

Glory, Gospel, Church, World.

Thinking Biblically about Missions

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Introduction:

What comes to your mind when you think about missions?

A definition of missions: The glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ manifested in the church around the World.

Missions must be:

I. Doxological (Romans 11:33-36).

The point of this passage: everything is doxological!

What Paul sings: Glory Be To God!

1. The glory of God seen Who He Is and What He Does (33)
2. The glory of God seen in His total independence from His creation (v34-35)
3. The glory of God seen in the utter dependence of everything else (v36)

Why Paul sings:

1. God's glory is on display in the Gospel (ch 1-8).
2. God's glory is on display in His plan to rescue people from every nation (ch 9-11).

How this relates to us and to missions

1. Mission Belongs to God. God is doing all things for His own glory. He has created and sustained the universe in order to make Himself known. He has creates, redeems, and purifies people to reflect His glory, to know His glory, and to delight in His glory.
2. Missions involves every one of us.
3. Missions defines the kinds of things we must do.
4. Missions defines the kind of people we must be.

II. **Christological (Romans 10:9-17).**

Three reasons missions must be about the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

1. Because the message of Christ is powerful to save sinners: (Rom 10:9-10).
 - a. A faith that saves a person abandons self-righteousness and trusts Jesus.
 - b. A faith that saves a person abandons self-rule and surrenders to Jesus.
2. Because the message of Christ is universal and exclusive (Rom 10:11-13).
3. Because the message of Christ is to be taken and proclaimed (Rom 10:14-17).

Implications for missions:

1. God's Mission is about one message: how sinners are to be reconciled to God through the death of His Son Jesus.
2. God's Mission will not be accomplished without us redeemed sinners.
3. God's mission will not be accomplished without proclamation. It is not enough to "live" the gospel in front of people. Or to simply love people with the love of Jesus. There must be specific proclamation! This word of Christ (v17).
4. God's mission at this time is the proclamation of the message of His Messiah. Any endeavor which does not have the Gospel as its center is not in keeping with God's mission.
5. God's mission must define our mission.

III. **Ecclesiological (Colossians 1:18).**

Five Characteristics of the Church As Designed By God from Col 1:18(a)
"He [Jesus] is also head of the body, church."

1. The church is a called-out people.
2. The church is an assembled people.
3. The church is a regulated people.

Here are some commands from the Pastoral Epistles:

Protect God's people from false teaching (1 Tim 1:3ff; 4:1-6); Pray for government leaders (1 Tim 2:1-8); Instruct women (1 Tim 2:9-15); Read the Word publicly (1 Tim 4:13); Exhort and teach (1 Tim 4:13); Confront sin (1 Tim 5:1-2; 20-21); Care for widows (1 Tim 5:3ff); Ordain some for service (1 Tim 5:22,24-25); Instruct slaves, instruct the rich (1 Tim 6:9-10, 17-19); Cling to truth and faith and love in Christ (2 Tim 1:13); Disciple men (2 Tim 2:2); Rehearse the Gospel (2 Tim 2:8-13); Teach holy living (2 Tim 2:19-23); Refute and correct false teaching (2 Tim 2:23-26); Sniff out wolves (2 Tim 3:1-9; 4:15); Prepare God's people for persecution (2 Tim 3:10-12); Continue to teach, reprove, correct, and train with the God-breathed Word (2 Tim 3:14-17); Preach the Word (2 Tim 4:1-4); Do the work of evangelism (2 Tim 4:5; see also Eph 4:12); Appoint qualified leadership (Ti 1:5-9); Silence rebellious men and false teachers (Ti 1:10-16); Speak sound doctrine (Ti 2:1); Instruct men and women (Ti 2:1-8); Rehearse the Gospel and its effects (Ti 2:9-15; 3:3-8); Teach God's people to submit to the authorities over them (Ti 3:1); Encourage godly living (Ti 3:8); Avoid foolish controversies (Ti 3:9); Reject factious people (Ti 3:10-11); Encourage God's people to meet pressing needs (Ti 3:14).

4. The church is a Christological people.
5. The church is an interdependent people.

Here are the "one-another" commands of the New Testament:

Greet One Another, Speak truthfully to One Another, Be at peace with One Another, Stimulate One Another to Love/Good deeds, Do not slander One Another, Comfort One Another, Be kind to One Another, Pray For One Another, Prefer One Another, Submit To One Another, Be Devoted To One Another, Accept One Another, Care For One Another, Do Not Sue One Another, Do Not Envy One Another, Admonish One Another, Bear One Another's Burdens, Build Up One Another, Comfort One Another, Confess Your Sins to One Another, Encourage One Another, Exhort One Another, Forgive One Another

How Does The Church Fits In To The Big Picture Of What God Is Doing? (Col 1:13-20)

The church is the organism by which Jesus promised to procure for Himself a people from every tongue, tribe, nation, and people.

We cannot divorce what the church is supposed to be from what missions is supposed to be.
NOT church here, missions over there!
Church over there, and a missions mindset here!

Some Implications For How We Do Missions.

1. Missions must be ecclesiological.
2. The church must be missiological.
3. We must be people who are whole-heartedly committed to the local church.
4. We must send people who are whole-heartedly committed to the local church.
5. We must send people who are equipped to establish and build up local churches.
6. We must understand the slow nature of local church reproduction.
7. We must place priorities on the kinds of mission we do.

IV. **Global (Acts 1:8).**

God's Global Mission:

1. God's Global Mission (Acts 1:8) Explained
2. God's Global Mission (Acts 1:8) Foreshadowed
3. God's Global Mission (Acts 1:8) Fulfilled

Questions for personal reflection:

1. How would I rate my personal zeal for God's glory? How am I (or how am I not) affected by the knowledge of peoples who do not yet prize God's glory?
2. How would I rate my personal gratitude for the Gospel? Am I affected by the knowledge of many individuals and people groups who have no knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ?
3. How would I rate my love for Jesus' bride, the church? In what ways can I love the church more? Am I affected by the knowledge that there are peoples who currently have no access to the church?
4. How am I involved in seeing that the glory of God, the message of Jesus, and the church go beyond the walls of my church?
5. What kinds of people ought the church be sending to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth? How ought these people be equipped?
6. How does God's mission to purchase people from every tongue, tribe, nation, and people involve me?
7. Are there any Gospel-Mission opportunities that I have been neglecting? Are there ways in which I have become content with the Gospel's progress in the world?

Missions Resources:

David Doran - *For the Sake of His Name*

P.T. O'Brien - *Gospel and Missions in the Writings of Paul*

Andy Johnson - *Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global*

John Piper - *Let The Nations Be Glad*

William Barrick - *Understanding Bible Translation*

Omri Miles - *GCCW* (a hip-hop album on missions)