

November 8, 2020

# Scott's Thoughts



*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you*

*always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)

Last Sunday was our first Sunday back from Ukraine. I used this text for my morning Sermon. Ava and I have done our best to fulfill this passage. Together we have planted a new congregation in the states and traveled to Mexico and Ukraine. I have had the opportunity to make more trips than she, but when she did not go with me, she stayed home taking care of our children. She played a big part in those trips even when she was unable to travel with me. Over the last forty years I have met some very educated people in my travels. Many of them know more than I do about the intricacies of language or of science yet, at the same time, they know almost nothing of the Bible or of the information it contains.

The command “to go” is a command that is both broad and narrow. It is broad in the sense that it encompasses the whole world and narrow in the sense that it starts just outside our doors. The command is not just to go and baptize but to continue to teach those who are baptized until they are able to go teach others. This is what Ava and I have been doing on our last several trips to Ukraine. We have been going to congregations

that are already established and have been teaching them to be better equipped to teach others. The process is slow but that is to be expected.

When we enroll a child in first grade, we expect them to learn. We do not expect them to move to the second grade already knowing advanced math or to be able to read “Gone With the Wind.” We simply expect them to learn and begin to understand math and reading in only the most basic form. We will be happy that they have understood these fundamentals and are ready to take the next step in acquiring knowledge. It is the same with newly established churches.

Others will now pick up that torch in Ukraine and the church there will grow and prosper as God sees fit. Ava and I do not want to stop teaching as long as we live and will continue to work with the churches far and near from our home.

*“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”* (Daniel 7:13-14, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott