTA is not a suggestion. It is a command issued by the Lord Jesus Christ to every church and to every believer.

This verb means that we must learn the truths He has given us in His Word, and we must become His followers and live under His authority. Jesus explained to us what He meant when He said . . .

John 8:31–32... So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Mark 8:34–38... And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **35** "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **36** "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? **37** "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Are you His disciple? Do you regularly submit to His authority and live in obedience to His Word?

In the Great Commission there are 3 participles that modify the key verb—*"make disciples."* The first one is . . .

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"Go"— the Lord placed no limits on His CTA. We have the responsibility to share the gospel locally, nationally, and globally.

Interview Weston Driver . . .

- **Where has the Lord called you to "go?"**
- **What will you be doing?**
- **How can we pray for you?**

Weston will be joining me in the foyer after the service. If you would like to ask him any questions or find out how you can support him, come and talk with him.

In addition to Weston, the Lord is calling other members to action for His glory. This includes:

Gracie Driver—Orlando

Kirsten Dobson—Honduras

Adeline Riley—London with the IMB

Ruth Ann Essary—Philippines for 1 year IMB

Zach and Bekah Tucker—Career IMB (Mexico)

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Opportunities for you to move into ACTION this summer . . .

**Mission Indianapolis—join the Matthew family,
July 9-13th**

Backyard Kids Clubs (BKC)—June 16-19

Get in on the action this summer!

"Baptizing"— Baptism does not save anyone; it is a public declaration of one's allegiance to Jesus as Savior and Lord. First, one must believe in Jesus. Second, he/she is baptized. That order is never reversed in the New Testament.

Do you need to follow the Lord in believer's baptism?

"Teaching"— For new believers to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus they must be taught the Word of God. This is why we emphasize the preaching and teaching ministry of the church. This is why we offer so many men's and women's discipleship groups.

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Would you like to join a connect group or a discipleship group? (fill out the connect card)

Our Lord's *CTA* certainly challenges each of us to get out of the comfort zone and to make a kingdom difference . . .

MAKE DISCIPLES EVERYWHERE!

Okay, we've seen the authority of Jesus and the command of Jesus. Finally, let's look at . . .

3. THE PROMISE OF JESUS

Matthew 28:20b... "and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How can CFBC meet the demands of the Lord's *CTA*? How can you and I as believers get in on the action? Obviously, we are going to need the help of our Lord. He's not only glad to provide it. He has promised to provide it.

We have the promise of His continual presence.

As we actively seek to take the gospel to

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Collierville/Midsouth, to our nation, and to the unreached people groups of this world, we can know our Lord is with us!

We have the promise of His continual power.

We make disciples by going (*and sharing the gospel*), by baptizing new believers, and by teaching the truth of His Word! Paul wrote . . .

Romans 1:16... For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Will you do your part in making sure that this church carries out the CTA of the risen Christ? Share the gospel with your friends and relatives. Pray for these young missionaries. Give to support them and SBC missionaries/church planters.

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CONCLUSION

Here is the CTA of the risen Christ...

MAKE DISCIPLES EVERYWHERE!

We do this . . .

- **under the authority of the risen Christ**
- **by embracing the strategy of the risen Christ**
- **knowing the promise of the risen Christ**

Do your part!

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