

**General
Missionary Messages:**

**“Christ’s Last
Command -- Our First Concern!”**

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Wonderful... Precious Reconciliation

Introduction:

Many wonderful basic doctrines are set forth in this portion of Scripture.
(II Cor. 5:14-21)

1. Christ's incarnation and substitutionary death -- vs. 14, 16, 19, 21
2. The universality of His atoning work for us; *"He died for all."* vs. 15
3. Justification through the work of Christ. vs. 21
4. Regeneration made possible through His death His blood. vs. 17
5. Our sanctification... vs 15
6. World evangelism... vvs. 18-20

The Main emphasis of this portion is the reconciliation of a sinful world to a holy and just God.

1. Reconciliation is a key word in this passage.
2. The word *"reconcile"* comes from a Latin word meaning to *"call together or to unite."*
3. The Greek word used expresses the thought of a thorough change. To *"reconcile"* means to *"restore to harmony after estrangement or to reunite parties that are at variance."*
4. Sin has arisen as a barrier between mankind and God. The Bible reveals God's plan for removing the barrier and establishing harmony. (I Tim. 2:5,6)

I. GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF RECONCILIATION: (II Cor. 5:18)

"All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself." "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself." (vs. 19) "that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." vs. 21

1. The initiative in reconciliation (salvation) came not from people who had offended God by sin, but from a God who was offended by sinning people.
2. This is contrary to the human nature of things, where the initiative in reconciliation must usually come from the offender who repents and pleads for forgiveness. This is the way with individuals; it is also the general way with nations.
3. This contrary to man-made humanistic religions. Man's religious philosophy is that sinners gain the favor of God by penitence, penance, and good deeds.
4. This is the amazing wonder of the gospel -- people do not reach up to God, but God reaches down to people -- the offenders, the rebels, the peace-breakers.

- a. People are inclined to blame God for all the evil and the distress in the world; this is trend of the human mind.
 - b. But man, as a free moral agent, disobeyed God's holy law and filled the earth with evil. So we are responsible. Yet, we are reluctant to accept the blame and responsibility for our own sinfulness and evil actions.
5. Salvation did not originate in the mind or heart of a person but in the great heart of God, which is ever full of love for this sinful world.
consider: John 3:16, 17; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:9, 11, 16

Note:

Along with God's great heart of love is His mind of infinite wisdom, whereby He was able to solve the problem of how to both forgive and yet punish sin. We must never forget this great fact! An awareness of this truth will change our lives. It will change our religious philosophies and would correct most religious errors. God devised and instituted the reconciliation of this sinful world to Himself.

II. CHRIST IS THE AGENT OF RECONCILIATION: (II Cor. 5:19, 17; 20)

"for God was in Christ, reconciling..." "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation..."
"He hath made him to be sin for us ... that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

- 1. Christ had to be the mediator of salvation. (vs. 19)
 - a. No one else could ever qualify. *"There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in..."* (I Tim. 2:5)
 - b. In order to become mediator or agent, in reconciliation, He had to become man... incarnate in flesh. (Jh 1:1-3, 14; I Tim. 3:16; II Cor. 5:16, 21)
- 2. Christ, in order to become agent in reconciliation, had to be the sinbearer. (John 1:29; I Pet. 2:24; II Cor. 5:21)
 - a. Divine justice demanded judgment of sin. The penalty had to be paid. The decree was... *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* *"Death passed upon all men for that all have sinned."* (Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 5:12, 5:19)
 - b. Free pardon was not possible. In order for the sinner to be justified, declared righteous (Rom. 5:1) the sinless ONE had to assume the guilt. *"He was made sin for us..."* (I Cor. 5:21)
- 3. Christ's two great acts of grace are these:
 - a. He gave His life on the cross for our reconciliation. vs 15
 - b. He gives His life to us, in response to our faith, for our regeneration. vs 17 (Rom. 5:8-10)

III. WE WHO ARE SAVED ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION:

(II Cor. 5:18-20)
"God ... hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation... He has committed unto us the word of reconciliation... for we are ambassadors for Christ."

- 1. This is a solemn truth for us to face. It is an integral part of God's plan for the reconciliation of the world.

