

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 1 – The God Who Is Worthy – 11 September 2011

Creation Calls -- are you listening? Music by [Brian Doerksen](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwGvfdtI2c0) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwGvfdtI2c0>

Slide # 1 – Introduction

Slide # 2 – The Heavens

Psalms 8: 3 - When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalms 19: 1 – 6 - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Slide # 3 – The Earth and water

Psalms 33: 6 – 9 - By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Slide # 4 – Storms – lightning – the power of God in Nature

Psalms 77: 16 – 19 - The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. 17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. 19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known

Slide # 5 – Families – spouse and children

Proverbs 18: 22 - He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD

Psalms 127: 3 – 5 - Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Slide # 6 – Food - provisions

Psalms 147: 14 - He makes peace in your borders; He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat

Job 36: 31 - He gives food in abundance

Genesis 2: 16 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat

Slide # 7 – Rebellion in the face of goodness

Romans 3: 9 – 20 - Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; ¹⁰ as it is written,

“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

¹³ “THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,

WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,”

“THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

¹⁴ “WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS”;

¹⁵ “THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

¹⁸ “THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; ²⁰ because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3: 21 – 26 - But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Slide # 8 – Redemption provided by the blood of Christ who is our propitiation

Psalms 103: 9 – 11 - 9He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Ephesians 1: 3 – 7 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us.

Slide # 9 – Our glorious and undeserved exaltation

2 Corinthians 4: 6 & 7 - 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. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us

Colossians 1: 13 – 14 - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Slide # 10 – Our future hope

1 Thessalonians 4: 14 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Peter 1: 3 – 5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Slide # 11 – Introduction & Definition

Why should we be concerned with missions? _____

Are all Christians missionaries? Should we make distinctions between foreign or cross-cultural missions and domestic missions? Is it geographical, ethnic, political, or linguistic? _____

Scriptures to look up:

Matthew 24: 14 – This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Revelation 5: 9 – And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Genesis 12: 2 – 3 – And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Slide # 12 – Introduction

“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.”

Let The Nations Be Glad - John Piper

For 30 years John Piper has been the Preaching Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has authored over 30 books, including the one from which our quote has been taken. First printed in 1993 ‘Let the Nations be Glad’ contained what was and still is the controversial statement that ‘Missions exist because worship doesn’t’.

1993 was the first time that John piper coined the expression ‘Missions exist because worship doesn’t’, in subsequent editions of this book, Piper presents his argument in a fuller form.

Piper states missions is a ‘temporary necessity’ which cannot be considered as ‘ultimate’. In later pages of the same chapter Piper reiterates his points that Missions is not a goal, but rather Worship is; calling for a need to ‘savour a vision in worship before spreading it in missions’.

Worship is not only greater than, but also the ‘fuel’ of Missions, naming it as the ‘overflow of our delight in God’ and ‘the second greatest human activity in the world.’ Finally surmising that ‘the power of the missions enterprise is to be caught up into God’s fuel and God’s Goal. And that means being caught up in Worship’

What is Missions?

Up until the 1950s the subject of the missionary movement was referred to as “Missions” in the plural form. But the International Missionary council discussions in the 1950s on the missio Dei convinced most that the mission of the Triune God was prior to any of the number of missions by Christians during the two millennia of Church history. Consequently, since there was only one mission, the plural form has dropped out of familiar use and the singular form, “mission,” has replaced it for the most part.’

Walter C. Kaiser Jr.

David J. Hesselgrave defined mission as ‘the grandest enterprise on the earth’

Psalms 18: 49 - Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O Lord; I will sing praises to your name.’

Romans 15: 20 - It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known

Matthew 28: 19 - 20 - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Missions – The glorious privilege of believers to declare God's glory, greatness and goodness with all peoples and nations

Missional – The mindset of God's people who are joyfully obedient to declare God's glory everywhere

John Piper - What is the Purpose of Missions? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MLPcVPOZ0o>

For the next 11 weeks we will be looking at how important it is for the church of Jesus Christ to have a missional worldview and a missional purpose in its existence. Jesus' last command to his disciples was that they proclaim the gospel to all peoples, making worshippers wherever they go. This was the purpose of Israel when the Lord chose them from among the nations, and it is now the goal of the church as God has chosen us from among the nations: we are to proclaim His greatness so that He would be known for who He is and worshipped. This is the definition of Missions.

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

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

That is being a missionary!

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

a. He Is Worthy

Is 40:25-26 (Holy and Powerful)

1 Chr 16:31-34 (goodness and reign makes us glad)

2 Sm 22:4 (salvation)

Rev 4:11 (Creation Power)

Rev 5:9 (Sacrifice to Redeem Us)

b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified

Is 48:9-11

Is 43:6-7

Ps 106:7-8

Ezek 20:14

Eph 1:4-6

Matt 5:16

1 Cor 10:31

c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples

Ps 67

1 Chr 16:23-31

Ps 22:27-31
Ps 72:11, 17
Ps 86:9
Ps 96:1-4
Is 2:2-3
Is 52:10
Dan 7:13-14
Rom 16:25-27

2. Missions Is The *Means* Of Creating Worshippers

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

Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully read and consider the Introduction and Chapter One of Let The Nations Be Glad

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

David Cornes website / blog - <http://cornes.info/?p=76>

Emerald Bible Fellowship Blog - <http://www.emeraldbible.com/webpages/resources/documents/ThePurposeofMission.pdf>

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 2 – Definitions, Purposes, & Goals – 18 September 2011

Review Previous Lessons -

- The Heavens
- The Earth and water
- Storms – lightning – the power of God in Nature
- Families – spouse and children
- Food - provisions
- Rebellion in the face of goodness
- Redemption provided by the blood of Christ who is our propitiation
- Our glorious and undeserved exaltation
- Our future hope

Charles Meisner, a man who shared Albert Einstein's attitude toward organized religion about 50 years ago:

I do see the design of the universe as essentially a religious question. That is, one should have some kind of respect and awe for the whole business. It's very magnificent and shouldn't be taken for granted. In fact, I believe that is why Einstein had so little use for organized religion, although he strikes me as a basically very religious man. He must have looked at what the preachers said about God and felt that they were blaspheming. He had seen much more majesty than they had ever imagined, and they were just not talking about the real thing. My guess is that he simply felt that religions he had run across did not have a proper respect for the Author of the universe.

Charles Meisner

Why should we be concerned with missions?

Are all Christians missionaries?

"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."

Let The Nations Be Glad - John Piper

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What is Missions?

Missions – The glorious privilege of believers to declare God's glory, greatness and goodness with all peoples and nations

Missional – The mindset of God's people who are joyfully obedient to declare God's glory everywhere

John Piper - What is the Purpose of Missions?

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

All of history is moving toward one great goal, the white-hot worship of God and His Son among all the peoples of the Earth. *Page 38 – John Piper*

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

a. He Is Worthy

b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified

c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshippers

Lesson # 2 - _____

Introduction - Our goal in this ACE class on missions is that we should have an enlarged heart. A passion for something bigger than ourselves; something that God Himself is focused on.

"We will not know God in His full majesty until we know Him moving triumphantly among the nations. We will not admire and praise Him as we ought until we see Him gathering a company of worshipers for Himself from every people group on earth including all the Muslim and Hindu and Buddhist peoples. Nothing enlarges our vision of God's triumphant grace like the scope of His saving work in history.

Don't Waste Your Life – John Piper

We were made for this. Like Queen Ester being reminded by Mordecai, God has put us where we are, with the socio-economic background, in the country and with the resources we have for this reason; for this time; for this purpose! There are certain implications in having a heart that is on board with God's global purposes and His work in history.

Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards.

The Laymen's Missionary Movement – J. Campbell Wright

Global and local searching out and calling out of God's elect; those redeemed by Christ is a large concern on God's heart! Paul's letter to the Roman is where many go to discern God's sovereign purposes and see, as the Apostle brings the letter to a close what he says:

Romans 15: 8: For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers, 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

10 Again he says,

"REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

11 And again,

"PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM."

12 Again Isaiah says,

"THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

Paul gathers four Old Testament quotations about the peoples (nations) all of which in their Old Testament context refer to nations, not just to Gentile individuals.

Let's listen to the DVD first section and, while we are listening, take some notes:

DVD LISTENING NOTES – Session # 1

QUESTION # 1 – What does John Piper say is the thesis of his talks?

His aim is to lodge in mind and heart a conviction on missions (frontier especially and that missional mindset includes a global perspective).

QUESTION # 2 – What are the five different aims John Piper has in these talks?

1. *He wants us to do more than local.*
2. *He wants to add a passion for unreached peoples – This will be a healing thing to do for the church.*
3. *We are in war time – NOT peacetime. People are perishing!*
4. *To have a Spirit of prayer that the elect would be gathered.*
5. *That we would be kept from the suicidal snares of riches and contentment and instead embrace that suffering's sorrows and dying means life!*

John 12: 24 – Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.²⁵ He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

Matthew 16: 24 – 25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Psalms 96: 1 - Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

QUESTION # 3 –What does Piper mean by “new songs”? Why does he bring this up in the immediate context of dying?

Psalms 96: 1 - Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

There is yet another way that such a God motivates the missionary enterprise. The gospel demand that flows from such a God to the nations is an eminently shareable, doable demand, namely, to rejoice and be glad in God. "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!" ([Ps. 97:1](#)). "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" ([Ps. 67:3-4](#)). "Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive" ([Ps. 69:32](#) RSV). "May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!'" ([Ps. 70:4](#)). What message would missionaries rather take than the message, "Be glad in God! Rejoice in God! Sing for joy in God! For God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him! God loves to exalt himself by showing mercy to sinners."

The liberating fact is that the message we take to the frontiers is that people everywhere should seek their own best interest. We are summoning people to God. And those who come say, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" ([Ps. 16:11](#)). God glorifies himself among the nations with the command, "Delight yourself in the Lord!" ([Ps. 37:4](#)). His first and great requirement of all men everywhere is that they repent from seeking their joy in other things and begin to seek it only in him. A God who cannot be served is a God who can only be enjoyed. The great sin of the world is not that the human race has failed to work for God so as to increase his glory but that we have failed to delight in God so as to reflect his glory, for God's glory is most reflected in us when we are most delighted in him.

The most exhilarating thought in the world is that God's inexorable purpose to display his glory in the mission of the church is virtually the same as his purpose to give his people infinite delight. The glory of a Mountain Spring is seen in how many people (and how many different peoples!) find satisfaction and life in its overflowing streams. Therefore, God is committed to the holy joy of the redeemed, gathered from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, with the same zeal that moves him to seek his own glory in all that he does. The supremacy of God in the heart of God is the driving force of his mercy and the missionary movement of his church.

QUESTION # 4 – What are the four questions that John Piper will be addressing in the sessions?

1. *What is the biblical task of missions.*
2. *Is missions necessary?*
 - a. *Are people perishing for eternity?*
 - b. *Is Christ's work necessary to save the lost?*
 - c. *Must they hear of the Gospel in order to be saved?*
3. *What is our motive in pursuing this?*
4. *How are we to pursue missions?*

"The Task of missions is not defined uniquely by maximizing the number of people who get saved. If this were true, you would just find the most fruitful mission field and then stay there forever. Missions thinks you keep crossing geographical / national barriers and cultural divides until all the peoples have a strong church and experience the focus of local missional living."

