

To whom was God's missionary commission given?

The Assembled Church - (Luke 24:33-48)

Chain of missionary sending

1. God sends his Son

John 3:17 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

2. The Son sends the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49 *"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

3. The Holy Spirit gathers and encourages the church

Acts 9:31 *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

4. The healthy church sends her people –

Of the congregation in Antioch we read in Acts 13:2 *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

Why does this matter that we are clear on these points?

1. Because the church is the goal and the means of missions

Eph. 3:10 *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,*

2. Because Individualism and "para-churchism" can be problematic
Acts 15:24

3. Missions is intensely congregational, not just intensely personal.

This lesson was adapted from CHBC's Core Seminar curriculum:
www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars

Mission: Life in light of God's glory

Week 2

God's glory throughout scripture

1. The all-powerful creator and owner of the universe...

"Be fruitful and multiply"

2. ...the God who chose to reveal himself to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants...

"I will make of you a great nation... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"...the father of a multitude of nations."

3. ...the God who humbled himself and took on humanity...

Luke 4 – *"to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

4. ...died in our place, and conquered death.

"Make disciples of all nations"

"from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages"

Word pictures:

Far Kingdom, by The Gray Havens

There is a far kingdom

A ways from here

Beyond the storm and the sea

There will be no need of darkness

And none for tears

When that far kingdom I see

There's a river we will know

Ever clear and ever full

From the fount that overflows

In the light of the King

And when we drink it we will find

That this joy, ever full, will ever rise

And it'll rise on, in the kingdom

In the kingdom

Next week: God's Glory in Suffering

We must be captivated by God's glory!

God's glory and our Responsibility

Why is spreading God's glory an urgent endeavor?

Reason 1: The Christian claim of exclusivity

John 14:6: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

In claiming to have the only cure, we're also claiming to have the only correct diagnosis.

Common objections:

- All religions help people live good lives

Acts 4:12 *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved:*

- What about the person in the remote tribe?

Romans 3:10-12 *There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one*

- How is this just and fair?
 - If God were only just and not also merciful, we would all stand condemned.
 - Paul feels the weight of these questions – they aren't new to us today.

Romans 9:15,21 *[God] says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." . . . Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?*

- Can people be saved through Christ without realizing it is Christ who saves them?

Romans 10:14a *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?*

- What about people who are basically good?
- Why doesn't God just save everyone?

Romans 9:1-2 *I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.*

God's mercy is free to all through Christ. Not all will trust Christ, and those who don't face eternal condemnation. This fact is tragic. In some ways, I'd like a more detailed explanation, but I am in no place to demand one. God has and will reveal to me what I need to know.

Deuteronomy 29:29 *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Reason 2: God created us for the purpose of spreading his glory

God's mission: to glorify himself.

- He does so in specific ways in eternity and human history

Our mission as individuals: "to glorify God by enjoying him forever"

- in and through the church

Our mission as a church: to glorify God by enjoying him forever, yes!

- even more specifically, through the great commission:

"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."