- a. He provided reconciliation. We are to proclaim it.
 - b. He made reconciliation possible. We are to make it actual in human lives.
 - c. He was God's instrument to do what only He could do; we are His instruments to do what we are able to do and commanded to do.
2. The passage clearly states... we are ambassadors for Christ: (vs. 20)
An ambassador has two chief responsibilities --
- a. As a representative of His sovereign, our personal life must be impeccable.
 - b. Our office.. in behalf of His sovereign, is to deliver his messages to people estranged from Him and to appeal for peace.
An ambassador is to make know his sovereign desires for reconciliation and friendship on the terms on which they are based -- His terms.
The terms in the gospel are pure grace!!
3. Christians are ambassadors to the whole world -- "*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself... and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation...*" (vs. 19)
- a. The whole world is included in God's plan;
 - b. the whole world is our area of ambassadorship.
4. Note the words Paul used to represent our ambassadorship:
- a. He said... "*We persuade men...*" vs. 11 This means to "*persuade them by logic, by argument, by debate, by intellectual approach.*" We are to use every God honoring device of intellect and logic we can to persuade people to turn to Christ.
 - b. Paul also used the words -- "*beseech and pray*" (vs. 20) This means that we are "*implore, beg, plead with and entreat*" people to be reconciled to God. We are to do this among all the peoples of the world.
 - c. "*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.*" The word **terror** means "*reverential fear, awe, holy regard.*" It is striking that God gives to us the ministry and the word of reconciliation.

“The BIBLE and MISSIONS”

Introduction:

Christ's coming was a “*missionary coming.*” The Christmas story is a “*missionary story.*” It was heaven coming down to reach us for our sake. (Lk 19:10)

The apostle Paul was not content to keep the gospel within the Christian community. He wanted everyone to hear the “*good news*” that Jesus saves. In the gospel, Paul knew that we have something all the world must hear. Only in Christ can we be saved. (Rom. 1:14-17)

All the world must hear!

1. What should our concern be?
2. What must we do about missions?
3. How should we be involved in missions?
4. Why did Paul strive to carry the gospel to the regions beyond?
5. Why did Jesus say, “*Lift up your eyes, look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest.*” (Jh 4:35)
6. We must think about ***why*** we should be ***motivated*** to reach the regions beyond!

I. CHRIST’S COMMAND INCLUDES ALL THE WORLD!

A. Notice what the Bible says:

1. Matt. 28:18-20 -- “*disciple all nations.*”
2. Lk 24:47 - “*that repentance and remission of sin should be preached among all nations.*”
3. Mk. 16:15, “*GO YE into all the world.*”

B. Think -- these are commands.

1. “*We must obey God...*” (Acts 5:29) We must submit to what the Lord wants of us!
2. What is our **authority**? It is the Word of God, the very will of Christ.
3. We must obey the Lord, not live for our own whims, goals, thoughts, or interests.
4. If we love the Lord Jesus, (I Pet. 1:8), we will desire to obey Him. (John 14:21-23)

II. CHRIST’S ILLUSTRATIONS INCLUDE ALL THE WORLD:

A. The FIELD IS the world -- (John 4:35; Lk 8:5,11; Matt. 13:2-3, 24-25; Mk. 4:3, 14)

1. The missionary task is much like the task of the farmer. The farmer tills the soil, sows the seed, fights weeds, for he must do everything needed to have a harvest.
2. The *world is the field!* We must **sow** the Word of God in all lands. (Mk 16:15)
3. There is **power** in the seed, the Word of God.
4. We have been selfish and have not shared the gospel equally in all lands.
5. We have repeatedly given it to the few favored spots of the world.
6. We have desired the benefits for ourselves.

B. Christ IS the LIGHT of the world! (Jh 8:12; Jh 1:1-13)

1. Wicked men thought they had put out that light. When they crucified Him they thought they would be rid of Christ forever.