Let The Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

POST DVD QUESTIONS

Respond to these statements:

"We Americans don't need to send missionaries to Bhutan. Wouldn't it seem more financially responsible and culturally effective to find and support someone who is culturally closer to the Bhutanese than we are? The surrounding people in India are far more likely to reach them than we are."

"The day of Western Missions is over, stay home, send your money, and watch movies."

Conclusion:

On his deathbed David Brainerd had this to say:

"My soul was this day, at turns, sweetly set on God: I longed to be with him, that I might behold his glory. I felt sweetly disposed to commit all to him, even my dearest friends, my dearest flock, my absent brother, and all my concerns for time and eternity. Oh that his kingdom might come in the world; that they might all love and glorify him, for what he is in himself; and that the blessed Redeemer might see the travail of his soul, and be satisfied! 'Oh come, Lord Jesus, come quickly! Amen.'"

Personal Journal – *David Brainerd's last entry*

The absence of Brainerd's passion for God is the great cause of missionary weakness in the churches. This was Andrew Murry's judgment a hundred years ago.

As we seek to find out why, with such millions of Christians, the real army of God that is fighting the hosts of darkness is so small, the only answer is-lack of heart. The enthusiasm of the kingdom is missing. And that is because there is so little enthusiasm for *the King*. Though much may be done by careful organization and strict discipline and good generalship to make the best of the few troops we have, there is nothing that can so restore confidence and courage as the actual presence of a beloved King, to whom every heart beats warm in loyalty and devotion.

The Missionary Problem Is A Personal Problem – *Andrew Murray*

Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully re-read and consider Chapter One of Let The Nations Be Glad

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

Andrew Murray - The Missionary Problem Is A Personal Problem –
http://www.jesus.org.uk/vault/library/murray_missionary_problem.pdf

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 3 – The Passion Of Missions – God's Glory – 25 September 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

All of history is moving toward one great goal, the white-hot worship of God and His Son among all the peoples of the Earth.

Let The Nations Be Glad - John Piper

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

- a. He Is Worthy
- b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified
- c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshippers

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

1. A Passion For God Is What Spurs Missions

a. Not Primarily A Love For The Lost

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

1 Cor 1: 17 – 21 _____

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

The Wisdom of God

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

Reveal the Gospel Foolish to the unbelievers Powerful salvation to believers

2 Cor 2: 15 - 16 _____

For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

Gospel Aroma Death to Death Life to Life

1 Pet 2: 6 - 10 _____

For *this* is contained in Scripture:

"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*,
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,
"THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"

⁸ and,

"A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

The Stone of Jesus

Cornerstone for believers

Stumbling rock for unbelievers

b. Greater Than That, A Love For God

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

c. When God Is Esteemed In His Glory And Greatness, Then Missions Comes From A Heart Of Joy To See His Name Worshipped

Psalm 97: 1 _____

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.

Ps 67: 3 - 4 _____

Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth.

2. God's Passion For God Spurs His Mission

a. God's Desire Is For His Name To Be Glorified

Isaiah 48: 9 - 11 –

"For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And *for* My praise I restrain *it* for you, In order not to cut you off.

¹⁰ "Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

¹¹ "For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can *My name* be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

see section on bottom of page 40 - 46

b. God Rightly Seeks His Own Glory

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

c. Righteousness Is Worshipping The Truly Worthy

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

3. Where A Small View Of God Exists, Missions Doesn't

We need to all within our power to find the means to a greater and deeper appreciation of God in His greatness

We don't primarily need to go to seminars and trainings to learn how to share our faith, we need to be overwhelmed with the greatness of God!

See His greatness: Creator, Righteous Judge, Redeemer, etc.

Make every effort to find any means in your heart to a deeper love for the Almighty God.

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

1. Mercy leads to joy

Joy is greater when the mercy is greater. The greater one's view of God, the greater one's feeling of desperation in light of sin/holiness, the greater one's relishing of mercy when forgiven

2. God's supremacy leads to joy

There is no doubt that God's Word will prevail. ii. His cause will succeed. iii. His promise never fails. It's not about me, it's about Him

3. Joy leads to sharing the Gospel freely and often

This is the root of Missions: a desire to see God glorified and worshipped. All other reasons fall woefully short in truth, motivation, and purity

4. Practical Application – How Do We Get There?

Focus On Jesus, The Perfect Revelation of God

Hebrews 1: 1 – 4 - _____

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

Focus On Jesus, The Perfect Example of Mission

Incarnation

John 14: 8 – 10 – _____

Philip *said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus *said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

"whoever has seen me has seen the father"

Matt 5: 16 – _____

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

giving glory to the Father in good works

John 12: 27 – 28 – _____

"Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

glory to God in His Passion

Conclusion:

Having a heart that obeys God's call to missionary work is not found in learning how to share the gospel, in being motivated by the woe and sorrows of the suffering in the world,

or even in finding a deep love for the lost. Having a heart for missions is found only in having a passion for a *big* God. If God is not that impressive to you, then your desire to show Him to others will be a non-mover, if you feel its existence at all.

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

Missions Exists Because Worship Doesn't Blog – *David Cornes*

Romans 11: 33 - 36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Modern Missions Movement

Ralph Winter's easy-to-remember, over-simplified 400-year eras of missions history.

- 0-400 AD Winning the Romans: Evangelizing the empire of the Caesars
- 400-800 AD Evangelization of the Barbarians
- 800-1200 AD Evangelization of the Vikings
- 1200-1600 AD Evangelization of the Saracens / Muslims
- 1600-2000 AD Evangelization of the Ends of the Earth

David Barrett - five eras of global outreach

- 30-500 AD The Apostolic Era (Luke and Paul)
- 500-1750 AD The Ecclesiastical Era (Cosmas Indicopleustes and Francis Xavier)
- 1750-1900 AD The Church Growth era
 1. [William Carey](#), the "father of modern missions"
 2. [Henry Venn](#) -- "self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating churches"
- 1900-1990 AD The Global Mission era ([John R. Mott](#) and Kenneth Grubb)
- 1990- present The Global Discipling era

David Brainerd – together with Jonathan Edwards, one of the pioneers of the Modern Missionary Movement

Oh, That I May Never Loiter On My Heavenly Journey!

Reflections on the Life and Ministry of David Brainerd – John Piper

A Summary of His Life - David Brainerd was born on April 20, 1718 in Haddam, Connecticut. That year John Wesley and Jonathan Edwards turned 14. Benjamin Franklin turned 12 and George Whitefield 3. The Great Awakening was just over the horizon and Brainerd would live through both waves of it in the mid thirties and early forties, then die of tuberculosis in Jonathan Edwards' house at the age of 29 on October 9, 1747.

Austere father Hezekiah died when David was 9 - Brainerd's father Hezekiah was a Connecticut legislator and died when David was nine year's old. Judging by my own son's attachment to me over the years, I think that might be the hardest year of all to lose father. He had been a rigorous Puritan with strong views of authority and strictness at home; and he pursued a very earnest devotion that included days of private fasting to promote spiritual welfare (see note 1).

His mother Dorothy died when David was 14 - Brainerd was the sixth child and third son born to Hezekiah and Dorothy. After him came three more children. Dorothy had brought one little boy from a previous marriage, and so there were twelve of them in the home —but not for long. Five years after his father died at the age of 46, his mother died when he was 14.

Early deaths and familiar tendency to melancholy - It seems that there was an unusual strain of weakness and depression in the family. Not only did the parents die early, David's brother Nehemiah died at 32, his brother Israel died at

23, his sister **Jerusha** died at 34, and he died at 29. In 1865 a descendant, Thomas Brainerd (in a biography of John Brainerd), said, "In the whole Brainerd family for two hundred years there has been a tendency to a morbid depression, akin to hypochondria (p. 64)."

So on top of having an austere father, and suffering the loss of both parents as a sensitive child, he probably inherited some kind of tendency of depression. Whatever the cause, he suffered from the blackest dejection off and on throughout his short life. He says at the very beginning of his diary, "I was, I think, from my youth something sober and inclined rather to melancholy (*we would use the term depression today*) than the other extreme (p. 101)."

Sister Jerusha and an inherited farm - When his mother died he moved across the Connecticut River to East Haddam to live with his married sister, **Jerusha**. He described his religion during these years as very careful and serious, but having no true grace. When he turned 19 he inherited a farm and moved for a year a few miles west to Durham to try his hand at farming. But his heart was not in it. He longed for "a liberal education." (p. 103) In fact Brainerd was a contemplative and a scholar from head to toe. If he hadn't been expelled from Yale, he may well have pursued a teaching or pastoral ministry instead of becoming a missionary to the Indians.

Preparation for Yale - After a year on the farm he came back to East Haddam and began to prepare himself to enter Yale. This was the summer of 1738. He was twenty years old. During the year on the farm he had made a commitment to God to enter the ministry. But still he was not converted. He read the Bible through twice that year and began to see more clearly that all his religion was legalistic and simply based on his own efforts. He had great quarreling with God within his soul. He rebelled against original sin and against the strictness of the divine law and against the sovereignty of God. He quarreled with the fact that there was nothing he could do in his own strength to commend himself to God (pp. 113-124).

He came to see that "all my good frames were but self-righteousness, not bottomed on a desire for the glory of God" (p. 103) "There was no more goodness in my praying than there would be in my paddling with my hands in the water ... because (my prayers) were not performed from any love or regard to God ... I never once prayed for the glory of God." (p. 134) "I never once intended his honor and glory ... I had never once acted for God in all my devotions ... I used to charge them with sin ... (because) of wanderings and vain thoughts ...; and not because I never had any regard in them to the glory of God (p. 136)."

Conversion - But then the miracle happened, the day of his new birth. Half an hour before sunset at the age of 21 he was in a lonely place trying to pray.

As I was walking in a dark thick grave, "unspeakable glory" seemed to open to the view and apprehension of my soul ... It was a new inward apprehension or view that I had of God; such as I never had before, nor anything that I had the least remembrance of it. So that I stood still and wondered and admired ... I had now no particular apprehension of any one person of the Trinity, either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, but it appeared to be divine glory and splendor that I then beheld. And my soul "rejoiced wit joy unspeakable" to see such a God, such a glorious divine being, and I was inwardly pleased and satisfied that he should be God over all forever and ever. My soul was so captivated and delighted with the excellency, the loveliness and the greatness and other perfections of God that I was even swallowed up in him, at least to that degree that I had no thought, as I remember at first, about my own salvation or scarce that there was such a creature as I. Thus the Lord, I trust, brought me to a hearty desire to exalt him, to set him on the throne and to "seek first his Kingdom," i.e. principally and ultimately to aim at his honor and glory as the King and sovereign of the universe, which is the foundation of the religion of Jesus ... I felt myself in a new world.

Lord's Day, July 12, 1739 Journal Entry - *David Brainerd*

Measles and tuberculosis - It was the Lord's Day, July 12, 1739. He was 21 years old. Two months later he entered Yale to prepare for the ministry. It was a hard beginning. There was hazing by the upperclassmen, little spirituality, difficult studies, and he got measles and had to go home for several weeks during that first year.

