

Reflection

Drop Box Assignment Week 6

9/24/2019

Bi 621 Survey of John

Dr. Percy Johnson

Johannine understanding the mission of Jesus and the literary devices the writer uses to call community to participate in this missional work.

Jesus taught his disciples and sent them to carry out mission work. Jesus' departure serves as the catalyst for him commissioning his disciples with full authority to continue with his mission.

The focus of Johannine theology is for people to know the truth. Johannine theology of mission strongly emphasizes on the Incarnated Christ, his mission, and how his mission intertwined with his commission to his disciples by pouring out his own Spirit on them. According to John, there are two aspects of the mission of Jesus sending and glorifying. Many scholars comment on sending, rather than glorifying. They both are important in the mission. The Gospel of John falls rather into two distinct parts. The first 12 chapters present the earthly Jesus mission to the Jews. Chapter 13 through 21 presents the mission of the exalted Jesus to the world. The theme of sending affirms the active role of God in mission. Johannine theology of mission emphasizes mission. It has two specific characteristics. He is the Son sent from the Father; he came into the world and returned to the Father.

Johannine theology narrates symbolism and reality. "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35); "I am the world's light" (John 8:12); Gate for the sheep, the good shepherd (John 6-18); Resurrection

and Life (John 11:25-26). The Johannine theology of mission calls Christian believers to reveal the divine God so that disciples and followers can “come and see,” know God and partake of Him, and live in this world and the next world together with the God.

One of the most interesting literary features of the Gospel according to John is that the dialogues between Jesus and other characters often revolve around words and phrases that have many meanings. The literary pattern is frequently the same: the Johannine Jesus says something. One or more others misunderstand him, and Jesus slowly brings the dialogue to a deeper understanding. Often the misunderstanding is because people interpret Jesus words on a carnal or physical level, whereas he is really speaking on a more symbolic or spiritual level. Jesus' departure serves as the catalyst for him commissioning his disciples with full authority to continue with his mission. To further enforce the intensity of this authority, Jesus ties it to his death and resurrection pointing towards the fact that this event will enable his followers to embark on their mission and carry it to the communities. Some people from the world will obey the disciples' teaching just as they obeyed that of Jesus, but some will hate them. All is not lost, since the purpose of keeping his word is to show to the people of the world the light and how to start living in it. Through this, Jesus also showed his disciples that they could expect success in their mission and not rejection only. We are enlisted to share the love the Father has for the world. We are on a mission.