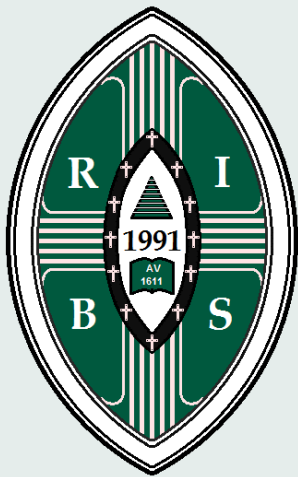


**BAPTIST
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**WORLD EVANGELISM PAPER
(EXAMPLE)**

Prepared by

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D.

Date

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Credits

2

Level

Graduate Level

This Syllabus is Approved for
Baptist International School of the Scriptures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. S. Desent'.

N. S. Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.

CLASS 310 WORLD EVANGELISM PAPER (EXAMPLE)

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A Syllabus Approved for Baptist International School of the Scriptures – 2 Credits.

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor, Historic Baptist Church

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Scripture References

Matthew 28

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Luke 16

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 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.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

John 20

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Acts 1

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

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.

Romans 10

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

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14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 16

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 3

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

2 Corinthians 4

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the

excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

Galatians 2

7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

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Ephesians 6

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Philippians 1

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Philippians 4

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry,

both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my

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flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

1 Thessalonians 1

5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad;

so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

1 Timothy 2

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

2 Timothy 4

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Titus 1

4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Philemon

6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard,

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lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

James 2

1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture,

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

1 Peter 1

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

2 Peter 3

1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto

you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,

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and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

1 John 3

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Jude

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Revelation 22

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of

David, and the bright and morning star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

CLASS 310 WORLD EVANGELISM PAPER (EXAMPLE)

Introduction

Class 310 of the Graduate level requires the student to write a 10-page minimum paper on *World Evangelism*. The subject should be easy enough considering the many classes already learned by the student.

I have included for an example the notes I wrote for a Missions Conference in 2019 in Lima, Peru. These notes were arranged in outline format so they would be easy for teaching. There are 40 lessons.

This paper does not have to follow the example provided. The student may have something he has already written on the subject, or the paper may be a series of studies of one narrow subject – i.e., The Three Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul

The example below is related to missions. We must be involved in missions if we are to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

World Evangelism and its connection to Love Commandment Doctrine

As with every class, we must understand the subject and its connection to the Great Commandment of Loving God and your brother.

The love of God provokes us I think the⁴ connection is obvious: God so loved the world that he gave Jesus. We give Jesus to the world according to God's commandments. John 14:15 – If ye love me, keep my commandments.

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MISSIONS STUDIES

Study Notes from the 2019 Missions Conference, IBBV, Ventanilla, Peru
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www.HistoricBaptist.org

December 2, 2019

It is a great honor to be asked to write some articles for the 2020 issues of the Spanish magazine *El Misionero*, published by a beloved fellow laborer, Caleb Victor Olortegui Ramos. Brother Caleb is the missionary Pastor of *Mision Bautista Monte Calvario* in Lima, Peru. He is one of the missionaries we support through Historic Baptist Church.

Considering the paper, I decided the most expedient method of fulfilling the request is to publish my notes from the mission's conference in 2019, with some commentary. This conference was organized by Pastor Luis Huayaban, pastor of *Iglesia Bautista Biblica de Ventanilla*, near Lima Peru. Pastor Luis has been visionary and faithful to host these annual meetings. May God bless him for his work.

I decided on this approach of using my notes for two reasons: 1) The notes are substantial and cover what my thoughts are in an orderly fashion, and they can be used for reference or a teaching outline. They are easily read and understood. 2) I know that I did not sufficiently preach and teach these thoughts while at the conference. My reasons for this lack of thoroughness are – if you allow my explanation – because of the language challenge I have preaching and teaching in Spanish (i.e., my limited vocabulary), and that there is simply not enough time to thoroughly communicate my thoughts in just a few services. We, who are *Baptists*, understand this. It seems there is never sufficient time to do what we need to do.

Consequently, I am thankful for Brother Olortegui's request, because he has offered a second opportunity to preach and teach on a necessary and dear subject, and that, in written form. We understand with writing, that we have the time to put our thoughts in organized words, and we tend to do a better job in the communication. I have set in order 40 short Lessons. I shall leave it to the publisher as to how he prints them.

Before getting to the studies at hand, I must mention my brother and co-laborer for more than 30 years, Brother Francisco Guerrero Meza. I say, if anyone besides our Savior can be *more* than a friend, and *more* than a brother; it is this gentleman. We have traveled together countless times over the decades doing the Lord's work, by God's grace. He has been a true friend and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ – always willing to do what is asked. I mention my brother "Paco" because he also gets credit for any of my thoughts. We tend to work so well together that we sharpen our iron. His messages are inspiring and thought-provoking, and he makes me *work* to keep up with him.

When we preach together – as we have done hundreds of times – the Holy Spirit has given us such complimentary messages. They fit like puzzle pieces, together making a beautiful picture of what the Lord has given us.

For those who attended the conference in 2019 and heard Brother Paco's message on *the widow and her two mites*, won't soon forget it.

With these things in mind, and with humility and thankfulness, I submit the following studies to the readers of *El Misionero*:

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I. **God, the First Missionary**

We see in Genesis chapter 3:9 that God searches for Adam. Adam has fallen and hides from God. The mind and purpose of God is to seek him out and bring him to redemption and a restoration of fellowship. God shows us this restoration must be accomplished through the shedding of blood – most likely a lamb. For the skins God used were removed from a living animal (Genesis 3:21).

God is the Initiator and the Author of Love. We must understand that our missionaries also have this heart of God to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)

II. **Jesus, the Greatest Missionary**

As we move to the New Testament, we see again how God is the Initiator and Author of Love. But this time, he does not shed the blood of *a lamb*, but he sheds the blood of *the Lamb* – the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16 shows us the motive for this redemptive work is love.

This same love for the lost is found in the hearts of our Baptist missionaries. These have the heart of Jesus.

