Week 4 – Unlocking the Meaning of Baptizing Matthew 28:19-20

1. Review

• Four verbs – (1) Imperative and (3) participles

"therefore, go"	Verb/aorist/passive/participle
"make disciples"	Verb/aorist/active/imperative
"baptizing"	Verb/present/active/participle
"teaching"	Verb/present/active/participle

• Going, Baptizing, and Teaching function in support of the main verb – Make Disciples.

• What is a Disciple?

- o Long-term process (15+) years.
- o Transformational process.
- o Transforming the Soul/Character.
- o The goal is being/becoming Christlike.

• Baptize/Baptism/Baptizing Semantic Range:

- Generally, baptize/baptism refers to immersion or submersion of something
- Time: There can be a difference in "time" that something remains immersed in.

Roadmap for this Lesson:

Baptizing – from Matt. 28:19		
1. Participle/Present/Active		
2. Traditional Greek Usage		
3. New Testament Usage		
4. Context of Making a Disciple		

2. Participle/Present/Active:

- Communicate an action that occurs during the main verb's action.¹
- Present/Active/ Participles are expressed with an -ing ending.²
- So Baptizing is an action that occurs during the main verb's action of 'make disciples.'

¹ https://equip.biblearc.com/course/greek/61248

² https://tinyurl.com/46naw57v

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3. Historical Greek Usage³

1. To dye (material)		
* Jewish/Roman Historian Josephus – 'to dye/dyed material'		
2. Immerse/immersion		
3. Submerge/sink – 'shipwreck'		
4. To overwhelm		
5. To dip		

4. New Testament Usage:

- To dip (short term)	John 13:26
- Dye/dyed Material	Rev. 19:13
- Immerse/submerge/overwhelm	Mark 10:38
- Sacramental Ritual of Baptism	

5. Matt. 28:19 Context for Baptizing?

"Therefore, go [from here]

and make disciples of [people from all nations],

[immersing] them

into the [reality⁴ of]

the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and

teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.

[And if you do this], I will be with you until the end of the age."

- Immersing and teaching are ongoing in support of the main verb, to make disciples.
 - Pickling a Disciple
 - o Long term immersion
 - O Into an agent that causes
 - o Permanent change

³ Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

⁴ See David H. Stern, (1992), Jewish New Testament Commentary, pg 85.

Bible 101 – The Great Commission?



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6. Example of Ancient Greek Recipe for Pickling:

Not to be confused with 911, *bapto*. The clearest example that shows the meaning of *baptizo* is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (*bapto*) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptize) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change. When used in the New Testament, this word more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism. e.g. Mark 16:16. 'He that believes and is baptised shall be saved'. Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! (Bible Study Magazine, James Montgomery Boice, May 1989).⁵

⁵ https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/strongs/G907