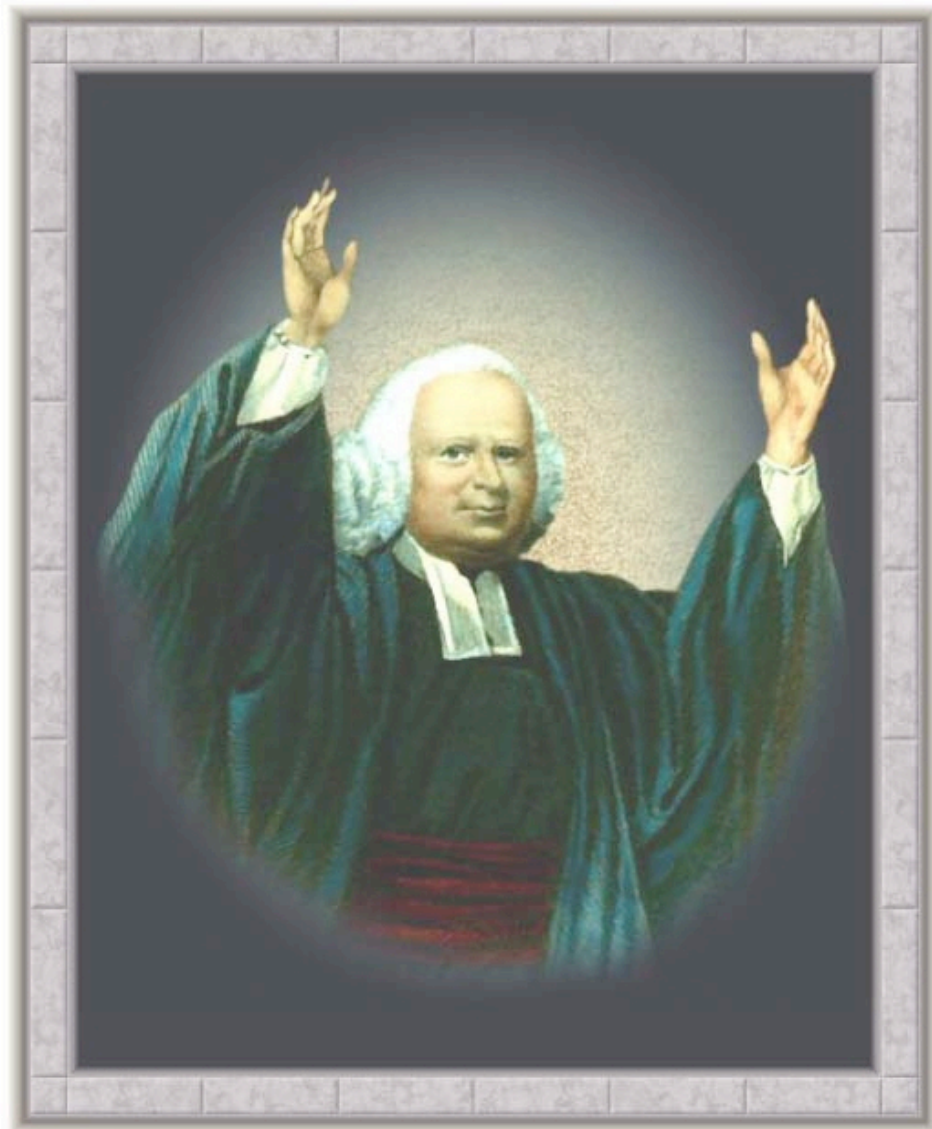
The next year he was sent home because he was so sick he was spitting blood. So even at this early age he already had the tuberculosis he would die of seven years later. The amazing thing may not be that he died so early and accomplished so little, but that, being as sick as he ws, he lived as long as he did and accomplished so much.

Whitefield & Edwards - When he came back to Yale in November, 1740, the spiritual climate was radically changed. George Whitefield had been there, and now many students were very serious about their faith, which suited Brainerd well. In fact tensions were emerging between the awakened students and the less excited faculty and staff. In 1741 pastor-

evangelists, Gilbert Tennent, Ebenezer Pemberton, and James Davenport fanned the flames of discontent among the students with their fiery preaching.

Jonathan Edwards was invited to preach the commencement address in 1741 in the hopes that he would pour a little water on the fire and stand up for the faculty against the enthusiasm of the students. Some faculty had even been criticized as being unconverted. Edwards preached a sermon called "The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God," and totally disappointed the faculty and staff. He argued that the work going on in the awakening of those days, and specifically among the students, was a real spiritual work in spite of the excesses.





Expelled from Yale - That very morning it had been voted by the college trustees that "If any student of this College shall directly or indirectly say, that the Rector, either of the Trustees or tutors are hypocrites, carnal or unconverted men, he shall for the first offence make a public confession in the hall, and for the second offence be expelled (p. 41)." Edwards was clearly more sympathetic with the students than the college was. He even went so far as to say in his commencement address that afternoon, "It is no evidence that a work is not the work of God, if many that are subjects of it ... are guilty of (so) great forwardness to censure others as unconverted (p. 42)."

Brainerd was in the crowd as Edwards spoke. One can't help but wonder whether Edwards later felt some responsibility for what happened to Brainerd the next term. He was at the top of his class academically but was summarily expelled in early 1742 during his third year. He was overheard to say that one of the tutors, Chauncey Whittelsey, "has no more grace than a chair" and that he wondered why the Rector "did not drop down dead" for fining students for their evangelical zeal (pp. 42, 155).

This expulsion wounded Brainerd very deeply. He tried again and again in the next several years to make things right. Numerous people came to his aid, but all to no avail. God had another plan for Brainerd. Instead of a quiet six years in the pastorate or lecture hall followed by death and little historical significance at all, God meant to drive him into the wilderness that he might suffer for His sake and make an incalculable impact on the history of missions.

Before the way was cut off for him to the pastorate, Brainerd had no thought of being a missionary to the Indians. But now he had to rethink his whole life. There was a law, recently passed, that no established minister could be installed in Connecticut who had not graduated from Harvard, Yale or a European University (p. 52). So Brainerd felt cut off from his life calling.

There is a tremendous lesson here. God is at work for the glory of his name and the good of his church even when the good intentions of his servants fail—even when that failing is owing to sin or carelessness. One careless word, spoken in haste, and Brainerd's life seemed to fall apart before his eyes. But God knew better, and Brainerd came to accept it. In fact, I am tempted to speculate whether the modern missionary movement, that was so repeatedly inspired by Brainerd's missionary life, would have happened if David Brainerd had not been expelled from Yale and cut off from his hopes to serve God in the pastorate!

New Lights appoint Brainerd to the Indians - In the summer of 1742 a group of ministers sympathetic to the Great Awakening (called New Lights) licensed Brainerd to preach. Jonathan Dickinson, the leading Presbyterian in New Jersey, took an interest in Brainerd and tried to get him reinstated in Yale. When that failed the suggestion was made that Brainerd become a missionary to the Indians under the sponsorship of the Commissioners of the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Dickinson was one of those Commissioners. On November 25, 1742 Brainerd was examined for his fitness for the work and appointed as a missionary to the Indians. (p. 188)

He spent the winter serving a church on Long Island so that he could enter the wilderness in the spring. His first assignment was to the Housatonic Indians at Kaunaumuck about 20 miles northwest of Stockbridge, Massachusetts where Edwards would eventually serve as a missionary to the Indians. He arrived April 1, 1743 and preached for one year, using an interpreter and trying to learn the language from John Sergeant, the veteran missionary at Stockbridge (p. 228). He was able to start a school for Indian children and translate some of the Psalms (p. 61).

Then came a reassignment to go to the Indians along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. So on May 1, 1744 he left Kaunaumuck and settled in the Forks of the Delaware, northeast of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. At the end of the month he rode to Newark, N.J. to be examined by the Newark Presbytery and was ordained on June 11, 1744 (pp. 251-252).

Brainerd preached to the Indians at the Forks of the Delaware for one year. But on June 19, 1745 he made his first preaching tour to the Indians at Crossweeksung, New Jersey. This was the place where God moved in amazing power and brought awakening and blessing to the Indians. **Within a year there were 130 persons in his growing assembly of believers** (p. 376). The whole Christian community moved from Crossweeksung to Cranberry in May 1746 to have their own land and village. Brainerd stayed with these Indians until he was too sick to minister, and in November 1746 he left Cranberry to spend four months trying to recuperate in Elizabethtown at the house of Jonathan Dickinson.

On March 20, 1747 David Brainerd made one last visit to his Indian friends and then rode to the house of Jonathan Edwards in Northampton, Massachusetts, arriving May 28, 1747. He made one trip to Boston during the summer and then returned and died of tuberculosis in Edwards' house October 9, 1747.

A productive short life - It was a short life: twenty-nine years, five months and nineteen days. Only eight of those years as a believer, and only four of those as a missionary. Why has Brainerd's life made the impact that it has? One obvious reason is that Jonathan Edwards took the Diaries and published them as a Life of Brainerd in 1749. But why has this book never been out of print? Why did John Wesley say, "Let every preacher read carefully over the 'Life of Brainerd (p. 3)'"? Why was it written of Henry Martyn that "perusing the life of David Brainerd, his soul was filled with a holy emulation of that extraordinary man; and after deep consideration and fervent prayer, he was at length fixed in a resolution to imitate his example"? (see note 2) Why did William Carey regard Edwards' Life of Brainerd as a sacred text? Why did Robert Morrison and Robert McCheyne of Scotland and John Mills of America and Frederick Schwartz of Germany and David Livingston of England and Andrew Murray of South Africa and Jim Elliot of modern America look upon Brainerd with a kind of awe and draw power from him the way they and countless others did (p. 4)?

Gideon Hawley, another missionary protégé of Jonathan Edwards spoke for hundreds when he wrote about his struggles as a missionary in 1753, "I need, greatly need something more than humane (=human or natural) to support me. I read my Bible and Mr. Brainerd's Life, the only books I brought with me, and from them have a little support (p. 3)."





BRAINERD PREACHING TO THE INDIANS.

The reasons behind his impact - Why has this life had such an impact? Or perhaps I should just pose a more modest and manageable question: Why does it have such an impact on me? How has it helped me to press on in the ministry and to strive for holiness and divine power and fruitfulness in my life?

The answer for me is that Brainerd's life is a vivid, powerful testimony to the truth that God can and does use weak, sick, discouraged, beat-down, lonely, struggling saints, who cry to him day and night, to accomplish amazing things for his glory.

To illustrate this we will look first at Brainerd's struggles, then at how he responded to them and finally at how God used him with all his weaknesses.

His Struggles

Brainerd Struggled With Almost Constant Sickness

He had to drop out of college for some weeks because he had begun to cough up blood in 1740. In May of 1744 he wrote, "Rode several hours in the rain through the howling wilderness, although I was so disordered in body that little or nothing but blood came from me (p. 247)."

Now and again he would write something like, "In the afternoon my pain increased exceedingly; and was obliged to betake myself to bed ... Was sometimes almost bereaved of the exercise of my reason by the extremity of pain." (p. 253) In August of 1746 he wrote, "Having lain in cold sweat all night, I coughed much bloody matter this morning, and was under great disorder of body, and not a little melancholy." (p. 420) In September he wrote, "Exercised with a violent cough and a considerable fever; had no appetite to any kind of food; and frequently brought up what I ate, as soon as it was down; and oftentimes had little rest in my bed, by reason of pains in my breast and back: was able, however, to rode over to my people, about two miles, every day, and take some care of those who were then at work upon a small house for me to reside in amongst the Indians (p. 430)."