Here is a quote from Henry Martin: “The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.”

III. **The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

In 2 Corinthians 8:9, Paul here shows us the doctrine of this Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ: “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

Here we have the *Great Pattern* to follow when supporting and doing the missionary work: We become poor so others can be made rich. This poverty and riches are different than one may image. The poverty is giving all to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus left the heavenly riches to come to this earth, we, too, should leave our areas of comfort and abundance to reach the lost.

We will be rewarded eventually with even greater riches than those we leave; but even more important is that those who do not have this grace can receive it, be born-again, and have that inheritance in glory that God has in store for those who love him.

IV. **The Commandment for World Evangelism**

Most of us know Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-19; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-23; and Acts 1:8. Here, our Savior Jesus Christ gives the commandments for world evangelism to the leadership of the first Baptist church in Jerusalem.

Notice how this commandment is described:

- Go in the power of God (John 20:22; Matthew 28:18)
- As the Father sent Jesus (John 20:21)
- Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature (Luke 16:15)
- Teaching all nations (Matthew 28:19)

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- Baptizing them (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
- With signs following (Luke 16:17)
- That Repentance and remission of sins should be preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47)
- Teaching them to observe all of Christ's commandments (Matthew 28:20)
- Even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20)

It is clear God wants the world to know Jesus Christ (John 3:16). God determined the world would hear the gospel through God- and Church-sent men (Romans 10:14, 15; Acts 13:1-3). Today, we call this "*missions*." And missions start in your Jerusalem.

Churches today either are, or are not, obedient to the commandment God gave for world evangelism.

I like this quote from John Wesley: "You have one business on earth – to save souls."

V. The Importance of World Evangelism

It is simple to say world evangelism is important because God does it and he also commands that his churches do it. And that is sufficient for us to do the work. The church should do God's will as the executer of the Savior's commandments. However, we should understand the "why" behind the commandment. This will help us to understand the importance of world missions.

The reason the work of missions is so important is because the value of a soul is of immense importance to our Savior. Not only is one soul worth more than the whole world (Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36); but Jesus gave his life to save the world (1 Peter 1:18, 19).

I like this quote from John R. W. Stott: "We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

VI. World Evangelism: Following Jesus and the Acts 1:8 Method

Not only did Jesus give us the power (authority), the commandment, and the reason to go into all the world and preach the gospel; but he also gave us the method as to how to fulfill the commandment. Jesus, being the pattern to follow, went everywhere preaching the gospel. He then informs his apostles that they should be witnesses, both in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost.

Jesus did this work, evangelizing in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost. Our Saviour never commanded us to do anything that he did not already show he was doing rightly. He is not a hypocrite. He does not: "say and do not" – which is the leaven of the Pharisees.

He is our pattern, so if we are following any of his commandments, we can also find a record where he also fulfilled that commandment and learn better how to follow.

In Acts 1:8, the Saviour commanded his apostles the following:

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.

He supplied the power, the plan, and the people and places to evangelize the world.

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- The power comes from the Holy Ghost. He is sealed inside every believer.
- The plan is to be witnesses. What Jesus did for you cannot be gainsaid.
- The people are every creature
- The places are Jerusalem, all Judea, in Samaria, and unto the uttermost.

Jesus went to the places he commanded his disciples to go.

Notice, however, the action starts at home – your Jerusalem. Then it extends to *all of* the next outlying area. Then, *in* the next country, and *unto* the end of the world – the farthest place.

The wisdom is, if souls are converted in Samaria, they will do the work in their “Jerusalem” and be a witness there and in the next country also. This overlap allows the gospel to be preached to every creature and in all the world (Mark 16 and Matthew 28).

Jesus as a Witness in Jerusalem:

Mark 11:11-15

Jesus as a Witness in Judea:

Matthew 19:1

Mark 10:1

John 11:7

Jesus as a Witness in Samaria:

Luke 17:11*

John 4:3, 4

John 4:43

Jesus as a Witness in Galilee (type of uttermost):

Matthew 3:13; 4:12-15*, 23, 25; 15:29; 21:11; 26:32; 28:16

Mark 1:14; 3:7; 11:28; 15:41

Luke 4:14, 31, 44; 5:17; 13:22; 17:11;

John 2:11; 4:54; 21:2

One can easily see the majority of references shows Jesus work in Galilee, a type of the uttermost.

VII. Their World was Reached in the First Century

The World was Reached in the First Century by God’s people being obedient to God’s word.

1. God’s Sent Men Fulfilled the Commandment Doing the Work God’s Way (Acts 1:8)
 - A. In the Power of the Holy Ghost
 - B. According to God’s Will
 - C. Using Languages (Acts 2)
 - D. Sometimes Under Persecution (Acts 8)
 - E. Without Respect of Persons – Jews and Gentiles (Acts 10)
 - F. With church authority (Acts 8, 13:1-3)
 - G. With signs and wonders (Acts 8)
 - H. Boldly (Acts 4 and 5)
 - I. Giving glory to God (Romans 15:17, 18)
 - J. With much resistance (Romans 15:22)

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- K. Where Christ was not named (Romans 15:20)
2. All the Earth reached in First Century (Romans 10:18; 16:26)
 3. Every Creature Reached in First Century (Colossians 1:6, 23)
 4. In Every Place the Word of the Lord Sounded Out (1 Thessalonians 1:8)
 5. Paul Strived to Preach Where Christ was Not Named (Romans 15:15-20)
 6. Paul spent 2 years in Asia and all heard the word (Acts 19:8-10)

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

VIII. The Gospel is a “Whosoever” Gospel

The verses in the New Testament that provide this truth are so numerous that it baffles my mind that any gospel preacher would think that God has pre-ordained some to eternal life and others to eternal condemnation. I have written extensively on this subject. It seems to me that the false doctrine of predestination (or misunderstanding what election truly is) has been an unwanted leaven in our churches. I see this false doctrine almost everywhere.

What amazes me is that people use obscure verses that mention pharaoh or Esau, or some other verse that does not say what they mean it to say, to go against plain, commanded, and Jesus-spoken words, and the words of the apostles.

