

STUDY PACK 3

A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS

(Notes adapted from material produced
by John O'Malley)

"No one has the right to hear the Gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once." ~ Oswald J. Smith

"This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth"
~ Keith Green

"There is nothing in the world or the Church - except the church's disobedience to render the evangelization of the world in this generation an impossibility." ~ Robert Speer

"We are debtors to every man to give him the Gospel in the same measure in which we have received it." ~ P. F. Bresee

I. WHY MUST MISSIONS BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CHURCH?

A. Missions has been the heart of God _____.

1. Man was in the Garden - God came to fellowship with him. (Genesis 3:8)
"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. "
2. Man sinned and broke fellowship, God promised a Savior. (Genesis 3:15)
"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. "

B. Missions has been the heart of God _____.
_____. (Isaiah 9:6) *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

(Luke 19:10) *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

C. Missions has been the heart of God for His church since _____.
_____. (Acts 1:11) *"Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. "*

- D. Missions is the central purpose of the church's _____
 _____. The Great Commission is clear. The world must be evangelized. In each instance of the Commission, emphasis is placed on the five facets of Missions.
1. Notice the emphasis is on the _____ of Missions. (Matthew 28:19-20) *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. "*
 2. Notice the emphasis is on the _____ of Missions. (Mark 16:15) *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."*
 3. Notice the emphasis is on the _____ of Missions. (Luke 24:47-49) *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (48) And ye are witnesses of these things. (49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*
 4. Notice the emphasis on the _____ for Missions. (John 20:21) *"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. "*
 5. Notice the emphasis is on the _____ to do Missions. (Acts 1:8) *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. "*
- E. The priority of a church is to evangelize their own community and to evangelize the uttermost parts of the earth.
- F. Summary: A church may have Bible doctrine, Biblical separation, Fundamental positions, and a good ministry program for all ages; but if it does not have a Bible-based Missions ministry, it ceases to be a church. A church must be involved in local and global evangelization.

II. WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A BIBLICAL MISSIONS PROGRAM?

- A. You will need a _____.
- B. You will need a _____ that:
 1. Will allow itself to feel the need of others.
 2. Is willing to do what no other church is willing to do.

3. Is willing to be faithful.
4. Know it's giving smells pleasant to God.
5. Knows that God will supply its needs as it supplies the needs of others.

C. You will need a strategy.

1. *The _____ Phase:* Your church should be evangelizing the community around you.
2. *The _____ Phase:* Your church should be evangelizing the state.
3. *The _____ Phase:* Your church should be evangelizing the neighboring countries.
4. *The _____ Phase:* Your church must be actively reaching out to areas around the world.

D. You will need _____.

1. This may come from the General Fund.
 - a. Some churches choose to deduct a set amount from their General Fund for Missions.
2. This may come from designated offerings.
 - a. Some churches allow members who feel led of the Lord to designate in their weekly giving an amount to be given to Missions.
3. This may come from Faith Promise.
 - a. This is a Biblical method of giving that comes from the pattern of the Corinthian Church. Fellow believers were faced with a famine in Jerusalem. Paul instructed them to promise by faith an amount that they would give in one year's time. This principle seeks to involve the membership in a direct way.

III. A GLIMPSE AT MISSIONS AT THE END OF THIS CENTURY

A. The greatest days in world evangelism are now.

1. Men and women are still saying yes to the call.
2. Getting to the field is easier than ever.
3. Communicating to the frontlines is instantaneous.
4. There are more countries open to the gospel than closed.

B. The greatest challenges lie before our churches.

1. The challenge not to _____.
 - a. Not to waver in our commitment to the Word of the Commission.
 - b. Not to waver in our commitment to the Work of the Commission.
 - c. Not to waver in our commitment to the Will of the Commissioner.

2. The challenge not to _____.
 - a. Our investment in the Harvest.
 - b. Our investment in the Harvesters.
 - c. Our investment in Harvest Equipment.

- C. The lessons to learn from the past.
 1. The General Commission requires a _____.
 - a. Of pastors
 - b. Of missionaries
 - c. Of church members

 2. The General Commission requires _____.
 - a. A vision of Him set down on the throne (Hebrews 12:2).
 - b. A vision of the Harvest **NOW**, not as it was yesterday.
 - c. A vision of His return and the responsibility to complete the task.

 3. The General Commission requires _____.
 - a. Effort on the part of ALL generations.
 - b. Effort on the part of pastors to keep Missions before the people.
 - c. Effort on the part of missionaries to have high standards in ministry.