

The Purpose of Mission

Intro: John Piper states in his book, *Let the Nations be Glad!*, that:

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man.”

For the next 4 weeks we will be looking at how important it is for the church of Jesus Christ to have a missional worldview and a missional purpose in its existence. Jesus’ last command to his disciples was that they proclaim the gospel to all peoples, making worshippers wherever they go. This was the purpose of Israel when the Lord chose them from among the nations, and it is now the goal of the church as God has chosen us from among the nations: we are to proclaim His greatness so that He would be known for who He is and worshipped. This is the definition of Missions.

Missions is important, vitally important, as the purpose of the church. But it is only so because worship is the heartbeat of a relationship with God. He is worthy of our praise for He is God: sovereign in power, holy in righteousness, gracious in mercy, just in His wrath, and loving in His forgiveness. He alone is worthy to be called God! My desire is that we at EBF would grow to become known as a missional church, where our desire for God’s glory is so strong in our worship that our community knows Who God is, whether they take Him or leave Him. How can we do this? How can we show His truth and His mercy, His holiness and His grace?

The more we see of His greatness, particularly in His Son and His gospel, the more we worship and the more we become missional in our worldview. The key to effective missions is our worship of a great and majestic God. The God we see in the face of Jesus Christ. Let us pursue Him and find in Him that our hearts cannot contain this great treasure in silence, but must shout from the gutters to the rooftops that Jesus is worthy! That is being a missionary!

1. The Purpose of Missions is Worship
 - a. The Joyful Worship of God is the Purpose of the Church
 - i. He is worthy
 1. Is 40:25-26 (Holy and Powerful)
 2. 1 Chr 16:31-34 (goodness and reign makes us glad)
 3. 2 Sm 22:4 (salvation)
 4. Rev 4:11 (Creation Power)
 5. Rev 5:9 (Sacrifice to Redeem Us)
 - ii. His desire is to be glorified
 1. Is 48:9-11
 2. Eph 1:4-6
 3. Is 43:6-7
 4. Ps 106:7-8
 5. Ezek 20:14
 6. Matt 5:16
 7. 1 Cor 10:31
 - iii. A Missional Church Desires to see Him glorified among all peoples
 1. Ps 67
 2. 1 Chr 16:23-31
 3. Ps 22:27-31
 4. Ps 72:11, 17
 5. Ps 86:9
 6. Ps 96:1-4
 7. Is 2:2-3
 8. Is 52:10
 9. Dan 7:13-14
 10. Rom 16:25-27
 - b. Missions is the *means* of creating worshippers

- i. Missions will cease to exist, but worship never will
- ii. God is pre-eminent, therefore worship precludes missions
- iii. Missions will never succeed where an overwhelming awe of God's greatness does not exist

2. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

a. A passion for God is what spurs missions

i. Not primarily a love for the lost

- 1. Our passion for Him is shown in our desire for the lost, just as His passion for His glory is shown in His love for the lost!
- 2. Love for the lost is a little overwhelming
- 3. How can we spur love such an abstract thought?
- 4. Go deeper, to the root of passion: the heart's longing for God to be known and glorified (Hallowed be Your name...)

a. 1 Cor 1:17-21

i. Reveal the Gospel

- 1. Foolish to the unbelievers
- 2. Powerful salvation to believers

b. 2 Cor 2:15-16

i. Gospel Aroma

- 1. Death to Death
- 2. Life to Life

c. 1 Pet 2:6-10

i. The Stone of Jesus

- 1. Cornerstone for believers
- 2. Stumbling rock for unbelievers

ii. Greater than that, a love for God

- 1. A love for God's glory precludes and impels us to share the gospel and to love others because God loves them perfectly
 - a. Even when they reject you, you continue to reveal and proclaim the gospel
- 2. God's love is shown in His desire for the lost!

iii. When God is esteemed in His glory and greatness, then missions comes from a heart of joy to see His Name worshipped

- 1. Psalm 97:1
- 2. Ps 67:3-4

b. God's passion for God spurs His mission

i. God's desire is for His name to be glorified

- 1. Isaiah 48:9-11

ii. Self-love of God?

- 1. He is different
- 2. Self-love is sinful when it seeks *only* its own good at the expense or manipulation of others.
 - a. To find joy in seeing others' joy is seeking your own good, isn't it?
 - b. Beatitudes are about blessing (good for oneself)

iii. Righteousness is worshipping the truly worthy

- 1. We worship God for He is worthy
- 2. God rightly honors Himself, for He is worthy

c. Where a small view of God exists, Missions doesn't

- i. We need to all within our power to find the means to a greater and deeper appreciation of God in His greatness
- ii. Missions is not the goal... worship is.

- d. We don't primarily need to go to seminars and trainings to learn how to share our faith, we need to be overwhelmed with the greatness of God!
 - i. See His greatness: Creator, Righteous Judge, Redeemer, etc.
 - ii. Make every effort to find any means in your heart to a deeper love for the Almighty God.
3. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness
- a. Mercy leads to joy
 - i. Joy is greater when the mercy is greater
 - ii. The greater one's view of God, the greater one's feeling of desperation in light of sin/holiness, the greater one's relishing of mercy when forgiven
 - b. God's supremacy leads to joy
 - i. There is no doubt that God's Word will prevail
 - ii. His cause will succeed
 - iii. His promise never fails
 - iv. It's not about me, it's about Him
 - c. Joy leads to sharing the Gospel freely and often
 - i. This is the root of Missions: a desire to see God glorified and worshipped
 - ii. All other reasons fall woefully short in truth, motivation, and purity
4. See Jesus Again
- a. The Perfect Revelation of God
 - i. Hebrews 1:1-4
 - b. The Perfect Example of Mission
 - i. Incarnation
 - ii. John 14:8-10, "whoever has seen me has seen the father"
 - iii. Matt 5:16, giving glory to the Father in good works
 - iv. John 12:27-28, glory to God in His Passion

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.

Conclusion:

Having a heart that obeys God's call to missionary work is not found in learning how to share the gospel, in being motivated by the woe and sorrows of the suffering in the world, or even in finding a deep love for the lost. Having a heart for missions is found only in having a passion for a *big* God. If God is not that impressive to you, then your desire to show Him to others will be a non-mover, if you feel its existence at all.

Therefore, let us together do all within our power and your means to find access into the presence of our great and glorious God and to discover at all costs who He truly is. Bask in His glory and let His great grace overwhelm you. He is great and greatly to be praised! Rejoice and be glad, for He has come down to redeem our weak and sorry souls and to bring us into His Kingdom and His family! Rejoice, O people of God, for Your God is a great God, a merciful God, who keeps His promises and rules from His throne from all eternity to all eternity.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.