Jesus is the author of our faith. He spoke himself on this subject in the gospels (which means *good news* – and I say this good news is for every person to receive). In fact, *every book* of the New Testament has something to say about *whosoever can be saved*. See the following list of passages:

THE DOCTRINE OF WHOSOEVER FOUND IN EVERY NEW TESTAMENT BOOK

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mark 16

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

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

John 3: 15-16 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 20:26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 2:6-8 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Romans 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

Romans 11:32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

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10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Philippians 2:5-9 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:5-6 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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1 Timothy 1:14-16 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

1 Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

2 Timothy 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Philemon 1:10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Philemon 1:15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 3:23-24 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1 John 4:13-15 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

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15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

1 John.5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude 1:22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

The passages above should be sufficient for any honest student of the word of God. If a man after reading the above still rejects the doctrine of *Whosoever can be saved*, he is willfully choosing to do so.

IX. Having a Spiritual Thirst, a Spiritual Hunger, A Spiritual Worship, and Spiritual Vision

In John chapter 4 we see Jesus interacting with the Samaritan woman. Jesus spoke to her of a spiritual “living” water (v. 10) – salvation (v. 14). He spoke to his disciples of a spiritual meat – to do the will of the Father and to finish his work (v. 34). He spoke to the woman of a spiritual worship – not in Jerusalem, but in spirit and in truth (v.24). Then he spoke to his disciples of a spiritual vision – look upon the fields that white unto harvest (v. 35). This is a spiritual harvest of spiritual fruit – souls.

We need to follow Jesus pattern here – speak to people of salvation, know and do the Father’s will, worship rightly, and see and work the fields.

X. Having a High Vision, A Long Vision, and a World Vision

As in the Great Commission and so many other places in the New Testament, you see this trio of understanding in Jesus and his disciples. A high vision to know and do God’s will in your life; a long vision to finish the work and be faithful to the end; and a world vision to see the need of the gospel to be preached to every creature.

XI. Leaving the Ninety-nine for One

Reading Luke 15:1-7 we learn a much about the Lord’s love and desire for a single soul to be saved.

The Lord seeks the lost (Luke 19:10).

Jesus does not seek fame among the masses. He is content to go after the single soul. Consider the Lord’s history with Nicodemus (John 3), Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5), the Samaritan woman (John 4); the

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adulterous woman (John 8), the blind man (John 9), etc. Jesus goes after the single soul. Even one soul is important to him. It is no waste of time to reach even one person for Jesus Christ.

Jesus said there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents (Luke 15:7).

We ought to do the Lord's work with this understanding. No work is too small when it comes to souls being saved.

XII. Missionaries on the Front Lines

Our missionaries are on the front lines of the battle. They see the action daily. They need our prayers, our support, and our encouragement. We need to esteem them highly for the Lord's sake. We should be faithful to encourage them whenever possible.

I like this quote from Robert C. Shannon: "Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is — where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge."

XIII. Preaching Christ where he has not been Named

Paul mentioned in Romans 15:20 that he strived to preach the gospel where Christ was not named. This is a good pattern to follow. We need not build upon another man's work. When deciding where to go, go where there is no gospel witness.

I like this quote from C. T. Studd: "Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell!"

XIV. Sowers Sow the Word

Jesus is the Master who taught us to sow the seed (Matthew 13:37). We know the seed is the word of God (Mark 4:14). In every place and time, when God sent a man, he sent him with a message. That message was the word of God. The message we have today is the word of God. The missionary needs to have good seed so he can sow. Missionaries need the scriptures so they can sow rightly. It is the church's duty to keep Jesus' word (Revelation 3:8), preach his word (2 Timothy 4:2), and multiply the seed sown (2 Corinthians 9:6, 10; Matthew 4:20)

XV. We are Co-laborers with God

The missionary work is where God works. When the missionary does his work, he is working with God – God is leading and helping in the work. When we are yoked with Jesus, his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

We sow, but God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). We are nothing. God is everything.

XVI. We are Laborers Together

We are also laboring together. One soweth, another reapeth (John 4:36, 37). For this labor we each receive wages, and we each gather fruit unto life eternal (John 4:36; 1 Corinthians 3:8). The workman is worthy of his hire (Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

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The work of world evangelism is so large, we can only accomplish the task by working together.

We see this pattern with Jesus sending the disciples out two by two. We see this pattern in Acts with Peter and John, Paul and Barnabas; and with Paul, Silas, Luke and Timothy. Many times Paul mentioned his fellow-laborers (Romans 16, 1 Corinthians 1 and 3, Philippians 4, Colossians 4, Philemon, etc.)

When Paul visited Jerusalem the brethren there gave him the right hand of fellowship (Galatians 2:9).

We must work together for the same goal: world evangelism. Even when Paul and Barnabas had their disagreement about Mark, they still agreed to do the work of God in unity and decency. Note Acts 15:35-41:

35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Notice they continued in the same church and agreed they should revisit all the brethren. You will note that in Acts 13:4 (their first missionary journey), they first went to Cyprus. However, on *their* second journey, it was Barnabas who retraced the original journey south-west, going to Cyprus (15:39), while Paul went through Syria (northwest) to Lystra and Derbe.

We do not know where Barnabas went after Cyprus, but he may have continued to retrace the first journey and headed from Cyprus to Pamphylia, Antioch of Pisidia, and maybe Iconium.

We know Paul and Silas continued to Lystra, and Derbe.

What I see here is that regardless of their dissention and separation over Mark, Paul and Barnabas continued to labour decently and in order for the same cause – the cause of Jesus Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 9:6, Paul mentions Barnabas to the Corinthian church. I assume they knew who he was. Paul did not go to Corinth until his second journey (Acts 18:1), which tells me he was still in fellowship with Barnabas and that possibly the Corinthian church knew Barnabas.

Paul writes this letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus. Was Barnabas in Ephesus with Paul? It seems a good path for Barnabas if he had continued into Phrygia from Pamphylia. We know Mark was at Ephesus and likely Barnabas and Mark went to Colosse (2 Timothy 4:11; Colossians 4:10). Colosse was a city of Phrygia, about 100 miles from Ephesus. Paul was never at Colosse, but it is likely Barnabas and Mark went there.