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Journal Entries – David Brainerd

In May of 1747 at Jonathan Edwards' house the doctors told him that he had incurable consumption and did not have long to live. (p. 447) In the last couple of months of his life the suffering was incredible. September 24: "In the greatest distress that ever I endured having an uncommon kind of hiccough; which either strangled me or threw me into a straining to vomit." (p. 469) Edwards comments that in the week before he died, "He told me it was impossible for any to conceive of the distress he felt in his breast. He manifested much concern lest he should dishonor God by impatience under his extreme agony; which was such that he said the thought of enduring it one minute longer was almost insupportable." And the night before he died he said to those around him that it was another thing to die than people imagined (pp. 475-476).

What strikes the reader of these diaries is not just the severity of Brainerd's suffering in the days before antibiotics and pain killers, but especially how relentless the sickness was. It was almost always there. And yet he pressed on with his work.

Brainerd Struggled With Relentlessly Recurring Depression

Brainerd came to understand more fully from his own experience the difference between spiritual desertion and the disease of melancholy. So his later judgments about his own spiritual condition are probably more careful than the earlier ones. But however one assesses his psychological condition, **he was tormented again and again with the blackest discouragements. And the marvel is that he survived and kept going at all.**

Brainerd said he had been this way from his youth (p. 101). But he said that there was a difference between the depression he suffered before and after his conversion. **After his conversion there seemed to be a rock of electing love under him that would catch him, so that in his darkest times he could still affirm the truth and goodness of God, even though he couldn't sense it for a season** (pp. 93, 141, 165, 278).

But it was bad enough nevertheless. Often his distress was owing to the hatred of his own remaining sinfulness. Thursday, November 4, 1742. "Tis distressing to feel in my soul that hell of corruption which still remains in me." (p. 185)

Sometimes this sense of unworthiness was so intense that he felt cut off from the presence of God. January 23, 1743. "Scarce ever felt myself so unfit to exist, as now: I saw I was not worthy of a place among the Indians, where I am going ... None knows, but those that feel it, what the soul endures that is sensibly shut out from the presence of God: Alas, 'tis more bitter than death (pp. 195-6)!"

He often called his depression a kind of death. I counted at least 22 places in the Diary where **he longed for death as a freedom from his misery**. For example, Sunday, February 3, 1745. "My soul remember 'the wormwood and the gall' (I might almost say hell) of Friday last; and I was greatly afraid I should be obliged again to drink of that 'cup of trembling', which was inconceivably more bitter than death, and made me long for the grave more, unspeakably more, than for hid treasures." (p. 285) Sunday, December 16, 1744. "Was so overwhelmed with dejection that I knew not how to live: I longed for death exceedingly: My soul was 'sunk in deep waters,' and 'the floods' were ready to 'drown me': I was so much oppressed that my soul was in a kind of horror (p. 278)."

It caused him compounded misery that his mental distress hindered his ministry and his devotion. Wednesday, March 9, 1743. "Rode 16 miles to Montauk, and had some inward sweetness on the road, but something of flatness and deadness after I came there and had seen the Indians: I withdrew and endeavored to pray, but found myself awfully deserted and left, and had an afflicting sense of my vileness and meanness." (p. 199) At times he was simply immobilized by the distresses and couldn't function anymore. Tuesday, September 2, 1746. "Was scarce ever more confounded with a sense of my own unfruitfulness and unfitness of my work, than now. Oh, what a dead, heartless, barren, unprofitable wretch did I now see myself to be! My spirits were so low, and my bodily strength so wasted, that I could do nothing at all. At length, being much overdone, lay down on a buffalo skin; but sweat much of the whole night (pp. 423f.)."

It is simply amazing how often Brainerd pressed on with the practical necessities of his work in the face of these waves of discouragement. This has no doubt endeared him to many a missionary who know first hand the kinds of pain he endured.

Brainerd Struggled With Loneliness

He tells of having to endure the profane talk of two strangers one night in April, 1743 and says, "Oh, I longed that some dear Christian knew my distress (p. 204)!" A month later he says,

"Most of the talk I hear is either Highland Scotch or Indian. I have no fellow Christian to whom I might unbosom myself and lay open my spiritual sorrows, and with whom I might take sweet counsel in conversation about heavenly things, and join in social prayer."

Journal Entry – David Brainerd

This misery made him sometimes shrink back from going off on another venture. Tuesday, May 8, 1744. "My heart sometimes was ready to sink with the thoughts of my work, and going alone in the wilderness, I knew not where (p. 248)."

In December, 1745 he wrote a letter to his friend Eleazar Wheelock and said, "I doubt not by that time you have read my journal through you'll be more sensible of the need I stand in of a companion in travel than ever you was before (p. 584)." But he didn't just want any kind of person of course. He wanted a soul companion. Many of us can empathize with him when he says, "There are many with whom I can talk about religion: but alas, I find few with whom I can talk religion itself: But, blessed be the Lord, there are some that love to feed on the kernel rather than the shell (p. 292)."

But Brainerd was alone in his ministry to the end. The last 19 weeks of his life Jerusha Edwards, Jonathan Edwards' 17 year old daughter, was his nurse and many speculate that there was deep love between them. But in the wilderness and in the ministry he was alone, and could only pour out his soul to God. And God bore him and kept him going.

Brainerd Struggled With Immense External Hardships

He describes his first mission station at Kaunaumee in May, 1743:

"I live poorly with regard to the comforts of life: most of my diet consists of boiled corn, hasty pudding, etc. I lodge on a bundle of straw, and my labor is hard and extremely difficult; and I have little experience of success to comfort me." "In this weak state of body, (I) was not a little distressed for want of suitable food. Had no bread, nor could I get any. I am forced to go or send ten or fifteen miles for all the bread I eat; and sometimes 'tis moldy and sour before I eat it, if I get any considerable quantity ... But through divine goodness I had some Indian meal, of which I made little cakes and fried them. Yet felt contented with my circumstances, and sweetly resigned to God."

He says that he was frequently lost in the woods and was exposed to cold and hunger (p. 222). he speaks of his horse being stolen or being poisoned or breaking a leg (pp. 294, 339). He tells about how the smoke from a fireplace would often make the room intolerable to his lungs and he would have to go out into the cold to get his breath, and then could not sleep through the night (p. 422).

But the struggle with external hardships, as great as they were, was not his worst struggle. He had an amazing resignation and even rest it seems in many of these circumstances. He knew where they fit in his Biblical approach to life:

Such fatigues and hardship as these serve to wean me more from the earth; and, I trust, will make heaven the sweeter. Formerly, when I was thus exposed to cold, rain, etc., I was ready to please myself with the thoughts of enjoying a comfortable house, a warm fire, and other outward comforts; but now these have less place in my heart (through the grace of God) and my eye is more to God for comfort. In this world I expect tribulation; and it does not now, as formerly, appear strange to me; I don't in such seasons of difficulty flatter myself that it will be better hereafter; but rather think how much worse it might be; how much greater trials others of God's children have endured; and how much greater are yet perhaps reserved for me. Blessed be God that he makes (=is) the comfort to me, under my sharpest trials; and scarce ever lets these thoughts be attended with terror or melancholy; but they are attended frequently with great joy."

Journal Entry – David Brainerd

So in spite of the terrible external hardships that Brainerd knew, he pressed on and even flourished under these tribulations that led to the kingdom.

Brainerd Struggled With A Bleak Outlook On Nature

We will forgive him for this quickly because none of us has suffered physically what he suffered or endured the hardships he did in the wilderness. It is hard to relish the beauty of a rose when you are coughing up blood.

But we have to see this as part of Brainerd's struggle because an eye for beauty instead of bleakness might have lightened some of his load. **Edwards extolled Brainerd for not being a person of "warm imagination (p. 93)." This was a virtue for Edwards because it meant that Brainerd was free from what he called religious "enthusiasm"—the intensity of religious emotion based on sudden impressions and sights in the imagination rather than on spiritual apprehension of God's moral perfections.** So Edwards applauded Brainerd for not having "strong and lively images formed in his imagination (p. 93)."

But there is a costly downside to an unimaginative mind. **In Brainerd's case it meant that he seemed to see nothing in nature but a "howling wilderness" and a bleak enemy.** There was nothing in his diaries like the transports of Jonathan Edwards as he walked in the woods and saw images of divine glory and echoes of God's excellence everywhere. Norman Pettit is basically right it seems to me when he says, "Where Edwards saw mountains and waste places as the setting for divine disclosure, Brainerd saw only a 'howling desert.' Where Edwards would take spiritual delight 'in the sun, moon, and stars; in the clouds, and blue sky; in the grass, flowers, trees,' Brainerd never mentioned natural beauty. In contrast to Edwards' joy in summer is Brainerd's fear of winter." (p. 23) Brainerd never mentioned an attractive landscape or sunset. He did at one place say he had discovered the need for diversions in his labor for the sake of maximizing his usefulness. (p. 292) But he never once described such a diversion or any impact on him that it had.

It is a sad thing that Brainerd was blinded (perhaps by his suffering) to one of God's antidotes to depression. Spurgeon described this as well as anyone:

To sit long in one posture, pouring over a book, or driving a quill, is in itself a taxing of nature; but add to this a badly ventilated chamber, a body which has long been without muscular exercise, and a heart burdened with many cares, and we have all the elements for preparing a seething cauldron of despair, especially in the dim months of fog ... Nature outside his window is calling him to health and beckoning him to joy. He who forgets the humming of the bees among the heather, the cooing of the wood-pigeons in the forest, the song of the birds in the woods, the rippling of rills among the rushes, and the sighing of the wind among the pines, needs not wonder if his heart forgets to sing and his soul grows heavy.

I say we will forgive Brainerd quickly for not drawing strength and refreshment from God's gallery of joy, because his suffering made it so hard for him to see. But we must make every effort not to succumb with him here. Spurgeon and Edwards are the models for us on ministerial uses of nature. And, of course, an even greater authority said, "Consider the lilies."

Brainerd Struggled To Love The Indians

If love is known by sacrifice, then Brainerd loved. But if it is also known by heartfelt compassion then Brainerd struggled to love more than he did. Sometimes he was melted with love. September 18, 1742. "Felt some compassion for souls, and mourned I had no more. I feel much more kindness, meekness, gentleness and love towards all mankind, than ever (p. 181)." December 26, 1742. "Felt much sweetness and tenderness in prayer, especially my whole soul seemed to love my worst enemies, and was enabled to pray for those that are strangers and enemies to God with a great degree of softness and pathetic fervor (p. 193)." Tuesday, July 2, 1745. "Felt my heat drawn out after God in prayer, almost all the forenoon; especially while riding. And in the evening, could not help crying to God for those poor Indians; and after I went to bed my heart continued to go out to God for them, till I dropped asleep. Oh, 'Blessed be God that I may pray (p. 302)!"

But other times he seemed empty of affection or compassion for their souls. He expresses guilt that he should preach to immortal souls with no more ardency and so little desire for their salvation. (p. 235) His compassion could simply go flat. November 2, 1744. "About noon, rode up to the Indians; and while going, could feel no desires for them, and even dreaded to say anything to 'em (p. 272)."

So Brainerd struggled with the rise and fall of love in his own heart. He loved, but longed to love so much more.

