Our scripture this morning comes from Colossians 1:7-10. While you’re finding that, a 4-year old was eating an apple in the back seat of the car, when he asked, "Daddy, why is my apple turning brown?" “Well son, after you bit it, the apple came into contact with air, which caused it to oxidize, thus changing the molecular structure and causing enzymes to activate.” The father took a breath so he could continue to explain when he heard, “Daddy, are you talking to me?" Sometimes, Christians new to the faith feel like this little boy. Someone must take the time to help them understand the Gospel and the walk of a disciple. Are you that person this morning?

**Colossians 1:7-10 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him,* being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

The duty of the church is to make disciples – that’s why we exist - not to save souls – we can’t do that. We lead people to accept Jesus – Jesus saves their soul. Matthew 28:19 says - go and teach all nations – in the New King James it says go and make disciples of all nations. To go, to teach, to make takes time, effort, and focus. It requires dedication. But before we can do any of these things, someone must first have made a disciple of us. Before we can make a disciple, we must first be a disciple. Someone drew near to us, taught us about being a disciple of Christ, and helped us understand what truly walking with Jesus looked like. Being a disciple of Jesus looks like becoming like Jesus in the way we speak, in the way we love, in the way we give, in the way we worship, but most of all, in the way we relate to God and the children He loves.

The church in America today spends millions of dollars, travels thousands of miles, produces all kinds of materials in an effort to disciple; yet, we forget that discipleship doesn’t start on a dusty desert in Africa. True Biblical discipleship starts right here inside the four walls of this church. It’s not the responsibility of someone else; it’s ours. Titus 2 makes this abundantly clear when it calls on more mature men to exhort younger men and more mature women to admonish younger women, teaching even the bondservants good things. What are these good things? Matthew 28:20 tells us - teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.

But, I’m not sure that we spend much time teaching those new in the Faith to observe the things that Jesus has commanded. It’s like we believe that, once they pray for forgiveness, they’ll just figure it out. Let’s be very frank here – Praying the sinners prayer and repenting is only the start of our walk with Jesus.

Colossians 1:9-10 says **For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.** Discipling begins with prayer – praying fervently for our brothers and sisters so they may be filled with knowledge and understanding of His will. Discipling is about helping another grow to his or her full potential in Christ Jesus! It’s about helping a less mature Christian or a struggling Christian or a Christian who wants to learn more about a particular area of service walk in a way that is worthy of the Lord! In helping someone else please the Lord, we are pleasing the Lord. In Matthew 12:30 Jesus says If we are not with Him, we are against Him – and if we are not gathering, we are scattering. The ultimate goal of discipleship is a fruit bearing Christian that is increasing in the knowledge of God. Who can argue with that? Anyone here not want brothers and sisters who are bearing spiritual fruit? Of course not! It’s the call of the more mature to help the less mature, the more advanced to help the less advanced, the one further along the trail to provide a map for those just starting the journey.

Now, Satan will whisper to you - What if you don’t know your Bible well enough to answer all the questions? What if you say the wrong thing? What if they don’t need a mentor and you make a fool of yourself? What if you’re not a good enough as a disciple to make a disciple?

Those are the enemy’s questions to distract and discourage. Let’s instead ask ourselves this morning - how do we need to realign our focus starting today so that this church is a disciple making church? How do we realign so young men get exhorted, young women get encouraged, young Christians grow, and the world is changed by a little church in Frogsboro, NC? We need to get serious about being the disciples God has called us to be – stop wasting time and start making disciples – stop fearing and start teaching – lose the pride and ask for the help. Satan smiles when he sees a new Christian alone, sees a young mother struggling, a young father struggling, a child unsure, and, knows that the very Lions of the Faith are too timid to help. Proverbs 28:1 says, the wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion. Be that Lion on behalf of your brothers and sisters, rebuke Satan in the name of Jesus, and this church will pour forth disciple-making disciples like never before, prepared to go into all the world and makes disciples of all nations – teaching them to observe all things as Jesus commanded – in confidence that we are never alone, but the Lion of Judah is with us always!