Regardless of the course Barnabas and Mark took, we know Paul, Silas, Barnabas, Mark, Luke, and Timothy (and others) all worked together and separately for the same cause of world evangelism. Paul and Mark worked together (Philemon 1:24), and Mark was profitable to Paul (2 Timothy 4:11).

Laboring together brings synergy – a union of energy that is greater than the sum of the energy of the individual parts. Basically, we get more done when we work together, under a common plan and a

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vision. The vision and plan are given to us from Jesus Christ. We are to preach the gospel to every creature.

XVII. The Honor of Serving the King

David Livingstone said this: “If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”

What honor we have in serving our Great King. There is no higher office. The president of a country is a lower position. The wealthiest man in the world (materially speaking) is poorer than the faithful servant of the king. The greatest philosopher or the wisest teacher is considered foolish compared to the wisdom and truth of Jesus Christ. Ye who serve the Lord have the highest calling. It is a calling we do not take lightly. It is a calling we do not neglect.

XVIII. Having Faith for Others

Using the example of Capernaum in the New Testament, we learn about having faith for others. Matthew 4:13 shows us Capernaum was on the seacoast (Zebulun and Naphtali). Matthew 11:23 records Jesus saying though it was exalted to heaven, it would be brought to hell.

Jesus taught in the synagogue there (Mark 1:21). It was a city of Galilee (Luke 4:31).

Although the city was known for unbelief, we find three miracles recorded there, where the miracles were for third parties. The people seeking a miracle from Jesus were not seeking for themselves, but for another.

This shows me to have faith for others. Especially as a missionary, that man has faith for others. He is asking Jesus to work in the lives of others. He is not on the field for himself, but for the souls of others.

1. Mark 2:1-12 – The Man Sick of Palsy. Borne of four (v. 3). Jesus saw their faith (v. 5). Jesus shows his power to forgive sins by healing the man (v. 10).

Missionaries are like those four men, working together to bring a cripple to Jesus for healing. Jesus really understands the man’s needs and forgives his sin – which is more important than physical healing.

Lessons Learned: We see what these four men, working together, needed for the miracle to occur:

- They needed purpose
- They needed love
- They needed faith
- They needed diligence
- They needed unity
- They needed to overcome difficulties together

But a soul saved is worth it.

One man said: “I am just a nobody, trying to tell everybody, about Somebody, who will save anybody.”

2. Luke 7:1-10 – the Centurion’s Servant Healed.

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We see the soldier understood authority and the power of Jesus' commandments. Jesus has power in his words, but he can heal without words also.

- We see a man asking in humility – he knew he was not worthy (Acts 10:28, 34)
- We see a man with a strong desire or need
- We see a man that others thought was worthy (v. 4)
- We see a man who had work, love, and generosity
- We see a man who had faith in Jesus' word (v. 7)
- We see a man who understood power and authority (Matthew 28:18-10)

Lessons Learned: The Power of Jesus

Baptist Missionaries understand authority:

- Sending church
- Own church
- Supporting churches

Baptist Missionaries understand the Power of the Word of God

- Matthew 28:18-20
- The Great Commission – *Go*
- Matthew 11:28 – *Come*
- Matthew 7:24 – *Do*

Baptist Missionaries have desire and need for others to be saved and healed of sin

- They ask humbly
- They know they are not worthy
- They love, work, and are generous

3. John 4:46-54 – The Nobleman's Son Healed.

This is Jesus' second miracle. The son was actually in Cana, but his father comes to Jesus in Capernaum.

This man went to Jesus for his son's sake (v. 42). Obviously, he had a great love for his son.

Jesus says, Go, thy son liveth (v. 50). The father goes, trusting in Jesus' words. There was no outward evidence, but the man believed Jesus.

Many in the house, and even the son, likely did not know of the miracle, but the father knew. The father knew it was because Jesus said the word.

We see it is not the amount of faith one has, but the object of one's faith

Even with faith of a grain of mustard seed, we can do great things (Matthew 17:20)

Jesus tells us to ask, seek, and knock (Matthew 7).

Lessons Learned: Have the Right Effort and the Right Person

- We know whom to whom to go – Jesus Christ

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- We know how to go – humbly and with faith in Jesus himself and his word
- We know what to do – ask, seek, and knock

XIX. You and Your Gift is a Sweet Savor unto God

1. Jesus's sacrifice is a sweet-smelling savor to God – see Ephesians 5:2
2. The knowledge of God – the gospel – makes you a sweet savor unto God

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

- A sweet savor in them that are saved
 - A sweet savor in them that are lost
 - A sweet savor of life
 - A sweet savor of death
3. Your gifts are a sweet-smelling savor to God – Philippians 4:16-19
 - For the necessity of saints
 - Sent once and again
 - Fruit abounding to your account
 - Odour of sweet smell
 - A sacrifice acceptable
 - Well-pleasing to God
 - God shall supply all your need by Jesus Christ
 - How does God supply? The need of others are supplied by the abundance of others (2 Corinthians 8:14)
 - Equality

XX. Having Fruit that Abounds to your Account

- Jesus said to lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20)
- Jesus said, his father is glorified when his children bear fruit (John 15:8)
- We can *occupy* by giving to faith promise missions.

XXI. The Principle of Equality

2 Corinthians 8:14

- God supplies the want of others through people (read Luke 6:38)
- My abundance supplies the want of others
- The abundance of others supplies my want
- Together there is an equality

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- It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)
- We need the spiritual opportunities of our missionaries
- Our missionaries have physical and spiritual needs

XXII. The Three-fold Use of Seed

In 2 Corinthians chapter 9 we see so much relating to the grace of giving. We see, in summary, these things:

- Giving is a way to minister to the saints (v. 1)
- The zeal of some to give can provoke others to do the same (v. 2)
- People ought to be given time to prepare for giving (v. 3)
- If allowed to prepare, people will be ready, so as not to be left out (v. 4)
- This preparation consists of allowing time for people to plan, gather, and bring their gifts, and be ready (v. 5)
- Without this time, people feel pressured and give grudgingly (covetousness) (v. 5)
- With time to prepare, the gifts will be of bounty, not covetousness (v. 5)
- When we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully (v. 6)
- Let people determine for themselves what they will give. This usually tends to receiving more (v. 7)
- God blesses you so you can give and because you give. Giving is the means to abundance (v. 8).