Brainerd Struggled To Stay True To His Calling

Even though Brainerd's expulsion from Yale initially hindered his entering the pastorate, and turned him to consider the missionary career, the missionary call he felt from the Lord in this was not abandoned when other opportunities for the pastorate finally did come along. There were several opportunities for him to have a much easier life in the settled life of the parish minister.

The church at Millington, near his hometown of Haddam, called him in March of 1744, and he describes the call as a great care and burden. He turned it down and prayed that the Lord would send laborers to his vineyard. (p. 244) The church at East Hampton on Long Island called him too. Jonathan Edwards called this "the fairest, pleasantest town on the whole island, and one of its largest and most wealthy parishes." Brainerd wrote on Thursday, April 5, "Resolved to go on still with the Indian affair, if divine providence permitted; although before felt some inclination to go to East Hampton, where I was solicited to go." (p. 245)

There were other opportunities too. But each time the struggle was resolved with this sense of burden and call: "(I) could have no freedom in the thought of any other circumstances or business in life: All my desire was the conversion of the heathen, and all my hope was in God: God does not suffer me to please or comfort myself with hopes of seeing friends, returning to my dear acquaintance, and enjoying worldly comforts." (p. 263) So the struggle was obviously there, but he was held to his post by a readiness to suffer and a passion to see the kingdom of Christ spread among the Indians.

Brainerd's Passion To Press On For God's Kingdom

I think the reason Brainerd's life has such powerful effects on people is that in spite of all his struggles he never gave up his faith or his ministry. He was consumed with a passion to finish his race and honor his Master and spread the kingdom and advance in personal holiness. It was this unswerving allegiance to the cause of Christ that makes the bleakness of his life glow with glory so that we can understand Henry Martyn when he wrote, as a student in Cambridge in 1802, "I long to be like him (p. 4)!"

Brainerd called his passion for more holiness and more usefulness a kind of "pleasing pain." "When I really enjoy God, I feel my desires of him the more insatiable, and my thirstings after holiness the more unquenchable; ... Oh, for holiness! Oh, for more of God in my soul! Oh, this pleasing pain! It makes my soul press after God ... Oh, that I might not loiter on my heavenly journey (p. 186)!"

He was gripped with by the apostolic admonition: "Redeem the time for the days are evil." ([Ephesians 5:16](#)) He embodied the counsel: "Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due time we shall reap if we do not faint." ([Gal. 6:9](#)) He strove to be, as Paul says, "abounding in the work of the Lord ([1 Cor. 15:58](#))."

April 17, 1747. "O I longed to fill the remaining moments all for God! Though my body was so feeble, and wearied with preaching and much private conversation, yet I wanted to sit up all night to do something for God. To God the giver of

these refreshments, be glory forever and ever; Amen." (p. 246) February 21, 1746. "My soul was refreshed and comforted, and I could not but bless God, who had enabled me in some good measure to be faithful in the day past. Oh, how sweet it is to be spent and worn out for God!" (p. 366)

Among all the means that Brainerd used for pursuing greater and greater holiness and usefulness prayer and fasting stand out above all. We read of him spending whole days in prayer (p. 172), and sometimes setting aside six times in the day to pray, (p. 280), and sometimes seeking out a family or friend to pray with. He prayed for his own sanctification. He prayed for the conversion and purity of his Indians. He prayed for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ around the world and especially in America. Sometimes the spirit of prayer would hold him so deeply that he could scarcely stop.

Once, visiting in a home with friends, he got alone to pray: "I continued wrestling with God in prayer for my dear little flock here; and more especially for the Indians elsewhere; as well as for dear friends in one place and another; till it was bed time and I feared I should hinder the family, etc. But oh, with what reluctance did I find myself obliged to consume time in sleep!" (p. 402)

And along with prayer, Brainerd pursued holiness and usefulness with fasting. Again and again in his Diary he tells of days spent in fasting. He fasted for guidance when he was perplexed about the next steps of his ministry. And he fasted simply with the deep hope of making greater advances in his own spiritual depth and his usefulness in bringing life to the Indians. When he was dying in Edwards' house he urged young ministers who came to see him to engage in frequent days of private prayer and fasting because of how useful it was. (p. 473)

Edwards himself said, "Among all the many days he spent in secret fasting and prayer and that he gives an account of in his diary, there is scarce an instance of one but what was either attended or soon followed with apparent success and a remarkable blessing in special incomes and consolations of God's Spirit; and very often before the day was ended." (p. 531)

Along with prayer and fasting, Brainerd bought up the time with study and mingled all three of these together. December 20, 1745. "I spent much of the day in writing; but was enabled to intermix prayer with my studies." (p. 280) January 7, 1744. "Spent this day in seriousness, with steadfast resolutions for God and a life of mortification. Studied closely, till I felt my bodily strength fail." (p. 234) December 20, 1742. "Spent this day in prayer, reading and writing; and enjoyed some assistance, especially in correcting some thoughts on a certain subject." (p. 192)

He was constantly writing and thinking about theological things. That's why we have the Diaries and Journal! But there was more. We read frequently things like, "Was most of the day employed in writing on a divine subject. Was frequent in prayer." (p. 240) "I spent most of the time in writing on a sweet divine subject." (p. 284) "Was engaged in writing again almost the whole day." (p. 287) "Rose early and wrote by candlelight some considerable time; spent most of the day in writing." (p. 344) "Towards night, enjoyed some of the clearest thoughts on a divine subject ... that ever I remember to have had upon any subject whatsoever; and spent two or three hours in writing them." (p. 359) Brainerd's life is one long agonizing strain to "redeem the time" and "not grow weary in well doing" and "abound in the work of the Lord." And what makes his life so powerful is that he pressed on in this passion under the immense struggles and hardships that he did.

The Effect of Brainerd's Life

First, I would mention the effect on Jonathan Edwards, the great pastor and theologian of Northampton. Edwards' bears his own testimony:

I would conclude my observations on the merciful circumstances of Mr. Brainerd's death without acknowledging with thankfulness the gracious dispensation of Providence to me and my family in so ordering that he ... should be cast hither to my house, in his last sickness, and should die here: So that we had opportunity for much acquaintance and conversation with him, and to show him kindness in such circumstances, and to see his dying behavior, to hear his dying speeches, to receive his dying counsels, and to have the benefit of his dying prayers."

Life Of Brainerd – Jonathan Edwards

Edwards said this even though he must have known **it probably cost him the life of his daughter to have Brainerd in his house with that terrible disease**. Jerusha had tended Brainerd as a nurse for the last 19 weeks of his life, and four months after he died she died of the same affliction. so Edwards really meant what he said, that it was a "gracious dispensation of Providence" that Brainerd came to his house to die.

The Life Of David Brainerd - As a result of the immense impact of Brainerd's devotion on Jonathan Edwards, Edwards wrote in the next two years **the Life of David Brainerd, which has been reprinted more often than any of his other books**. And through this Life the impact of Brainerd on the church has been incalculable, because beyond all the famous missionaries who tell us that they have been sustained and inspired by Brainerd's Life how many countless other unknown faithful servants must there be who found strength to press on from Brainerd's testimony! It gained immediate recognition, with eighteenth-century theologian [John Wesley](#) urging: 'Let every preacher read carefully over the *Life of David Brainerd*'. Missionaries who have asserted the influence of Jonathan Edwards's biography of Brainerd on their lives include [Henry Martyn](#), [William Carey](#), [Jim Elliot](#), and [Adoniram Judson](#)

Princeton College And Dartmouth College - A lesser known effect of Brainerd's life, and one that owes far more to the gracious Providence of God than to any intention on Brainerd's part was the founding of Princeton College and Dartmouth College. Jonathan Dickinson and Aaron Burr, who were Princeton's first leaders and among its founders took direct interest in Brainerd's case at Yale and were extremely upset that the school would not readmit him. This event brought to a head the dissatisfaction that the New York and New Jersey Presbyterian Synods had with Yale and crystallized the resolve to found their own school. The College of New Jersey (later, Princeton) was chartered in October, 1746. Dickinson was made the first president and when the classes began in his house in May of 1747 in Elizabethtown Brainerd was there trying to recover in his last months, and so he is considered to be the first student enrolled. David Field and Archibald Alexander and others testify that in a real sense "Princeton college was founded because of Brainerd's expulsion from Yale." (p. 55)

Another surprising effect of Brainerd's life is the inspiration he provided for the founding of Dartmouth College by Eleazer Wheelock. Brainerd felt a failure among the Iroquois Indians on the Susquehanna. He labored among them for a year or so and then moved on. But his Diary of the time kindled the commitment of Wheelock to go to the Iroquois of Connecticut. And inspired by Brainerd's example in teaching the Indians he founded in 1748 a school for Indians and whites at Lebanon. Later it was moved to Hanover, New Hampshire where Wheelock founded Dartmouth College.

In 1740 Yale and Harvard and William and Mary were the only Colonial colleges, and they were not sympathetic to the Evangelical piety of the Great Awakening. But the tide of Awakening brought in a zeal for education as well as piety and the Presbyterians founded Princeton, the Baptists founded Brown, the Dutch Reformed founded Rutgers, and the Congregationalists founded Dartmouth. It is remarkable that David Brainerd must be reckoned as an essential motivational component in the founding of two of those schools. If he was a somewhat frustrated scholar, thinking and writing by candlelight in the wilderness, his vision for evangelical higher education had a greater fulfillment probably than if he had given his life to that cause instead of to the missionary passion that he felt.

I close by stating that the most awesome effect of Brainerd's ministry is the same as the most awesome effect of every pastor's ministry. There are a few Indians—perhaps several hundreds—who owe their everlasting life to the direct love and ministry of David Brainerd. Some of their individual stories would make another lecture—a very inspiring one. Who can describe the value of one soul transferred from the kingdom of darkness, and from the weeping and gnashing of teeth, to the kingdom of God's dear Son! If we live 29 years or if we live 99 years, would not any hardships be worth the saving of one person from the eternal torments of hell for the everlasting enjoyment of the glory of God?

Conclusion - Why has this life had such an impact? Why does it have such an impact on so many? How has it helped these brothers and sisters to press on in the ministry and to strive for holiness and divine power and fruitfulness in their lives?

The answer is that Brainerd's life is a vivid, powerful testimony to the truth that God can and does use weak, sick, discouraged, beat-down, lonely, struggling saints, who cry to him day and night, to accomplish amazing things for his glory.



BRAINERD'S HOUSE, HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.



Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully read and consider Chapter Two of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Prayer

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

David Cornes website / blog - <http://cornes.info/?p=76>

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/biographies/oh-that-i-may-never-loiter-on-my-heavenly-journey> - *I used both the notes AND listened to the MP3 of the sermon often.*

FUTURE MATERIALS

When an Unreached People Group Hears the Storyline of the Gospel for the First Time

via Justin Taylor by Justin Taylor on 9/11/11

If you've never seen this old-school video about the moving EE-TAOW story, it is very much worth 25 minutes of your time to fan the flames for frontier missions where Christ is not yet named. Make sure to watch to the end.

