

Intro: Over the past three weeks we have looked at God's self-revelation in regards to His Kingdom and our stewardship of His Kingdom resources. The primary motivation and foundation for the proper stewardship of the things which belong to the Lord is rooted in the revealed word that HE IS THE KING OVER ALL. As the Creator, he deserves the serving worship of the created. As the Revealer, he deserves the serving worship of the illuminated. As the Savior, he deserves the serving worship of the redeemed. God is worthy of all that we are, and have, and do because He is holy, majestic, righteous, merciful, and good. In our appreciation of our salvation from sin and wrath, we rejoice in the complete work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We know a God who was justly and righteously wrathful toward us because of the sinful state of rebellion in our hearts. We know that this same God loved us so deeply, out of the will of His own mercy, that He sent His Son to die in our place and redeem us from our sins. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." (Eph 1:7)

Part of our stewardship is the proper proclamation of God's wondrous person and works toward us in Jesus Christ. It's what the church has commonly called "evangelism." I intend to show this morning that evangelism, or missions, is rooted in God's desire for His own glory and in our desire to see Him known, glorified, and worshiped. It is not merely the duty of a group of people who hold onto a common truth, but rather evangelism is the explosive praise of sinners set free from sin by the One who is worthy of our praise. As we comprehend the greatness of our Savior, the Servant-King, the Lamb of God, our praise grows for His glory. As our praise grows, our desire to see Him worshipped by all peoples grows with it. You see, missions and evangelism is not merely a duty, it is the heart's cry of the Christ-centered, God-glorifying soul that knows the grace of God and responds in the joyful explosion of worship to its Savior.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at our mission. What is it? How do we go about it? What is its purpose? I hope that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will find that our heart for God's heart and purposes lie in our understanding and worship of Him. So, let us fix our eyes upon Jesus this morning and see Him in His glorious self-revelation.

1. Missions is the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the discipleship of those who receive the gospel with joy.
 - a. Proclaim – Herald – Preach
 - i. "to herald an announcement" "to proclaim a message"
 1. Proclamation is not a *mutual* journey or *common wondering* discussion
 2. A *proclamation* of Truth
 - a. This does not exclude teaching, but it is different and precedes teaching
 - b. Authoritative because it is revealed from God
 - ii. Matt 3:1 – J.B. preached
 - iii. Matt 4:17 – JC preached
 - iv. Matt 10:7 – Apostles called to preach
 1. **Matthew 10:7** And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
 - v. Acts 8:35 – Phillip preaches to the Ethiopian
 1. **Acts 8:35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
 - vi. Rom 10:14 – "How will they hear without a preacher?"
 1. **Romans 10:14-17** But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
 - b. Content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Luke 24:46-47)
 - i. All have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Rom 3:23)

- ii. The wages of sin is death, the wrath of God (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:1-3)
 - 1. **Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body¹ and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
- iii. Jesus came down and died in our place to satisfy God's wrath and give us eternal life (Eph 1:7; Romans 5:9-10; John 3:36), the forgiveness of our sins (Matt 26:28; Col 1:20-23)
 - 1. **John 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
 - 2. **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
 - 3. **Romans 5:9-10** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
 - 4. **Matthew 26:28** for this is my blood of the¹ covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 - 5. **Colossians 1:20-23** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation¹ under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- iv. He rose again for our righteousness, that we would be right with God (Rom 4:25-5:1)
 - 1. **Romans 4:25-5:1** who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we¹ have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- v. In this gospel we find a deep distinction from the pattern of world,
 - 1. which seeks for power and works for self-righteousness, comparing themselves to themselves and where "grace" is a hidden and deceitful form of performance;
 - 2. which seeks for power and cannot give up its own out of fear, defining oneself by success and power and not able to truly repent or show weakness;
 - 3. which seeks to save itself, to be its own savior, whether in self-pity (trying to save myself and am failing) or in boasting (trying to be my own savior and feel I am succeeding),
 - 4. has no room for the Christ as the *sole* work of salvation.

c. Discipleship/Evangelism

i. Matt 28:18-20

- 1. **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in¹ the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

ii. By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:4-9

- 1. **Acts 1:4** And while staying¹ with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with¹ the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
- 2. Proclaim the gospel by being *witnesses* to the glory of Christ, speaking the truth of the gospel in words

3. Proclaim the gospel in the way that you live: saved by grace (I am better than no one else), repentance/humility (I can freely admit my own weaknesses and lose my own power), faith (I trust only in Jesus for my salvation and my significance).
4. The Holy Spirit is working to produce disciples from all people groups, bringing them together into the One New Humanity under Christ (Eph 1:10; 2:18,22; 4:3)
 - a. **Ephesians 1:10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
 - b. **Ephesians 4:3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - c. **Ephesians 2:18,22** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father... In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by¹ the Spirit.