The three-fold use of seed is found in verse 10. When one gives to the needs of others, these three things happen:

1. He has an abundance of needs met, both his and the receivers.
2. He will increase both in bounty and the effect of his giving.
3. His fruit toward heavenly life increases.

If we use the farm illustration, if you give seed to the needy, you and they will have plenty of bread, you will have more seed in the future than you currently have, and you receive a whole lot of other blessings.

- Everyone benefits from your generosity (v. 11)
- People bless God for you because their needs are met through you (v. 12)
- People glorify God for you and your subjection to the gospel (v. 13)
- They pray for you (v. 14)

2 Corinthians 9:5-15 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.
6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

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11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

XXIII. Proving the Sincerity of your Love

Through giving we prove the sincerity of our love. God did this with Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Jesus did this for us when he left glory to give himself for us.

In 2 Corinthians 8:8, Paul mentions that through the ministry to the saints (giving to their needs), we prove the sincerity of our love.

It is difficult to prove you love someone if you don't give of yourself to them.

Notice the things connected with this love, and the grace of God bestowed upon them:

- Although these people were poor and afflicted, they gave with joy (v. 2)
- The giving with joy abounded unto the riches of their liberality. This shows me a person is not too afflicted or too poor to give. A person does not give because he finds no joy in it. When people find the joy in giving, there will be riches and liberality.
- When they gave what they could, they found they could give more.
- They were zealous to give once they understood and experienced the joy in giving (v. 4)
- They achieved this grace by giving themselves first to the Lord. If God has you, he has all that you have.
- Most important – giving is to be done in freedom. Free will offerings, not commanded giving, is the key to giving with love.
- Allow people to give what they “will to give.” Each person should not be given a commanded amount, but be able to pray and determine for themselves what they will give. This is God's accepted way (v. 11, 12).

2 Corinthians 8:1-12 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

6 Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

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9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

10 And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

12] For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

XXIV. The Multiplicity of Testimony

Missionaries enjoy a privilege that few pastors have: the multiplicity of testimony for their work. When a missionary is sent out of his sending church, that church formally ordains him (in most cases) and votes approval to send him out. With that vote of authority, the missionary needs no other validation. His work need not be approved by others, by numbers of converts, by the amount of property or influence. He is 100% authorized and validated for the work.

But notice this also, whether the missionary has a few people or a large group, these followers of Christ also give testimony to the missionary's work.

Then, added to this, any supporting churches also have voted to give support to this missionary. This means he has added churches who formally give testimony (and support) to the missionary's work.

All in all, the missionary may have many churches and believers who all give testimony to his calling and work. What a spiritual blessing that is. Added to this, these supporters also pray for the missionary and rejoice in his work. He is loved, appreciated, and lifted up in prayer to the Lord on a regular basis.

XXV. The Prayer of Thanksgiving

One of the blessings of giving to missions is that the receivers of the support offer prayers of thanksgiving for the giver's love (2 Corinthians 8:8), his professed subjection to the gospel, and liberal distribution (2 Corinthians 9:13).

Giving to missions is a profession of one's subjection to the gospel. This giving shows he really believes the gospel, and that the gospel should be preached to every creature.

In response to this giving, the missionary (and probably his family and church) offer prayers and thanksgiving unto God for the one who gives – see 2 Corinthians 9:12-14. They glorify God for his professed subjection to the gospel.

But notice in verse 14 that this prayer is “long after you.” – meaning there is deep affection and love. This means these prayers and thanksgiving have an emotional attachment. Not only is the attachment deep, but it is wide. Verse 12 says it is “abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” The prayers are abundant. The prayers are affectionate. The prayers are personal.

XXVI. When Missionaries Rejoice

When do missionaries rejoice? I know they rejoice over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:5, 6). They rejoice when they see their labor is not in vain (Philippians 2:16). But there is another thing that causes missionaries to rejoice – when they see the care of other brethren. Read Philippians 4:10: “But I rejoiced

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in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.”

When a missionary on the field receives a gift from a supporter, he is encouraged greatly in the work. Knowing how God works, I expect many times the support comes in just at the right time. We as supporters of missions, can be used of God in a supernatural way to encourage and bless our beloved missionaries. Only God can reveal to us the great effect that our support has in the lives of the missionaries and the people they minister to.

Your gift can make a big difference in the lives of many.

XXVII. The Blessings of Faith Promise Giving

Speaking from personal testimony, and supported by Luke 6:38: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”; I can wholeheartedly proclaim that God blesses those who give to faith promise missions.

As mentioned in another place, a pastor does his church a disservice if he does not allow them the opportunity to give to faith promise missions.

This ministration to the saints not only abounds in prayers and thanksgiving unto God for the giver, but it also causes his righteousness to remain forever, and multiplies the seed sown and increases the fruits of righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:9, 10). This is a reference to Psalm 112:3, which says, “Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.”

Truly and simply, the way to increase personal wealth is through giving. Psalm 112 is a very blessed psalm and one that I have been particularly blessed with. Even lost people recognize the power of giving to those in need. Should not we who are true believers be a testimony of this grace?

I can give personal testimony after testimony how God has raised me from being poor and having very little to having great abundance. This did not happen overnight. It took me decades (maybe because I am slow), but God has blessed beyond what I could imagine. One man said you cannot out-give God. That is true – read Proverbs 19:17.

Furthermore, every person in our church who gives to Faith Promise Missions has received more in return than what they promised. I can easily list twenty or thirty examples just in the last year.

If a pastor thinks his church is poor and the people need to have increase in their finances, the best thing he can do is show them how to give. The answer is not to hold back, but show that they can give even in their deep poverty.