2. Christ "*who is the light of the world,*" has passed the light on to us, (Matt. 5:14-16). We are to be the light of the world. (Acts 13:47-49)
3. *Why a light?* Light gives protection, it aids, it gives direction, it beckons and invites us to come in. *So we are to give the gospel light to a dark world in sin, a world that is in heathen darkness; in the shadow of death.*
4. Every soul in darkness is waiting for us to give them the light of the message of the gospel. . . **Salvation is in Christ alone!**

C. Christ IS the BREAD of Life for a needy world!

(John 6:26-35, 37-40, 47-48)

1. Do we know what it means to be hungry? To be famished? To be near death from lack of food? Few of us in America know what it means to truly be without, to suffer hunger pangs day and night, to be starving.
2. Christ is the **essential** -- the only *spiritual bread* for the soul. HE is the "**bread of life for every needy soul.**"
3. Great numbers are dying daily without salvation. *We must take them the bread of life. . . the Lord Jesus Christ.* He only is "the life giving, spiritual bread." (Jh 14:6; Acts 4:12; 10:43)

III. CHRIST'S PLAN, PURPOSE INCLUDES ALL THE WORLD.

A. Christ went to those who were neglected.

1. Jh 4:4, "*I must needs go through Samaria.*"
2. Christ reached out to Zaccheaus, to the blind, to many in need. (Matt. 9:35-36)
3. Many are neglected. They are without a Savior, and few care. (Consider Jer. 8:20-22; Psa. 142:1-4; Lam 1:12.)

B. Salvation is in Christ and He alone! -- (Lk 19:10; Jh 3:18; Acts 4:12; Jh 14:6; I Tim. 1:15; Acts 13:37-39)

1. The lost are without hope -- Rom. 1:18-20
2. The lost must **hear** - Rom. 10:13-17; **this tells us that proclaimers must be sent!**

Consider:

1. In your own words, how does the world being a "*field,*" imply our accountability?
 2. What is significant about Christ being the "*light of the world, and the bread of life?*"
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Some Bible “Musts”!!

Introduction:

- Some things in life are optional; others are mandatory. This is so in our relationship to God.
- We are constantly making choices between what is good and what is essential.
- In the Word of God, some things are imperative and inescapable, not optional.
- We will consider some of the imperatives of the Bible.

I. THE MUST OF CHRIST’S CRUCIFIXION:

*“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must** the Son of man be lifted up.”* (John 3:14)

A. Christ must be lifted up.

1. *Lifted up* was an expression used during the days of the Roman Empire to signify crucifixion. It was similar to our expression strung up which is used for hanging.
2. Jesus used the same expression again in John 12:32, 33, signifying His death. In John 3:14 He emphasized the necessity of His death; in John 12, He signified the manner of His death -- crucifixion.

B. Forgiveness of human sin and the redemption of mankind demanded that someone else pay for the penalty of sin.

1. *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. (Ezek. 18:4) “The wages of sin is death.”* (Romans 6:23) The Book of Revelation describes eternal condemnation as the *“second death.”* (Rom. 5:12)
2. In the Old Testament God was teaching the world that a sacrifice must be offered for sin if the sinner is to be forgiven. *“Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* (Heb. 9:22)
3. God faced the problem of how He could *“be just and the justifier”* of those who are forgiven. (Rom. 3:26)
 - a. The solution was the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, as mankind’s substitute.
 - b. Thus God is not unjust, even though the penalty of sin was lifted from us, simply because Christ, His Son, paid the penalty for us.
 - c. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, *“if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.”* (Matt. 26:39) but it was not possible, and He submitted to the Father’s will, saying, *“Not as I will, but as thou wilt.”* (v. 39)

C. When Jesus opened the understanding of the disciples to the Scriptures following His resurrection, He said, *“Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the death...and that repentance and remission of sins should be preaching in His name among all nations.”* (Luke 24:46,47)

1. God's wonderful plan of redemption, as revealed in the Scriptures, demanded the substitutionary death of Christ: *"It behooved Christ to suffer."* (vs. 46)
2. During His earthly ministry He frequently emphasized that it was necessary saying, *"that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."* (Luke 24:44)
3. This included such passages as Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. In Luke 24, He revealed this to His disciples.

II. THE MUST OF A MISSION -- WORLD EVANGELISM:

*"The gospel **must** first be published among all nations."* (Mark 13:10)

A. The Gospel must be preached...

1. In Luke 24:45-48, He pointed out from the Scriptures that it was necessary for Him to suffer and to rise from the death and for His disciples to preach repentance and remission of sin among all nations.
2. This passage indicates that there are two great musts in the plan of redemption:
 - a. The substitutionary death of Christ,
 - b. The evangelization of the world.