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2011/09/12/when-an-unreached-people-group-hears-the-storyline-of-the-gospel-for-the-first-time/?comments#comments>

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 4 – The Power Source Of Missions – Prayer – 2 October 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

- a. He Is Worthy**
- b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified**
- c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples**

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshippers

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

1. A Passion For God Is What Spurs Missions

- a. Not Primarily A Love For The Lost**
- b. Greater Than That, A Love For God**
- c. When God Is Esteemed In His Glory And Greatness, Then Missions Comes From A Heart Of Joy To See His Name Worshipped**

God says, I am sending my son to die so that you can know me and be brought home to joy. It's love for God to exalt himself and the Son. This is the purpose, the one thing for which we were made, which is part of our soul. You can help unbelievers get this. You really can. There are analogies in their life that you can use. We are made for one thing. Men go to the mountains, and they go to the Grand Canyon where they go to see it and it does something good for them even if it makes them feel small. The world doesn't usually like to feel small, but they go to mountains and they go to canyons, because something is touched and they don't know what it is. They don't have a clue to what is going on, but we can help them. They just know that it's good. I'm standing on the edge, I feel very threatened, I feel very small, very vulnerable, that's very big, and I'm happy! Because they are tasting what they were made for with that little emblem of God in the mountain or in the canyon. We can communicate this to people.

Let The Nations Be Glad - DVD – John Piper

2. God's Passion For God Spurs His Mission

- a. God's Desire Is For His Name To Be Glorified**
- b. God Rightly Seeks His Own Glory**
- c. Righteousness Is Worshipping The Truly Worthy**

3. Where A Small View Of God Exists, Missions Doesn't

Written in his Romans commentary to Paul identifying himself as "an apostle for the sake of the Name".

The highest of missionary motives is neither obedience to the great commission, important as that is, nor love for sinners, who are alienated and perishing strong as that incentive motive is especially as we contemplate the wrath of God. But rather zeal,

burning and passionate zeal for the glory of Jesus Christ. Only one imperialism is Christian, and that is concern for His Imperial Majesty, the Lord Jesus Christ and for the glory of His empire. We should be jealous for the honor of His Name, troubled when it remains unknown, hurt when it is ignored, indignant when it is blasphemed, and all the time anxious and determined that it will be given the honor and the glory that it is due. That is the pinnacle motive in doing missions among the nations.

Commentary On Romans – *John Stott*

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

1. Mercy leads to joy
2. God's supremacy leads to joy
3. Joy leads to sharing the Gospel freely and often
4. Practical Application – How Do We Get There?

Focus On Jesus, The Perfect Revelation of God

Focus On Jesus, The Perfect Example of Mission

INSPIRED MISSIONARIES

Heroes:

John Piper – Pastor; Bethlehem Baptist Church & Obedient Sender - *William Carey* – shoe maker who learned 29 languages – my faultless Mac faulted. Tested my faith and I lost 2 hours. Carey lost 11 years of work in a fire. He knelt down and said that probably the success was going to my head. So I submit and bow and will go ahead. There was no back-up

When I left England, my hope of India's conversion was very strong, but amongst so many obstacles it would die, unless upheld by God. Well, I have God and His word is true. Though the superstitions of the heathen were 1,000 times stronger than they are and the example of the Europeans a 1,000 times worst than it is. Though I was deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on the sure word, would rise above all obstructions and overcome every trial. God's cause will triumph!

William Carey

Chad & Mandy Mary – Campus Outreach, Indianapolis

- The biggest inspiration were the CO staff that poured into our lives on the campus while we were students
- The life of Dawson Trotterman, Daws (his nickname): "Do what others can not and will not do. The greatest amount of wasted time is the time not getting started." – Daws started the Navigators and was a big inspiration behind Campus Outreach
- Jim Elliot (End of the Spear)
- Elisabeth Elliot

Andy Ferrier – Friends Of Israel – Chicago

- About missionaries who have inspired me, when I was growing up I taught 5-day back yard Bible Clubs with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Along with a Bible lesson I also taught a missionary story. One of the stories I taught was on the life of Hudson Taylor. His great faith in trusting the Lord for all of his needs was inspiring to me. Hudson also changed the way he dressed from Western suit and tie to Eastern dress to look Chinese to blend in with the culture in order to reach more people.
- Another missionary story I did a report on in school was the life of David Livingstone. His willingness to go anywhere the Lord led him, even to the jungles of Africa made an impact on me. Through Gates of Splendor was another great story of the 5 missionaries who were willing to sacrifice their lives at such a young age. And "Peace Child" by Don Richardson challenged me to share the gospel in the culture of the people I am trying to reach.

Ken Houghten - England

- I have found many missionary biographies to be very challenging + encouraging. Adoniram Judson was one of several that stand out ("To Golden Shores"). Recently I read another book on Hudson Taylor ("Radical Discipleship" by Steer
- Here is one great quote from J. Hudson Taylor: "There is a God; He has spoken to us in the Bible; He means what He says."

Jyoti Chakravartty – India

- David Livingstone: "All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ, revealed to me in His divine Book." "I will place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ." "Nothing earthly will make me give up my work in despair." I was inspired by reading a biography of David Livingstone when I was about 10 or 11 I borrowed the book which I still remember was hardback, with a dust jacket (I think published by Moody press) from the missionaries we grew up with. I was inspired by his life.
- William Borden: "No reserve, no retreats and no regrets."
- William Carey: "Attempt Great things for God; expect great things from God."
- Jim Elliot: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."
- J. Hudson Taylor: "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."
- C.T. Studd - part of the Cambridge Seven who offered himself and his service to Hudson Taylor, and later was responsible for setting up the Heart of Africa Mission which became the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (now WEC International). Studd also believed in plain speaking and "muscular Christianity", and his call for Christians to embrace a "Don't Care a Damn" (DCD) attitude caused quite a stir!
- George Muller's autobiography

Marco DeFelice - Italy

- I've been inspired by several missionaries. Number one for me is the Apostle Paul, and his willingness to be totally single minded, and to suffer willingly, always laying aside his preferences and personal well-being, for the sake of the gospel. I pray that I would become like he was, for he was like Christ.
- I am greatly inspired by William Carey, and his decades of diligence, even when a fire destroyed years of work. My prayer is that I would be diligent, until the Lord calls me home.

Jeannie Mayfield

- "He is no fool who parts with what he cannot keep, when he is sure to be recompensed with what he cannot lose." quote by Philip Henry, father of Matthew Henry; Bible commentator
- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." quote by Jim Elliot

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

God has ordained prayer to have such a crucial place in the mission of the church. The purpose of prayer is to make clear to all the participants in missions that the victory belongs to the Lord. Prayer is God's appointed means of bringing grace to the world and glory to Himself. Prayer puts God in the place of the all-sufficient Benefactor and puts us in the place of needy beneficiaries. Therefore, when the mission of the church moves forward by prayer, the supremacy of God is manifest and the needs of Christian missionaries are met. In prayer, he is glorified and we are satisfied. The purpose of prayer is the Father's fame and the saints' fullness.

Let The Nations Be Glad – John Piper

Watch DVD – Disk # 2 – Session # 5 from 18:40 to 25:40

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – John Piper

1. Life Is War

2 Timothy 4: 7 – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith

1 Timothy 6: 12 – I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith

Luke 13: 24 – Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able

Hebrews 4: 11 – Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.

1 Corinthians 9: 25 – Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

Colossians 1: 29 – For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me

Colossians 4: 12 – Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.

Romans 15: 30 - Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me

2. Power & Authority For Missions

Matthew 28: 18 – 20 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Isaiah 55: 10 – 11 - “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

3. Prayer Proves The Supremacy Of God In Missions

Have someone read the Spurgeon quote on page # 78 of Let The Nations Be Glad

4. Prayer Was Specific & Comprehensive

2 Thessalonians 3: 1 – Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you

Romans 10: 1 – Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation

Ephesians 6: 18 – 19 – With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel

Acts 4: 29 – 30 – And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

Acts 28: 28 – Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.”

Acts 14: 23 – When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed

Romans 15: 30 – 31 – Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and *that* my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints

All the earth shaking awesome forces unleashed on the world, are released by the Lord Jesus Christ. He reigns today and is in the control room of the universe. He is the only ultimate cause. All the sins of man and the machinations of Satan ultimately have to enhance the glory and the kingdom of our Savior. This is true of our world today of wars, famines, earthquakes or the evil that apparently has the ascendancy. All God's actions are just and loving. We have become too enemy conscious and can over do the spiritual warfare aspect of intercession. We need to be more God conscious.

So that we can laugh the laugh of faith knowing that we have power over all the power of the enemy. He (*the enemy*) has already lost control because of Calvary, where the Lamb was slain. What confidence and rest of heart this gives us as we face a world of turmoil and such spiritual need.

Operation World - Jason Mandryk

PRAYER TIME

Andy Davis – http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=71j28_Wfo_M

- Lithuania is the #1 country in the world for suicide. 50% of the orphans released from the children's homes commit suicide. 1.1% of the population are evangelical Christians. The Vilties Festivalis "For Hope" is traveling through Lithuania this fall spreading the hope of the gospel to those who are hopeless. On the 24th of September they were in Vilnius, the capital. This flashmob was done in the large Cathedral Square in the heart of Vilnius. Judy Wamper recognized many of our campers and Lydia as well. Pray that the Davis family, and all of the Christians would be faithful in following up on this effort.

Chad & Mandy Mary – Campus Outreach Indianapolis

- For the 56 seniors graduating this year from CO Indy to finish strong and have a fruitful senior year on the campus (to multiply their life).
- That these 56 would walk with God for a lifetime and make disciples
- That seniors would be better equipped with a godly perspective and skills through our Resume Workshop on Oct 22nd (Pray for Dan Gelok as he leads this time).
- For God to use our Seniors Retreat Nov 5-6 to better prepare them for the transition ahead
- Kyle is a USI alumni that I have been sharing the gospel with. Pray that he would come to know Christ.
- Oneness in our marriage
- His grace as we figure out life with 2 children (praise God for a healthy baby boy born 9/5!)
- That God would give me wisdom/help as I figure out different missions opportunities for interested seniors when they graduate. That some would go overseas!

Andy Ferrier

- Here in Chicago please pray for the salvation of the Jewish contacts I am working with, people such as; Jeff, Brian, Guy, Ralph, Rory, and many others.
- Also pray for a seminar on Jewish evangelism I will be teaching in the month of October at a church in Skokie, IL. This church is in the heart of one of the largest Jewish communities in Chicago. Pray for Christians to catch the burden of reaching their Jewish friends for Jesus the Messiah. Also pray for more churches to sponsor this seminar.
- And of course in this time of turmoil in the Middle East, "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" Psalm 122:6. We know there will be no true lasting peace until Jesus returns so we are in effect praying for that.

Ken & Dawn Houghten

- Speaking in Scotland at a retreat
- Pray for our Word ministry to people
- Pray for Dawn's health – hip / pelvis pain (osteoporosis) - painful walking
- Pray for the church here - for British pastor to replace me
- For The Lord's leading us to a future ministry in UK

After hearing an account of the spiritual needs of India, the secretary of the meeting that William Carey had called remarked: "There is a gold mine in India, but it seems almost as deep as the center of the earth. Who will venture to explore it?" "I will venture to go down," said Carey, "but remember that you must hold the ropes."