I have come to the understanding where I can say one can prove God easily in this matter. Commit to a faith promise amount, then ask God to show you when he repays it. I can promise you God is faithful.

I like this quote from James Hudson Taylor: “Depend on it. God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds, and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterwards, and He much prefers doing so.”

As with most things related to faith – God expects you to act first, then see the result.

XXVIII. Faith Promise is God’s Promise (Promesa de Fe es Promesa de Dios)

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Luke 6:38: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

For thirty-plus years I taught this little poem:

Tithe: A debt you owe

Offerings: A Seed you sow

Alms: A blessing you bestow

When we give to missions, it is different from the tithe in that it is a free-will offering. But it is giving, whereas tithing is required. Similar to tithing, I believe the offering must be given as a priority and after the first fruits. Giving to God is not taken from that which is left over, but planned and prioritized. If we wait until we have something left to offer up, most times we will have little to give. However, if we prioritize our giving – as planned giving after the tithe – then God makes sure we operate in abundance.

The common answer to why believers do not give is because they say they do not have it. However, they seem to have enough for food and other necessities. If they gave first, then they would experience the blessings of God. One of the greatest reasons for lack or insufficiency is because the person does not give.

Both the tithe and the offerings work the same way. If one does not participate in this opportunity, they will lack.

Jesus said in Luke 6:38 – give and ye shall receive in abundance (more than you give). This is a work of faith. Faith promise missions is a proven, guaranteed opportunity that people can give to. **A pastor that does not present this opportunity to his church is doing a disservice to his church. He is limiting their opportunity to prosper. He is keeping them from abundance. He is hindering their growth.**

People need to see the blessings of God in their lives. Giving to missions is one of the first ways to see God work.

XXIX. Without Knowing the Need, People do not Give

God knows our every need. God can supply our every need. E know God supplies our needs through Jesus touching the hearts of those people who have what we need. God's people are happy to give to a brother's or sister's need if they have what is needed and they know it is a Godly need.

God knows our needs better than we do. I have taught that Jesus is more concerned with your soul than he is for your body (Matthew 18:9). God is more concerned with your eternal life than he is with your physical life (John 3:16). Jesus is more concerned for you than he is for your stuff (Matthew 16:26). God is more concerned with faithful service than he is with money (Matthew 6:24).

But what do we pray for? What do we work for? What do we seek? What do we spend money on?

Do we need all the things we say we need? Would we really be better off if God answered every prayer in the affirmative? Would we be what we are supposed to be if we got everything we thought we needed?

We should carefully and prayerfully evaluate and prioritize our real needs. We can then communicate those needs to our church, and in truth explain the real need. I believe people will joyfully give when they understand the real need. They will also pray for the need, which changes their hearts.

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It is the preacher's duty to explain the needs to the people. People are not mind readers, and people do not have the same clear understanding as the preacher. If the preacher has a vision for the church (and he should), he should communicate this vision carefully, simply, and prayerfully.

XXX. Occupy – Or Put Money in God's Bank

One of my favorite parables is the one recorded in Luke 19:11-27. Jesus gives us this teaching immediately following his statement that the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost (v. 10).

The nobleman, before leaving for a while, gives a pound to each of his ten servants. He commands them to "Occupy till I come."

We can say the Lord says this to us – "Occupy until he comes."

To occupy – gain by trading – means we exchange financial things during this earthly life for spiritual rewards in the future. In return, we will be rewarded with rulership and authority in the millennium.

One servant did not occupy, he simply kept his pound laid up in a napkin (v. 20). The Lord rebukes the servant, judges him wicked, and says that at least he could have given the Lord's money to the bank, that he would at least gained in usury (v. 22, 23).

When we use the financial blessings of God to further his work we occupy. Every witness, prayer, tithe, offering, alms, help, or work for the Lord has a recompense (Mark 9:41). We know our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We labor for Jesus Christ, multiplying the pound he has given us. But we also know there is a "sure way" to get a return on the effort – and that is by giving some money to the bank.

Just as in life we buy and sell, we labor for wages, we spend and give, and we tithe and give offerings; we also keep *some money* in the bank. The money in the bank is used by the bank to gain more money, and in return for the use of our money, the bank gives us a little interest. We know bank interest is not the best return we can find – but it is a *sure return*.

For those who do not labor or trade, they can still increase their money by giving it to the bank for them to use. They can allow someone who is laboring and trading to use their money to increase it.

We know that some of God's servants are not as faithful as they should be, or they are unable or unwilling to travel or labor for the Lord. But one thing they can do is give money to the Lord's Bank and still gain some return.

The Lord's Bank is the church. The church uses the funds it receives primarily to evangelize the world. And especially when the funds are used for mission work, those funds gain the greatest return.

We should labor for the Lord. We should be faithful witnesses and live our lives in the Lord's service. However, we should not forget to invest financially and wisely for the future (eternity). We do this by giving to missions. Those faithful missionaries are like bankers, they take our funds and provide a return for us. A return that Jesus will commend us for.

In seminary we teach about the organization and distribution of gifts. Notice in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

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Here we see how God works. First the Spirit provides the gifts. Second, Jesus administers the gifts, and thirdly, God operates the gifts. We can say briefly, there are gifts, the administration of the gifts, and the operations of the gifts.

When applying this to money, we can say it is the Holy Spirit that shows a man *how much* and *what* to give. We achieve this through faith promise giving.

Secondly, the Lord Jesus, through his churches, receives and administers the gifts and leads the churches as to where these financial gifts should be distributed. These are the Lord's banks. The churches are the *administrators* of the gifts.

Thirdly, God works in the lives of the receivers of the gifts (operations) to use the gifts for his glory and his purpose. The missionaries who receive funds are the *operators* of the gifts. They execute the operations under God. They get the work done. They are the "bankers" who make sure the funds are used according to the will of God.

XXXI. What is the Preacher's Goal?

Every pastor, preacher, evangelist, and missionary should ask themselves, What is my goal? Many might say one of these things:

- A full-time salary
- A new building
- My own office
- A piece of land or property
- A vehicle
- A wife
- More support
- Acceptance or prestige of the brethren
- Health and comfort

I am sure the list could continue. These things are *nice to have*. They are a blessing. They make life and the ministry easier. There is nothing wrong with having the desire for these things and laboring toward getting them. Everyone would say thanks for these and give thanks to God for them. But is this really the ultimate goal of the preacher? Is it to seek after these things?

