

Interaction Paper #1 - Chapter 2 The Mission of God's People - Christopher Wright

One sentence thesis statement:

There is truly no true mission without the full knowledge of God's story...

One paragraph summary

In chapter two, *People Who Know the Story They are Part Of*, author Christopher Wright challenges the reader from the very beginning with a very important question: "Why were the early Christians so mission-minded about taking the teachings of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth way before the writing of the Great Commission?"¹ His answer lies in the fact that early Christians had a broader perspective of the "dynamic thrust of the Bible's own story line."² The early Christians understood that all of the story was God's mission and that they saw themselves as participants of the story"... Wright skillfully outlines for us the importance of knowing God's whole story from creation, fall, the redemptive history, and the new creation. It is God's whole story that truly informs the mission of God's people and not just the Great Commission.

Personal interaction on specific themes integrating with other resources and references

The Great Commission is widely believed to be the main focus of any discussions related to Christian missions and was also believed to be the inspiration for why early Christians were on fire for Jesus. It was interesting to me personally to be reminded that the gospels that contained the Great Commission were not even written during the early Christian missions. Personally, I had not given much thought to what motivated the early Christians to be on fire for Jesus and to be reminded of the timeline and the importance of the whole story as to what really

¹ Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009) 52 Kindle Location

² Ibid., 52 Kindle Location

motivated early Christians was eye opening for me and I am looking forward to further investigation and exploration through our discussions/readings in our class this semester. I am also reminded of the discussions that we had during our first class on what is the purpose of the church and am curious if we may have possibly, “selectively ignored” the whole gospel in understanding the concept of church.

Questions for further engaging themes

How can this broader perspective of God’s story impact missions of mission minded Christians of the 21st century church? What are the possibilities for mission work once the whole story of the gospel is fully understood?