B. World evangelization is not optional... but mandatory.

1. It is not supplemental to the work of Christ, but fundamental to it.
2. It is not be our decision, but by God's decree.

C. The commission of Jesus Christ is given in all four of the gospels.

1. In each instance it is clear that it is a matter of divine mandate, but human volition.
2. We have no choice as to whether we will or will not evangelize the world.
3. God has already made the choice for us.

III. THE MUST OF HUMAN SALVATION:

"Ye must be born again..." Jh 3:

A. People must be born again.

1. How does this take place? It take place by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 1:11-13)
2. It is brought about through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit: (Rom. 10:17; I Pet. 1:23; Jh 3:1-7; 1:11-12) To be born of the Spirit and by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever is what God brings in the life.

B. To experience the new birth, the person MUST hear the Word of God. (Rom. 10:10-17) The message must be given, the gospel must be shared, or people cannot be saved. Faith can't take place without the message given. Every lost person must hear and that necessitates someone going.

IV. THE MUST OF CHRISTIAN COMPASSION:

*"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I **must** bring."*

(Jh 10:16)

The apostle Paul shared this same burden when he said, *"The love of Christ constrainth me."* (II Cor. 5:14)

A. Paul exclaimed another time... *"Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel."*

(I Cor. 9:16) The love of God and the zeal for souls so consumed him that he would suffer internal woe if he did not strive to make Christ known to the people of the world.

B. Romans 5:5 states that the "Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and if they are filled with Him, they will be filled with the same divine love that prompted God to send His Son into the world in the first place. This same love prompted Christ to go to the Cross.

C. The love principle which the Apostle John cited in his first epistle must also operate within us regarding the unsaved. (I Jh. 3:16-18)

V. THE MUST OF THE FATHER'S WILL

A. As a boy in the temple Jesus said to Mary and Joseph, *"Wist (knew) ye not that I **must** be about my Father's business?"* (Luke 2:49)

1. Jesus often stressed the fact that He had come from heaven not to do His own will but the *"will of Him that had sent him."* (Jh 6:38). What was that will?

2. What was the mission for which He was sent? It was *"to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10) to bring those *"other sheep into the fold."* (John 10:16)

B. As the Father sent me... so send I you! (John 20:21) Therefore, His mission is our mission.

C. He said, "I must work work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day." (John 9:4) Again He said, *"My Father worketh hitherto (until the present), and I **must** work..."* (Jh. 5:17) The divine will and work of Jesus' Heavenly Father was the constant imperative of His life.

1. It was His constant desire and purpose,

2. It was His constant motivation,

3. It was the goal of His earthly sojourn.

What about us? We dare not say, "I might..." we dare not say, "I may," We can only say "I must."

“The BURDEN of MISSIONS”

Introduction: A church that believes the Bible *must* have missions at the forefront of its church program.

Every born again child of God, walking in the will of God, will have a missionary burden and vision. We are told to “*look at the harvest*” and the “*fields are the world.*” (John 4:34-38)

I. MISSIONS . . . Why?

A. Because of the command of Christ.

1. Given in Matt. 28:18-20-- go to *all nations*.
2. Given in Mk. 16:15 -- to *every creature*.
3. Given in Jh. 20:21 -- “*So send I you!*”
4. Given in Acts 1:8 -- we are to GO to our *Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”
5. What does this mean to us?
Jerusalem -- our county, our area and *Judea* -- could mean our state
Samaria -- our country, and *uttermost* -- overseas, and around the world.
Christ commanded it, that should be enough for us. This command was given by the resurrected Savior who has all authority.