I thank God and encourage the work of missionaries to buy land, build temples, and provide a lighthouse in the community. This is commendable and necessary. I thank God for missionaries who have good families, good support, and good things to help in the work. By God's grace I want to help in the acquiring of these things for the brethren.

But I should like to say that these things are not what God's men should *primarily* seek after. Reading in the New testament about Jesus, the apostles, and many other godly servants; we would never think this was what they sought after.

We know the right answer: Seek first the *kingdom of God, and his righteousness* (Matthew 6:33). Jesus said if we did this that the material things would follow.

I submit to the readers that seeking first the kingdom of God means that one should **first** be born again (John 3:3, 7). And after this, seek that others may also enter (Matthew 18:12; Luke 19:10)

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Thank God for these missionaries who seek the souls of those who are lost before they seek their own reward. God blesses them, and he will continue to bless them.

XXXII. Do Not Lose Your Burden

It is easy for a preacher to get unbalanced. The pendulum of care goes to two extremes: At one side we try to bear all the burdens, fix all the problems, and do the impossible. On the other side is a jaded, non-caring, judgmental, let it be attitude.

In the middle is the Christ-like care and nurture. This includes the casting of all your cares on the Lord. Understand that the Lord's yoke is easy, and his burden is light. We should be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto God (Philippians 4:6).

We should never lose our burden to see souls saved. We should never lose our burden for world evangelism.

This burden is a light burden. It is a burden of love and joy (Luke 15). It is a burden that gives us purpose and life and great reward.

XXXIII. God's Yoke is Easy, His Burden is Light

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus gives the invitation: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

When I first started in the Lord's work I attended many conferences and heard many preaching messages. Maybe it was the time or place, but many brethren mentioned how difficult the ministry was, and told the people of the heavy burden of serving Jesus. I started to concern myself with entering the pastorate with such negative expectations. Two things helped me. First, my pastor told me that 99% of the grief pastors have are self-inflicted. They are the cause of their own grief. Secondly, the Lord told me the verse in Matthew 11.

We control our thoughts, the interpretation of events, and our attitude toward life. We are told to rejoice and that we will always have joy regardless of outside events.

I believe every believer has this ability. We are told that if we love God all things will work together for good (Romans 8:38). Each ingredient may not be good, but together combined all things work together for good. For this reason we are thankful for all things, even things that cause grief.

But I have a rule that I gave myself: If at any time I feel the ministry is too hard, or the burden is too heavy, or life is too difficult; I tell myself I am doing something wrong. I want to enjoy the ministry and the work of the Lord. I am going to be in church a lot, so I want church to always be a blessing. I am the one that causes hard yokes and heavy burdens – not the Lord. This has been a help in the ministry and I pray it will be for those who read this.

XXXIV. Every Baptist Church is a Missionary-Supporting Church

As one reads the New Testament, we understand a New Testament church in obedient to the commandments of our Savior. In respect to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we know we

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are to teach all nations. A church not working to teach all nations, I say, is not fulfilling the basic duty of a New Testament church.

Knowing that Baptists are indeed the New Testament churches, any church not involved in world missions is failing in its basic duty. How long will the Lord allow this continue before he removes the candlestick?

Personally, every good Baptist church I know or have visited supports missions. I believe this is fundamental to the church's work and existence. If you are part of a Baptist church, do your part to support world missions.

XXXV. They Filled Jerusalem with their Doctrine

In Acts 5:28 the apostles were brought before the Jewish council and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

The apostles were faithful to preach the gospel in their city. Everyone in Jerusalem knew of the first Baptist church of Jerusalem and what it taught.

But now what? The Lord said they would be witnesses, not just in Jerusalem, but in Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Well, we read in Acts 8:1 that due to persecution the church was scattered to regions of Judea and Samaria. The gospel has to spread. Verse 4 says they went everywhere preaching the word.

We see Judea and Samaria receiving the gospel. Not too long after Paul is converted, and God uses him to evangelize Asia, Macedonia, Achaia, and even Italy.

As pastors, our duty is to fill our Jerusalem with Jesus' doctrine. But we need to be faithful also to preach the word in neighboring states, countries and even to the uttermost parts of the world. We should wait for persecution to get us moving.

XXXVI. We Reproduce what We Are

From the beginning of creation, every seed reproduces after its kind (Genesis 1:11, etc.). We, as professed followers of God, will reproduce who we are.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:17, 18; that a good tree brings for good fruit, and a corrupt tree brings for evil fruit. We cannot bring other fruit than what we are.

Jesus rebuked the hypocritical pharisees in Matthew 23:15 saying they compass sea and land to make one proselyte, but they make him a twofold more child of hell than themselves.

We have God's seed (Jesus) in us (1 John 3:9). We are to reproduce through the gospel (1 Peter 1:23). However, we need to take heed who we are, for that is what we will reproduce.

Do we have faith? Do we preach the word? Are we faithful? Do we support world missions? Do we show love, humility, and service? Beware, for if you lack these things, do not be surprised if your converts lack these things.

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We are ensamples to the flock of God (1 Peter 5:1-3). We are patterns for them to follow (Titus 2:7). We should be able to say as Paul did: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

XXXVII. 1 to 8 Billion in 33 Years

One simple illustration to show *the power of the Lord's method* of world evangelism, is to show the result of consistent discipleship. We understand from reading the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 that we are to make disciples. The evangelism, baptism, and teaching to observe is how we make disciples – those disciplined in the things of Jesus Christ: those who have submitted themselves to obeying Jesus Christ as a life work.

If a man trained another to do the work (reproduction), and each trained one man a year, there would be 2 disciples after one year – the teacher and the disciple, and four disciples the second year. This is 100% reproduction, or "doubling" every year. Following this pattern, 1 man end up with 1,000 disciples in ten years.

