

# WORD 2019

**D**isciplineship

**E**ffectual

**V**ision

**O**ne Word

**T**raining

**E**nlargement

**D**evotion

# CHURCH, CHRISTIANS, DISCIPLES

- The 21 Century Church is facing a great challenge
- It is a challenge of relevance
- Where we are as the global church is not too far away from where the church was before the reformation spearheaded by Martin Luther in 1500AD
- In those days, the church drifted from biblical Christianity and evolved into a strong religious institution, influencing politics and business but far away from the vision of Christ who is the supreme head
- If we cannot interpret our present realities, it is most likely we will not be able to engage our present society or our future!
- Where we are is not a NEW Thing!

- **Matthew 16:13-18** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ESV
- **Ephesians 2:19-21** So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. NLT

- **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." NLT
- Do we really believe that Jesus will build His church?
  - Are we convinced that what is being built today is what He is building?
  - How does this affect what we do and why we do what we do?
- Jesus is to be the pattern (Ephesians 2:20)!
  - Will this, or how does this affect how we do ministry?
- Have you been discipled and if so how has it impacted you?
- How is the Great Commission impacting what we the church are doing? (Clarifying the Task)

# Jesus Building Pattern: Clearly Making Disciples!

1. He chose His disciples.
  2. His discipleship teachings were radical and unpredictable.
  3. His teachings carried authority and power
  4. He dealt with people individually as well as corporately.
  5. His discipleship was for a fixed period of time.
  6. His discipleship worked from the inside out.
  7. His disciples were ordinary people.
- The key aspects of discipleship are clear: **training**, **discipline**, and **relationship**, in order to bring about **maturity** and **fruitfulness**

- **Christian or Disciple**

- Christian is mentioned 3 to 5 times the Bible while Disciple was mentioned 294 times in the New Testament alone. (varies in using various translations)
- (From Hayford's Bible Handbook)
  - The designation of the early followers of Christ as Christians was initiated by the non-Christian population of Antioch (Acts 11:26), and originally it was probably a term of mocking or derision – “little Christ”.
  - Eventually, however, Christians used it of themselves as a name of honor, not of shame (Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). Prior to their adoption of the name, Christians called themselves “believers” (Acts 5:14), “brothers” (Acts 6:3), or “saints” (Acts 9:13), names which also continued to be used.

- In many modern societies, the original character of the name Christian has been emptied of its meaning as a biblical disciple of Christ. To some, Christian refers to ...
  - A political system void of love.
  - A religious structure void of life, or
  - A tradition without vital faith in the Savior.
- “In many modern societies, the original character of the name Christian has been emptied of its meaning as a biblical disciple of Christ.” - Hayford’s Bible Handbook
- “In modern times the name Christian has been somewhat emptied of its true meaning as a follower of Christ.” - Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary

- **DISCIPLESHIP**, *noun* The state of a disciple or follower in doctrines and precepts.
- **Disciple** — a scholar, sometimes applied to the followers of John the Baptist (Matt 9:14), and of the Pharisees (22:16), but principally to the followers of Christ. A disciple of Christ is one who (1) **believes his doctrine**, (2) **rests on his sacrifice**, (3) **imbibes his spirit**, and (4) **imitates his example** (Matt 10:24; Luke 14:26,27,33; John 6:69). (from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
- Jesus was not interested in just decisions or names but transformation!
  - Romans 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.  
ESV

# • **Authority Neglected is Authority Transferred!**

- Alice Bailey
- Britannica describes theosophy as “an occult movement originating in the 19th century with roots that can be traced to ancient Gnosticism. The term theosophy is derived from the Greek theos (“god”) and sophia (“wisdom”), is generally understood to mean “divine wisdom.”... The international New Age movement ... originated among independent theosophical groups“
- Alice Bailey’s writings are so revered and authoritative to such an extent that her New Age views and philosophies have a social, spiritual and political impact on politicians, various nations and also the United Nations.
- Alice Bailey also founded The Lucis Trust which was formerly known as Lucifer Publishing Company in 1922 and her organization has influence within the United Nations.
- It is from this desire to see the dominance of the New Age movement that Alice Bailey wrote a 10 Point Plan / Charter to destroy Christianity so that New Age philosophies may become the one world religion for the world

- 1. TAKE GOD AND PRAYER OUT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**
- 2. REDUCE PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER THE CHILDREN**
- 3. DESTROY THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FAMILY STRUCTURE OR THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY STRUCTURE**
- 4. IF SEX IS FREE, THEN MAKE ABORTION LEGAL AND MAKE IT EASY**
- 5. MAKE DIVORCE EASY AND LEGAL, FREE PEOPLE FROM THE CONCEPT OF MARRIAGE FOR LIFE.**
- 6. MAKE HOMOSEXUALITY AN ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE**
- 7. DEBASE ART, MAKE IT RUN MAD**
- 8. USE MEDIA TO PROMOTE AND CHANGE MINDSET**
- 9. CREATE AN INTERFAITH MOVEMENT**
- 10. GET GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE ALL THESE [POINTS] LAW AND GET THE CHURCH TO ENDORSE THESE CHANGES.**