B. Because of the Testimony of the Lord Jesus.

1. Jesus was a **missionary**; He was God’s sent One. “*For God sent not the Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.*” (Jh 3:17)
2. Jesus was burdened for the world; He looked with compassion upon the multitudes; He wept over them, (Matt. 9:36; Lk 19:41). He said, “*other sheep I have. . . them also I must bring.*” (Jh 10:16).
3. Jesus **ordained us to GO** (Jh 15:16) and to bring forth fruit. (Jh. 15:1-8)

C. Because of the example of the Early Church.

1. Christ gave the apostles and disciples the commission to “**go into all the world,**” Did they obey His command. As we study the Book of Acts, we find them in Jerusalem in Acts chapters,1-7. In chapter 8 due to much persecution they were scattered abroad in the areas of Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1-4). According to Acts 11:19, they were scattered as far as the northern city of Antioch.
2. From Antioch the church sent missionaries. Acts 13:2 says that God instructed the church: “*Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*” From this point of time the book of Acts is a story of missionary journeys to take the gospel to the world.

D. Because of the Example of the Apostle Paul.

1. Paul could say that he took the gospel to the regions beyond. His life is the record of constant missionary labor. He had the vision God gave (Acts 16:9), which took him into Macedonia. He fulfilled the God-given vision. (Acts 26:19)
2. In Romans 15: 20 Paul wrote, “*Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.*”
3. Paul’s burden was so great that he wished himself accursed for his own people. (Rom. 9:1-3; Rom. 10:1; II Cor. 10:14-16)

We need people today with the burning compassion of the apostle Paul!

E. Because of the example of the Church of Thessalonica. (I Thess. 1:7-8)
What a missionary church this was (1:8). They were examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia for the Word of God was sounded out through them. Paul used them as a testimony of missionary burden.

F. Because of the great need in the World.

Billions are without Christ, most of whom have never known *HOW* to be saved; they have not known the gospel story. They are bound for Hell with no knowledge of salvation. Their blood is upon our hands. They may have medical and physical aid because someone cares, but do we care about their souls? Paul consider himself to be in debt to the lost. (Rom. 10:14-16; Acts 20:16-32)

G. Because of the lack of workers, laborers.

1. Christ told us to “*pray the Lord of the Harvest that He would send forth workers...*” (Matt. 9:38)
2. Christ knew the great need would be a lack of sufficient laborers. “*The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few.*” (Matt. 9:37)
3. Some years ago - “*94% of the Christian workers were working with 9% of the world’s peoples (English speaking), and about 6% of the workers were trying to reach the 91% of the world’s population.*” It is no different today!

H. Because the Lost are Truly LOST!

1. Many people doubt that the lost are actually lost. But God says that every person outside of Christ is lost. (Lk. 19:10; Acts 4:12)
2. But some say that those who have never heard will not be lost, but God will save them. If they are right, then we ought to leave everyone in ignorance. **BUT. . .**
3. **Christ would have us minister to the lost.**
 - a. The unsaved are bound for hell. (Rev. 20:15)
 - b. They are condemned already. (Jh 3:18, 36)
 - c. They are loved. (Jh 3:16-17; Rom. 5:8)
 - d. God is calling out a people from the Gentiles, for His name sake. (Acts 15:14)
 - e. He is expecting us to sacrificially give of our means to reach others. (II Cor. 8:1-5)
6. We **must** “*first publish the gospel in all the world.*” (See Mk 13:10)

Questions to consider:

1. What kind of burden did Paul have according to Romans 9:1-2?

_____ according to Romans 10:1 _____

2. How can missionaries get to the fields according to Romans 10:14-15?

3. Who is called to serve according to II Timothy 1:9?

4. Is John 15:16 to be taken personally by every saved person? if so, why?
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II. MISSIONS. . . When?

The greatest days of opportunity are upon us! NOW is always the time for the voice of God to be heard. (Heb. 3:7-9; II Cor. 6:2b) God wants us to GO TODAY, for the “*night cometh. . . when no man can work.*” (Jh 9:4)

A. Go NOW -- for the TIME IS short!

Christ is coming soon; life is short; our days are numbered. We are commanded to take the Word of God to every creature. We can only serve our own generation. (See Acts 13:36)

B. Go NOW -- for the days are evil! (Eph. 5:16;)

Satan, through the work of the cults, is sweeping the world. The messengers of falsehood are in every country they can enter. Satan is out to reach the whole world. He is actively urging on his false prophets. ***We must go. Tomorrow will be too late.***

Conclusions:

1. What did God say is the problem in Ezekiel 22:30?

2. What did Isaiah say in response to God's call on his life? (Isa. 6:1-8)

3. What did Paul say in Acts 26:19?

_____What about us?

4. What could many people of the world say? (Jer. 8:20)

What will YOU DO about a world in need?