Jyoti Chakravartty – Indigenous Missionary To India

- October 2nd till 6th October Bengali yearly Durga puja, (idol worship). We are planing to have special meetings, opening up our home for informal fellowship, movie, food and bible studies as an alternative for those who want to be away from the idol worship. (Especially those children regular in the Bible studieswho hop around idol worshipping pandals (temporary shrine erected for a few days.)
- Please also pray for the Income Tax and other issues with the Govt. After spending much time preparing reports, we were made to sit over an hour for the income tax commissioner. He then pulled out our file from his cabinet, wrote few lines that we have appeared, and asked us to sign since he was too busy and that another notice would be sent to us in few months time. I personally feel it's a form of harassment. Pray for wisdom to set up a charity and / or exclusive publishing house for dispensing reformed and creationist books and media.
- We are living in a time that is so hostile to the Gospel, the local school we started has been falsely seized. Pray for our reactions and attitudes.
- Please do pray for the results of the evangelistic dinner we held for some of our very selected close friends from other faiths on September 28th.

Marco & Sherrie DeFelice

- For family "A": 19 year old daughter, professed believer, has turned her heart towards the world. Just recently, family discovered that she has been lying to hide the fact that she has an unsaved boyfriend. She has been deceiving the church as to her walk. There is much tension in the home. Pray that the parents would respond with love, grace, wisdom and truth. Pray that they would recognize that some of this is a result of past sins in their parenting, so that they can be humble in their response and decisions, and gracious if there is repentance. Pray that the daughter would see the deceitfulness of sin, and the beauty of Christ. Much is at stake.
- Daniele and Petra: Her father is dying in Germany, with cancer. But doctors here say that Daniele cannot stop chemotherapy to go. Daniele and Petra don't feel that she should go alone (the father is unsaved, it is always a very difficult experience when they are there). Pray for wisdom and peace.
- Rovigo Evangelism: Italy is considered a "hard" country, and we are a small group. But we serve a MIGHTY God. Pray for increased faith, and greater zeal to boldly proclaim Christ. Pray for more open doors, most believers have jobs and life situations which do not include a lot of contact with unbelievers. God can do what seems impossible. Pray for faith!
- Milan ministry: It is a joy to now have two believers in the Milan ministry, Giuseppe and wife Rossella, both zealous to proclaim Christ to others, and growing in their walk. Several others are very open and seeking. Pray for the salvation of others: Mimmo, 56, Matilde, 48; Lori, 48, Giocondo (Mimmo's brother) and girlfriend, Genesis. There are numerous others. Pray for salvation and the birth of a church.
- Desenzano (toll-road service area halfway to Milan): Pray for Vesna, who is convinced of the truth of Scriptures, and is growing in her understanding, as she faithfully reads God's Word. There are several others who are listening as we share weekly, most work at the same service area. Pray for salvation of many.
- Expanded ministry: I prepare the teaching weekly for the Sunday sermon and Wednesday Bible study, but I am burdened to prepare additional teachings, but there has not been time. There are needs throughout Italy, many write with questions and doctrinal confusion. Pray for more workers for the harvest, both those who can provide practical help, and others who can faithfully teach God's Word.

Art & Ruth Hegdahl

- The central School of Biblical Teaching (pastor's training conference) scheduled for October 17-23. About one hundred pastors will come together to learn how to better take in the Word, so they can better teach others, as well as bring the training to others in their own districts.
- For the weekly, 20 month long lay leader training course that started in August: wisdom in planning lessons and mentoring the participants.
- For the 21 week basic discipleship class due to restart soon--that true seekers would join and continue through the duration; for lasting "fruit."
- "Pamila" was baptized in April against her parents' wishes, and since then they have prevented her from attending church. Pray that God would give her perseverance and strengthen her faith, and pray that her family would have a change of heart.
- God's mercy and healing of Salonia, a 3 year old girl with advanced retinoblastoma (an eye tumor). Her 2 sisters also have the same condition, and her brother died from it 5 years ago. Our co-worker recently met this family and helped them get the first treatment at an eye hospital (40 hours away by train). Pray that salvation would come to this family.
- Steadfastness of our Indian brother "Mo" and his wife through trials, and God's provision for their needs.

- For our teammate Carmen, and her husband still recovering from the effects of a spinal cord infection--for his healing and that God would guide them as they make decisions regarding their future.
- For our children (2 working, 2 in college, and 4 with us here): for faithfulness, good time management, wisdom in studies/work, godly friendships, and God's protection; also, God's provision of a full time job for our daughter Christina, a recent college graduate, as her current job ends this month.

Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully read and consider Chapter Four of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy Of Christ As The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

Quotes & Prayer Requests From FBC Missionaries

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 5 - The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith – 9 October 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

- a. He Is Worthy**
- b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified**
- c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples**

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshippers

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

1. A Passion For God Is What Spurs Missions

- a. Not Primarily A Love For The Lost**
- b. Greater Than That, A Love For God**
- c. When God Is Esteemed In His Glory And Greatness, Then Missions Comes From A Heart Of Joy To See His Name Worshipped**

2. God's Passion For God Spurs His Mission

- a. God's Desire Is For His Name To Be Glorified**
- b. God Rightly Seeks His Own Glory**
- c. Righteousness Is Worshipping The Truly Worthy**

3. Where A Small View Of God Exists, Missions Doesn't

To confirm this, let's go to a very familiar passage and perhaps notice something that we have never seen before:

Isaiah 6: 1 – 8 - In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said,

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said,

"Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Note to the teacher: I would HIGHLY recommend preparing your heart by listening to the following clip where Lou Giglio opens this up so well.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/conference-messages/the-global-god-who-gives-the-great-commission>

QUESTION: ASK THE CLASS WHAT HAPPENS TO ISAIAH WHEN HE SEES GOD IN THIS WAY?

In this passage, Isaiah has this immense vision of God and he is absolutely blown away, disintegrated, torn apart. He knows that he's in trouble now! He is ripped open and laid bare before the God who is the Judge of all the earth and who knows every secret thought, every deed done in secret, and all of the dirt under our fingernails.

QUESTION: ASK THE CLASS WHAT IS THE RESULT OF HAVING THIS VISION AND THEN BEING PURIFIED?

The impact of seeing God, and perhaps just a glimpse of Him (notice that Isaiah focuses on just a portion of God's robe) AND being purged and cleansed is that there is a readiness to **GO**. To go and bring the people a message; a message that isn't one which will bring immediate joy because it is first going to be a mirror to show the recipient their own sin AND that the Judge of all the earth has found them guilty. "Here am I, send me!"

This familiar text, that we will hopefully never see again in the same way, points out that when we get a taste, a portion, a pin-hole view of who God is, we are ready to go. Where a small view of God exists, missions doesn't, but when people are undone by a grand view of God, there is a readiness and willingness to go even before the details are worked out. Notice that he didn't ask what the task was, or need a 12 step plan or to have all of his ducks in a row. There was only a simple, "Here am I, send me!"

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

1. Life Is War

2. Power & Authority For Missions

3. Prayer Proves The Supremacy Of God In Missions

4. Prayer Was Specific & Comprehensive

So, last week we prayed and asked God for specifics. This week, we cover chapter 4:

E. The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

QUESTION: GENTLY ASK THE CLASS WHAT PARTICULARS THEY GOT FROM READING THE CHAPTER IF ANY
I RECOMMEND GENTLY SINCE EVERYONE IS BUSY AND THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE RESPONSE TO THIS
QUESTION THROUGHOUT THE SERIES

This is an age of slipping away from the historic Christian faith; the teaching of God's Word. Neo-orthodoxy, disguised in the thin veil of Post-Modernism keeps repeating the same errors but we are called to discernment.

1 Thessalonians 5: 21 – 22 - But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

QUESTION: "Let's read these series of quotes and evaluate them according to Scripture!"

Evaluate these quotes:

"When a man loathes himself, he has begun to be saved. Punishment tends to this result. Not for its own sake, not as a make-up for sin, not for divine revenge, not for any satisfaction to justice. Punishment is for the sake of amendment and atonement. God is bound by his love to punish sin in order to deliver his creature. He is bound by his justice to destroy the sin in his creation."

Sermon On Justice – *Gordon MacDonald*

Evaluation: _____

QUESTION: That sounds good right? But what does he mean by "destroying the sin in His creation"?

ANSWER: MacDonald implies that sin will be destroyed and purged out of sinners in hell. (Like purgatory.)

One theologian who had been known for writing good, solid Biblically based books made a huge turn in what he believed. He wrote this about the change:

"I was led to question the traditional belief in everlasting conscious torment because of moral revulsion and broader theological considerations, not first of all on scriptural grounds. It just does not make any sense to say that a God of love will torture people forever for sins done in the context of a finite life. It's time for evangelicals to come out and say that the biblical and morally appropriate doctrine of hell is annihilation, not everlasting torment."

Four Views On Hell – *Clark Pinnock*

Evaluation: _____

QUESTION: What is Pinnock recommending and what is his basis?

ANSWER: Destruction of the soul in hell. This is NOT based on the Bible.

Another preacher in England who has been well respected has also rejected the Bible's teaching on this doctrine of endless suffering. He says this:

"Emotionally, I find the concept [of eternal conscious torment] intolerable and do not understand how people can live with it without either cauterizing their feelings or cracking under the strain"

Evangelical Essentials – *John Stott*

Evaluation: _____

QUESTION: What does Stott appear to be basing his conclusion upon?

ANSWER: Emotions.

These men, well known in Christian circles, are arguing that no one goes to a hell of "endless suffering." Instead, if people do not believe in Christ they are annihilated. That means they cease to exist in any sense at all. They have no consciousness and experience nothing. They are no more. They are following in a long line of false teachers who teach annihilationism: The Worldwide Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Seventh Day Adventists.

"Many people are deceived by Satan into thinking that God is a vengeful taskmaster, ready to send to hell all those who offend Him. They can see no hope. True, God does hate sin, but He loves the sinner."

Facing Death And The Life After - *Billy Graham*

I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost—were going to hell—if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God—through nature, for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying 'yes' to God.

MaCall's Magazine Article – "I Can't Play God Any More" – *Billy Graham*

Evaluation: _____

Watch Session # 3 on Disk # 1 of "Let The Nations Be Glad" DVD – 27 minutes long

The battle lines are drawn in this battle for the truth. We need to be careful to NOT lose the Biblical foundation of Missions and our faith.

DVD Review Questions

Is there another "way" besides the way of Jesus, the second Adam who destroyed the work of the first Adam?

Must a person hear and believe the gospel in order to be saved? How do you know from Scriptures?

How would you respond to someone who says that Cornelius in Acts 10 is a perfect example of those who get saved without hearing the Gospel?

Acts 10: 43 - Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name **everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.**

Acts 11: 13 – 14 - ¹³ And he reported to us how he had seen the angel ^[a]standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; ¹⁴ and he will speak words to you **by which you will be saved,** you and all your household.'

Practical Application

What can you and I do to protect ourselves, our families, our church, our missionaries from the errors that we refuted today?

Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully read and consider Chapter Three of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

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Quotes & Prayer Requests From FBC Missionaries

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 6 - The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering – 16 October 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

- a. He Is Worthy
- b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified
- c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshipers

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1. A Passion For God Is What Spurs Missions

- a. Not Primarily A Love For The Lost
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- c. When God Is Esteemed In His Glory And Greatness, Then Missions Comes From A Heart Of Joy To See His Name Worshipped

2. God's Passion For God Spurs His Mission

- a. God's Desire Is For His Name To Be Glorified
- b. God Rightly Seeks His Own Glory
- c. Righteousness Is Worshipping The Truly Worthy

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message that isn't one which will bring immediate joy because it is first going to be a mirror to show the recipient their own sin AND that the Judge of all the earth has found them guilty. "Here am I, send me!"