In ten more years, that number would be a thousand-fold, or one million disciples. In ten more years, that number would be another thousand-fold, or one billion disciples. Add three more years and you have 8 billion disciples. This is more than the current world's population.

Simply stated, in 33 years – a life's effort of evangelism and teaching – one man could win more than the world's population. And the plan is supplied by the Lord – get saved, baptized, and obey my commandments.

So, the obvious question is why have we not overtaken the world with the gospel? Is winning a soul and training that person – one a year – too hard? Is it that we use other programs that are weak and beggarly and can't accomplish the task? Is it because men are carnal and give up or are unfaithful?

These are the reasons, and there are others. But nevertheless, the plan of God works if we work it. The key is discipleship and reproduction.

XXXVIII. As the Life of a Man, so is the Life of a Church – Finding the Fountain of Life

A man is born, grows, becomes matures, becomes independent, has his best years and strength, reproduces, grows older, weakens, and then eventually dies.

Through proper health and care, a man's life can be extended. A wise man tries to stay alive as long a possible.

A church is similar. A church goes through similar events:

- Born
- Infancy stage
- Grows
- Matures
- Becomes independent
- Has its best years and strength
- Reproduces
- Grows older
- Weakens
- Dies

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Our Baptist missionaries, as godly midwives, help churches to be born. We know a church is started by a sending church. We know the sower has to sow seed to give spiritual birth to believers. We know these believers have to be baptized and instructed in the commandments of Jesus Christ.

When that new mission church is started it is considered a new church. It is still supported and led by its mother – the sending church until the time the church is ready to become self-ruling (independent).

Because a daughter stays at home until she is given in marriage (1 Corinthians 7:38; Matthew 19:5), a mission church leaves its “mother” when she is joined to Jesus Christ through a covenant. The church covenant she adopts is a promise to be faithful and obedient to her Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. At the time of the church covenant, she now is led by her Husband – Jesus Christ.

She can now rightfully give birth to other churches through sent men, sowing the seed.

The independent church then lives and thrives, enjoying its best years. It increases in strength, has multiple children, and grows in grace, wisdom, stature, and influence.

Through reproduction, the church is preserved.

The reproduction we speak of is that of souls being saved, scriptures being published, preachers being trained and sent, and churches being started.

The maturity and wisdom of this church is known by *her vision for world evangelism*.

She understands her responsibility to be a witness, *both* in Jerusalem – and all the way to the uttermost parts of the earth.

If she does not reproduce through local evangelism – souls being saved, discipleship – believers being baptized, sound Bible teaching – holiness and faithful service, missions support – world vision, and ministry to all ages – from nursery to the aged; she will grow old and die.

Many churches have passed in the last 2,000 years of Christian history because they neglected the fountain of life. Somewhere along their course they stopped their evangelism, their Bible preaching, their ministry to families and people of all ages, their support of missions. Their candlestick was removed and their light went out (Revelation 1:20; 2:5).

The oil in their lamps ran out. Their influence ceased. The doors of their building may still be opened, but there is no life. There is no hope. There is no Spirit.

It is the responsibility of the bishop – the church’s overseer – to preach the word, to be instant in all seasons, to reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine. He, as Jesus’ under-shepherd, must be faithful to lead the church as Jesus commanded. He, by the grace of God, will teach these things to those who follow; for he only has a vapor of time before he will be replaced.

As pastors, missionaries, and leaders, we should always be faithful in the life-giving things a church needs:

- Sound Bible preaching and teaching
- Local evangelism and soul-winning
- Baptizing believers and making disciples
- Ministry to all ages
- Missions and world-evangelism

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As a leader I do not want to fail. As a faithful leader I want to lead rightly. As a good leader I want to turn the church over to faithful men who will teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2). I desire that this independent church continue by God's grace until the coming of our Savior. I may be dead and gone, but the work must continue. It may fail sometime in the future, but by God's grace – *not on my watch!*

I like this quote from Oswald J. Smith: "The church that does not evangelize will fossilize."

XXXIX. Think Replacement and Reproduction

Having a long view is necessary. As church leaders we should teach and work toward replacement. As the military continually recruits and trains, it is never without reinforcements. Everyone grows older. The ones in diapers today will someday lead children. The adolescents today will someday be our pastors. The young men will soon become old men. Their glory will turn into beauty, their strength will turn to gray hairs; physical will turn to wisdom (Proverbs 20:29).

As leaders we should always be things many steps ahead. As we train up the younger ones to be leaders, we show them respect and honor when it is due. We treat them as we want them to be. We set high expectations with grace and love.

And one day, not too far away, the time will come when they take over from us the work. They will take the work farther and higher, because they start from a higher place than we did. Their vision starts where ours ends. Let us allow them that and encourage them often.

XL. Difference Between Dreams and Visions

Joel 2:28 says, "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

As I think of the difference between dreams and visions, one happens when we are asleep, the other when we are awake.

But a dream may not come to pass. A dream may only be that – a dream. Many things we as old men envision are just dreams, because we know the time is not there for us to make the dream a reality.

But young men have vision. Their vision, I say, sees farther than the old man's vision. They start where we leave off.

As with my sons, I want them to be better Christians, better fathers, better husbands, more prosperous, wiser, stronger, and more influential. I want them to exceed my accomplishments. I want them to better all around.

But old men have dreams that the young men may not understand or be able to see. As old men, we should impart our dreams to them, so that they have vision. We should do what we can to encourage their vision, but also help them to see their vision come to pass.

I think of David's desire to build a house for the Lord. He could not do it, so he gave that dream to Solomon – but he also prepared the necessary things for the building to be accomplished. Solomon's vision of the temple fulfilled that dream of David.

I think of Moses's dream to take Israel into the promised land. He could not do it, but he prepared Joshua with a vision of what God had promised, and Joshua fulfilled that dream.

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I think of Jesus, doing the foundational work of Christianity, giving his commission to the eleven disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). Although only a few men, by the end of the that first century dozens – possibly hundreds – of churches were started, from Jerusalem all the way to Rome.

Let's give the next generation our dream, and let them have their vision of it.

The End.