“Being INVOLVED in Biblical Missions!”

Introduction:

What is Biblical missions? What does God want of us? What is His will? Much that is called missions today is not Biblical missions, it is carrying out the interests, desires, and will of men.

Also we have an idea that missions is “overseas.” We almost have the idea that what people do in missions (other countries) is not the same as what we are doing on the home “front”.

Let’s examine some very important, vital aspects of just what missions is.

I. THE COMMAND OF A MISSIONARY:

(Matt 28:18-20)

The “*marching orders*” for every missionary is “*to make disciples*” of all nations.

A. The Great Commission Has Been Given To Every Christian -- to every one of us!

1. Not the social gospel; some merely minister to the physical needs or leave out the Word of God to make their message more attractive.
2. Some would leave out all that people don’t like, to make the gospel less offensive. (I Cor. 1:18)
3. But we must obey all the Word of God. We must declare the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:26-32).
4. To “*just win souls,*” is the cry of many. Then they do not obey the great commission, do not organize churches, do not teach separation and godly living, or real discipleship. This is the kind of missions that many engage in today.

B. The Basis of this Command is to DO the RIGHT KIND of Missionary Work under the Authority of Christ. (Matt. 28:18)

1. All authority and power is His.
2. What He gave in command came from the Father. His authority extends to both heaven and earth. No questions, no excuses, nor delays are given by the angels when Christ gives His command in Heaven. (Heb. 1:7, 14), and such should be true of us today.

C. The Result of the Command is to Make Disciples: (Cf. Acts 2:41-47; 11:21-26)

1. This should always be the end result.
2. This isn’t several commands, but one, with 3 parts -- “*Having gone, or in the process of going...*” all three parts are to be fulfilled.
 - a. winning souls, cf. Acts 2:38-41
 - b. baptizing them, cf. Acts 2:41
 - c. teaching them, cf. Acts 2:42Conversion of the lost soul initiates one into discipleship, and this includes baptizing and teaching them to observe all things.
3. God puts great emphasis upon “*teaching them to observe all things.*” (I Pet. 2:2; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Tim. 2:15; Tit 2:11-14; II Tim. 4:1-3; II Pet. 1:3-11; Col. 1:28) This demands discipling them.
4. We are to “*observe all things:*” . . . that is, “*to watch over, guard, keep, preserve, to give heed to, and to observe.*” (cf. Heb. 2:1; 6: ; Jh 8:31)

II. THE CHART OF A MISSIONARY: Acts 1:8

The chart is something to follow: *a pattern or a directive*. In business, charts may serve as a guide to the employee. He knows just what is expected of him. It is his directive. God's chart serves as a guide to the missionary and also to the local church.

A. The Order It Reveals --

1. It shows the order of places.
2. It shows the order of priority -- it shows that we must labor at home, then outward from there to the uttermost parts of the earth.
3. That it is to be "both, in," the home land and the countries of the world. This means the ***whole field is the priority***, that we do not neglect any part of the world's peoples.
4. Obedience to this principle (Mark 16:15) is very important. There are many missionary "*drones*" who do little or nothing in true missionary work.
5. True missionary work -- is ***evangelism*** with the purpose of ***building up*** local New Testament churches. . . after the pattern of the Word of God.

III. THE CALL OF A MISSIONARY: Acts 13:1-4; II Tim. 1:9

A. The call is of God! The call must be from God, or there will be a false motive for going.

1. Some go for social service; some to travel to new places, some because they failed elsewhere. Some because of the challenge, or because of the need-- *but is it the call of God?*
2. There is only one true reason for going -- that is obedience to God's CALL.

B. All Have Been Called.. Jh 15:16; II Tim. 1:9

1. All of us have been called, and we must seek the place... or the *where*. Then we must seek out as to whether it is to be "full-time" in the strict sense, or whether we pay our own way.
2. All will give an account for the Divine Commission. All are called to "*witness,*" and to be actively engaged in "*building the Church, the body of Christ.*" (Acts 8:4; 5:32; 20:20)
3. Each must pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as to His will, just for them. As to *where*. . . *when*. . . *why*. . . *how*. . . to be at the right place.