iii. Discipleship is learning how to apply the truth of the Gospel to our lives:

1. Rom 1:15 – Paul desires to *preach* the gospel to those in Rome
 - a. In his letter written to believers
 - b. He desired to proclaim the gospel to believers!
2. Anxiety/Fear – Do we functionally believe that God loves us so greatly that Jesus died in our place and that there is no more condemnation in Him?
3. Pride/Aloof – Do we functionally believe that Jesus HAD TO DIE because our sins were so great that we could not make ourselves right with God?
4. The root of every surface sin is the pride of unbelief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Every fear which leads to gossip, defensiveness, cowardice, deceit, panic, outbursts of anger, impulse of pleasure, etc. is really unbelief that Jesus has done all that we need or that Jesus is all that we need to be satisfied.
 - b. Every arrogance that leads to gossip, slander, complaint, lie, greed, bitterness, wrath, anger, self-centeredness, and lack of love is rooted in the unbelief that Jesus didn't have to die for me because MY personal and particular sin is not that bad.

2. Missions' goal is to glorify God and to see Him worshiped in all the earth

a. God's goal is to glorify God

i. Missions is not *primarily* about people

1. God's desire and work in all of His self-revelation is for the purpose of proclaiming His greatness and glory to all the nations
 - a. Ex 9:12-16
2. The Bible is about God and His purpose, not about us.
 - a. Colossians 1:16 – "...all things were created through him and for him."
 - b. Eph 1:6,12,14 – "to the praise of the glory of his grace" "praise of his glory"
 - c. Heb 1:8 – "of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...'"
 - d. John 20:31 – "these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of god, and that by believing you may have life in His name."
3. Scripture is about God revealing Himself
 - a. Hebrews 1:2-3
Hebrews 1:2-3 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4. Most Believers Read Scripture as if it were All About Them
 - a. What do most people see as the themes of the book of Daniel?

- i. God's Provision for Me
 - ii. God's Protection over Me
 - iii. Bible Prophecy
 - b. Look at 4:34 and 6:25-27
 - 1. **Daniel 4:34** At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
 - 2. **Daniel 6:25-27** Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."
 - ii. Daniel is about revealing the one true God to other peoples
 - iii. Notice Jeremiah 29:4 – "to all the exiles *whom I have sent* into exile in Babylon..."
- 5. We Must Change the Way we View Scripture
 - a. **The Bible is a God Book, not a 'me' Book!**
- 6. When we treat missions as if it's all about people, we tend to twist the revealed word of God to make it palatable so that people will choose
 - a. We tend to look for "decisions" rather than repentance and faith
 - b. Our work ends with the decisions, rather than having the work continue to God's glory in discipleship: helping people finding their joy in the worship of the Lord
 - c. We tend to run from discomfort or suffering because we cannot understand how that fits into God's purpose
 - i. God ends up existing (in our deceived minds) for our purpose, rather than we existing for His
 - ii. We end up defining God the way we think He should be, rather than having His self-revelation transform the way we view Him
- ii. Mission is not *against or apathetic* towards people, either
 - 1. It is loving and compassionate as Jesus is loving and compassionate toward us
 - 2. It is giving up our own power and reputation for the sake of the glory of God and the salvation of others
 - 3. We definitely desire that people are free
 - a. Free from idols and false worship
 - b. Free to worship, finding their greatest joy in God
 - c. God is most glorified when people are most satisfied in Him (Piper)
- iii. Missions is about God being praised and honored and loved for Who He is and what He has done in Christ
 - 1. Proclaim with Praise
 - a. Ps 78:1-4
 - i. **Psalm 78:1** A MASKIL¹ OF ASAPH. Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
 - b. Ps 107
 - c. Rom 15:11-13 – Christ the praise and the hope of the Gentiles (all the nations)

1. **Psalm 22:23-27** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. ²⁶ The afflicted¹ shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
- ii. Ps 117
1. **Psalm 117** Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! ² For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
- iii. John Piper quote: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever..."
- iv. Rom 16:25-27
1. **Romans 16:25-27** Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Conclusion:

Our mission is the same mission that God has (makes sense, right?): to declare and reveal His glory to all the peoples of the earth. Our passion is for His reputation, not our comfort! Our purpose is to see Him worshipped, not our lives free from pain! Our desire is for Him to be known and adored and glorified through the redemption of sinners set free, the times of ignorance having passed and God stretching out His hands of mercy to all who will trust in Jesus. That is our mission! We gain motivation and passion for this mission by seeing Jesus, the Beautiful One, the Redeemer of our souls, the Lamb of God, the glorious King. The greater we worship Him, the greater we glorify Him. May it be so.