Conclusions:

There is a certain kind of church where God can call His own to serve Him. The church at Antioch was a spiritual church. (Acts 13:1-4) There was much heart worship, ***praying, fasting, seeking God's face***. There was a ***deep love for Christ***. (see Rev. 3:15,16; Jh 14:15) They were a ***disciplined*** people who dedicated their all. It was a ***concerned*** church that had a deep ***compassion*** for souls that moved them to action.

So then. . . the

Conduct of the missionary is to be an example to all the believers. I Thess. 2:1-12

Center of missionary work is the local church, Acts. 13:1-4; Acts 14:26-28

Consummation of missionary work is the establishment of indigenous churches,

Acts. 14

Class-room of missionary work is the training of others, II Tim.. 2:2

Counsel for missionary work is the Word of God. II Tim. 3:16-17

Criteria is to "*prove themselves first,*" at home. Acts 9, 11.

“WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE MISSIONARY NEED?”

Have you ever considered these missionary mottoes?

“You are a missionary -- or a mission field!”

“Christ accepted makes you a Christian -- Christ obeyed makes you a missionary!”

“Christ alone can save the world -- But Christ cannot save the world alone!”

“Millions dying there have never heard-- but millions here have never cared!”

“The church’s goal has not been reached -- until the unreached have been reached!”

“Expect great things from God -- attempt great things for God!”

“God commands, \$end missionaries -- Take away the \$, end missionaries!”

Every saved person is accountable to do all he or she can about the needs of missions around the world.

Missions is the **central stream** of God’s will and work in this age. If we are not involved in God’s will about missions, then we are out of the will of God.

Reaching the lost is the main concern in the will of God today. ***When we are involved in the missionary task as we ought to be . . . then we are involved in that which is closest to God’s heart! Then we will bring glory to God!***

I. WE MUST GO!

*This seems so trite to say, but that is the greatest need! We must **go** as an expression of obedience to the clear call of God. God **calls** people to **go**!*

A. God Called Isaiah - Isa. 6:1-8

Isaiah saw the glory of God, the holiness of God. He confessed his sins and the sins of his people. Then he heard the call of God. . . . “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us” He answered, “Here am I, send me!”

B. God Called Paul - Acts 9:6

1. Paul said, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”
2. To Ananias, about Paul, God said, “He (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel.” (Read Acts 9:11-16)
3. From this we see the call of God. We also are called of God to **go** with the message of salvation. (See II Timothy 1:9)

C. God Calls Proclaimers to GO - Rom. 10:13-14

1. The train of thought is very clear in Romans 10:13-17. *“How can they (the whosoever who need to call upon the Lord to be saved) call upon Him whom they have not believed? How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? How can they hear without a proclaimer?”*
2. Since *“faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God,”* then how can anyone get saved without the message given to them?

Missions must be PREACHING (proclaiming) the message of the finished work of Christ... salvation through His blood. This is the primary task for medical aid, orphanages, etc., are all secondary. (Rom. 1:14-16)

II. WE MUST BUILD CHURCHES - Acts 13, 14

Wherever Paul went he left a church behind. This is the will of God. This is New Testament missions and the pattern left to us by the church in the time of the writing of the book of Acts. Churches were established and those churches (people) were then to go out and reach still others. (See II Tim. 2:2)

All the epistles are the outcome of establishing churches which in turn went out to win souls and form more churches. ***This is the supreme task of missions.***

III. WE MUST GIVE SACRIFICIALLY -

The early church gave sacrificially! Many of the people gave ALL they had. Acts 4:33-37 tells of such spontaneous giving.

A. Giving Is a Grace - II Cor. 8:1-7 (vs. 7)

These people first gave themselves unto the Lord, (8:5), and they gave out of their deep poverty, (vs. 2). *It is clear they gave what they could not afford to give and trusted God for it.*

B. Giving Must Follow the Example of Christ -

(II Cor. 8:9) Christ gave His all; He was made poor, that we might be made rich. We must learn to give as God gives . . . *full and running over as He gives unto us.* (II Cor. 9:15; 9:6-7; Rom. 8:32) ***Christ gave sacrificially!***

IV. WE MUST PRAY EFFECTUALLY - James 5:16

We would all agree that the church of the book of Acts was a missionary church, especially as events thrust them out. (Acts 8:1-4)

But it was eminently a **praying** church. It was when they prayed and fasted that God said, *“Separate unto me Barnabas and Paul. for the work whereunto I have called them”* (Acts 13:1-4). It was when they prayed that the place was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and witnessed with boldness. (Acts 4:23-31). The book of Acts abounds with prayer meetings.

The work of missions will go forward only as we get under the burden in fervent, effectual prayer. Prayer in the will of God, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, is what God wants.

We cannot all go -- overseas -- but we can all pray.

A. Pray for Power on the Missionaries - Acts 4:33; Rom. 15:30

B. Pray for Their Protection. - Eph. 6:18-19

C. Pray for Their Provisions, needs. - Phil. 4:19

D. Pray for Holy Spirit Direction. - Acts 8, 10

“YOU and MISSIONS!”

Introduction:

III John was written by the Apostle John around 98 A.D. from the city of Ephesus, where he was pastor. It was written to Gaius, one of his own converts (verse 4), who according to tradition was the first pastor of the church at Pergamus (Rev. 2:12-17).

To understand the epistle one must know something about its background. John had sent traveling missionaries from Ephesus, and Gaius had led his church to support them. In the epistle, John commended Gaius for his *missionary support and his missionary giving*.

By having a missionary spirit we too fit into the spirit of this epistle.

In III John we see that missionary giving is:

I. A PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: verse 1-7

A. It Must Begin With Someone.

1. Usually when the pastor of a church gets enthused about missions, the church will follow. Someone must begin.
2. The first great missionary movement of this age began with just a few in the church of Antioch. (Read Acts 13:1-4.)

B. It Evidences Spiritual Prosperity. vss. 2-4

1. John wished that his physical health was as good as his spiritual health, vs. 3.
2. A missionary church is a healthy church. “A *giving church is a living church.*”
3. Giving is a good thermometer of spiritual health.
4. To be doing nothing to win souls to Christ is to be disobedient.

II. A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH:

(verse 5) Kenneth Wrest translated verse 5: “*Beloved, you are doing a work of faith, whatsoever you are performing for the brethren...*”

A. The Task Demands Faith.

When we realize that every lost person is our responsibility, we will become aware of our insufficiency to fulfill the great commission with merely human resources.

B. It is a Work of Faith.

1. We are to walk by faith, (II Cor. 5:7).
2. We are to serve by faith, build churches by faith. We must go and give to missions by faith.

Note: *The faith promise plan of missionary giving makes missions personal and practical. It gives each individual a personal interest and burden for missions. It makes us good stewards, for every cent that comes through our hands brings with it the question: “Is this what the Lord has provided for me to give for world evangelism?” What does God want me to give each week... monthly... and trust Him that I might give . . . that I don’t have?*

III. A PROOF OF OUR LOVE, verse 6

The missionaries returned to the Ephesians church with reports of the love (charity) of Gaius, evidenced by his support. "*Bring forward on their journey,*" refers to the custom of supplying travelers with ample provision for the next leg of their journey.

A. Love Will Give. (Read II Cor. 8:7-9.)

1. God so loved that He gave, (Jh 3:15-17)
2. Christians who love Christ & the souls of men will give to spread the gospel.
3. Even the reverse is truth, "*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" (Matt. 6:21)
4. The more we give to missions, the more we will love missions and the Lord will bless that we might increase our giving. (Lk. 6:38)

B. Giving to Missions is Commendable.

1. John said that if he provided for the missionaries' needs he would be doing well.
2. Three kinds of giving are revealed in the Bible:
 - a. Obedient giving of tithes, offerings, for the ministry of the local church. (Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 9:13-14)
 - b. Sacrificial giving -- giving more and keeping less for self. (Mk 12:41-44; II Cor. 8:1-5)
 - c. Faith giving -- giving what we do not have or see, according to our budget or records, trusting God to supply. (I Cor. 9:6-15)

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