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Practical Application

What can you and I do to protect ourselves, our families, our church, our missionaries from the errors that we refuted today?

F. The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

1. **The Example & Witness Of The Staines Family** – Burned Alive In India For The Glory Of God – Graces For Every Trial - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAnschqJe9Q>

Graham Staines, and his young sons Philip and Timothy were attacked as they slept in their jeep; killings were part of wave of attacks on Christians that were ascribed to Hindu radicals fighting conversions. Listen to this statement that Gladys & Esther (13 year old daughter who was left) gave after this event in 1999.

The earthly end of the matter: a court in Bhubaneshwar, capital of India's Orissa State, sentenced to death Dara Singh, ringleader of Hindu mob that burned and killed Australian missionary and his two sons four years ago; Singh's 12 accomplices are sentenced to life in prison.

http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/people/s/graham_staines/index.html

The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.

The Cost of Discipleship - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Our Lord Jesus said to us in very solemn words,

John 12: 24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit

John 12: 25 - Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life

In other words, a fruitful life and an eternal life come from this: dying like a seed and hating your life in this world.

We are persuaded from Scripture and from the history of missions that God's design for the evangelization of the world and the consummation of His purposes includes the suffering of His people. God designs that the suffering of His people as an essential means in the joyful triumphant spread of the gospel among all the peoples of the world.

In 2002 approximately 164,000 Christians died as martyrs. The average number of Christian martyrs each year was projected to grow to 210,000 by the year 2025. According to the World Christian Encyclopedia, there were 45,400,000 martyrs in the twentieth century. *LTNBG Page 97*

There is a fundamental different between Christian martyrs and those who are terrorists:

- a. The Christian martyr's life is taken by those whom he wants to save.
- b. Christian martyrs do not pursue death; they pursue love.

Christianity advances not by shedding blood, but by suffering to bring life. So we are able to take risks, and suffer the pain and even die without despair but full of hope! *LTNBG Page 97 & 98*

2. Christ's Death – Our Substitution & Pattern

We must not water down the call to suffer. We can't domesticate the New Testament teaching on affliction and persecution just because our lives are so smooth.

Mark 10: 45 – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many

Mark 8: 31 – And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again

John 15: 20 – Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also

Matthew 10: 25 – It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

3. Our Calling – Includes Suffering!

1 Peter 2 – 18 - 24 - Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. ¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. ²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Christ died for us so that we would not have to die for sin. The call to suffer with Christ is NOT a call to bear our sins the way He bore them, but to love the way He loved.

4. God's Plan Is That His Purposes Triumph Through The Suffering Of His People

I don't just mean that suffering is the consequence of obedient missions. I mean that suffering is one of Christ's strategies for the success of his mission.

Jesus said to his disciples as he sent them out:

Matthew 10: 16 - Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves

There is no doubt what usually happens to a sheep in the midst of wolves. Jesus knew this would be the portion of his darkness-penetrating, mission-advancing, church-planting missionaries. "Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword." (Romans 8:35)

Romans 8: 36 - As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.'

That is what Paul expected, because that is what Jesus promised. Jesus continues:

Matthew 10: 17 - 18 - Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles

Notice that the witness before governors and kings is not a mere result or consequence, but a design. "You will be dragged before . . . kings to bear witness." Why this design for missions? Suffering was not just a consequence of the Master's obedience and mission. It was the central strategy of his mission. It was the ground of his accomplishment. Jesus calls us to join him on the Calvary road, to take up our cross, and to hate our lives in this world, and fall into the ground like a seed and die, that others might live. We are not above our Master. To be sure, our suffering does not atone for anyone's sins, but it is a deeper way of doing missions than we often realize.

When the martyrs cried out to Christ from under the altar in heaven, "How long till you judge and avenge our blood?" they were told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (Revelation 6:11)

Martyrdom is not the mere consequence of radical love and obedience; it is the keeping of an appointment set in heaven for a certain number: "Wait till the number of martyrs is complete who are to be killed." Just as Christ died to save the unreached peoples of the world, so some missionaries are to die to save the people of the world.

And lest we think this way of saying it aligns the suffering work of missionaries too closely with the suffering-work of Jesus, listen to the decisive word on this from Paul in

Colossians 1: 24 - Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.

In his sufferings Paul is "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for . . . the church." Not that Paul's sufferings atone for sin or propitiate wrath or vindicate divine justice in passing over sins, but they show the unreached peoples of the world the sufferings of Christ. When Paul shares Christ's sufferings with joy and love, he delivers, as it were, those very sufferings to the ones for whom Christ died. Paul's missionary suffering is God's design to complete the sufferings of Christ, by making them more visible and personal and precious to those for whom he died.

1. Our Times Cry Out For Tremendous Missionary Effort And Great Missionary Sacrifice

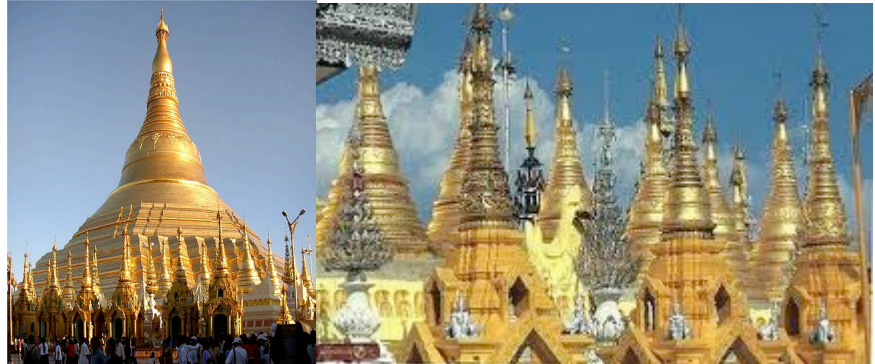
God's plan is that his gospel-spreading, church-planting purpose triumph through the suffering of his people, especially his ministers and missionaries.

Patrick Johnstone says in *Operation World* that only in the 1990s did we get a reasonably complete listing of the world's peoples. For the first time we can see clearly what is left to be done. There are about 12,000 ethnolinguistic peoples in the world. About 3,500 of these have, on average, 1.2% Christian populations - about 20 million of the 1.7 billion people, using the broadest, nominal definition of Christian.¹ Most of these least reached 3,500 peoples are in the 10/40 window and are religiously unsympathetic to Christian missions. That means that that we must go to these peoples with the gospel, and it will be dangerous and costly. Some of us and some of our children will be killed.

6. The Pain And Suffering Of Adoniram Judson Illustrates This Sacrifice



When Adoniram Judson entered Burma (Myanmar) in July, 1813 it was a hostile and utterly unreached place. William Carey had told Judson in India a few months earlier not to go there. It probably would have been considered a closed country today - with anarchic despotism, fierce war with Siam, enemy raids, constant rebellion, no religious toleration. All the previous missionaries had died or left.²



But Judson went there with his 23-year-old wife of 17 months. He was 24 years old and he worked there for 38 years until his death at age 61, with one trip home to New England after 33 years. The price he paid was immense. He was a seed that fell into the ground and died. And the fruit God gave is celebrated even in scholarly works like David Barrett's *World Christian Encyclopedia*: "The largest Christian force in Burma is the Burma Baptist Convention, which owes its origin to the pioneering activity of the American Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson"³

Judson was a Baptist when he entered Burma in 1813, even though he left New England as a Congregationalist. His mind had changed during the 114-day voyage to India and Carey's colleague, William Ward, baptized Adoniram and Ann Judson in India on September 6, 1812. Today Patrick Johnstone estimates the Myanmar (Burma's new name) Baptist Convention to be 3,700 congregations with 617,781 members and 1,900,000 affiliates⁴ - the fruit of this dead seed.

Of course there were others besides Adoniram Judson - hundreds of others over time. But they too came and gave away their lives. Most of them died much younger than Judson. They only serve to make the point. The astonishing fruit in Myanmar today has grown in the soil of the suffering and death of many missionaries, especially Adoniram Judson.

My question is, if Christ delays his return another two hundred years - a mere fraction of a day in his reckoning - which of you will have suffered and died so that the triumphs of grace will be told about one or two of those 3,500 peoples who are in the same condition today that the Karen and Chin and Kachins and Burmese were in 1813? Who will labor so long and so hard and so perseveringly that in two hundred years there will be two million Christians in many of the 10/40-window peoples who can scarcely recall their Muslim or Hindu or Buddhist roots?

May God use his powerful word and the life of Adoniram Judson to stir many of you to give your lives to this great cause!

What overwhelms me, as I ponder this and trace the life of Adoniram Judson, America's first foreign missionary, is how strategic it was that he died so many times and in so many ways.

Adoniram Judson "hated his life in this world" and was a "seed that fell into the ground and died." In his sufferings "he filled up what was lacking in Christ's afflictions" in unreached Burma. Therefore his life bore much fruit and he lives to enjoy it today and forever. He would, no doubt, say: It was worth it.

Judson was a Calvinist, but did not wear his Calvinism on his sleeve.⁵ You can see the evidence for his Reformed convictions in Thomas J. Nettles, *By His Grace and for His Glory*.⁶ His father, who was a Congregationalist pastor in Massachusetts, had studied with Jonathan Edwards' student Joseph Bellamy, and Adoniram inherited a deep belief in the sovereignty of God. The great importance this has for my purpose here is to stress that this deep confidence in God's overarching providence through all calamity and misery sustained him to the end. He said, "If I had not felt certain that every additional trial was ordered by infinite love and mercy, I could not have survived my accumulated sufferings."⁷

This was the unshakable confidence of all three of his wives, Ann (or Nancy), Sarah, and Emily. For example, Ann, who married Judson on February 5, 1812 and left with him on the boat on February 19 at age 23, bore three children to Adoniram. All of them died. The first baby, nameless, was born dead just as they sailed from India to Burma. The second child, Roger Williams Judson, lived 17 months and died. The third, Maria Elizabeth Butterworth Judson, lived to be two, and outlived her mother by six months and then died.

When her second child died, Ann Judson wrote, "Our hearts were bound up with this child; we felt he was our earthly all, our only source of innocent recreation in this heathen land. But God saw it was necessary to remind us of our error, and to strip us of our only little all. O, may it not be vain that he has done it. May we so improve it that he will stay his hand and say 'It is enough.'"⁸ In other words, what sustained this man and his three wives was a rock-solid confidence that God is sovereign and God is good. And all things come from his hand for the good - the incredibly painful good - of his children.

There are roots of this missionary-sustaining confidence in God's goodness and providence. One, of course, is Judson's father. That's what he believed and that's what he lived. A second source of this confidence was the Bible. Judson was a lover of the Word of God. The main legacy of his 38 years in Burma was a complete translation of the Bible into Burmese and a dictionary that all the later missionaries could use.

Once when a Buddhist teacher said that he could not believe that Christ suffered the death of the cross because no king allows his son such indignity, "Judson responded, 'Therefore you are not a disciple of Christ. A true disciple inquires not whether a fact is agreeable to his own reason, but whether it is in the book. His pride has yielded to the divine testimony. Teacher, your pride is still unbroken. Break down your pride, and yield to the word of God.'"⁹

A third source of his confidence in the goodness and detailed providence of God was the way God saved him. It is a remarkable story. He was a brilliant boy. His mother taught him to read in one week when he was three to surprise his father when he came home from a trip.¹⁰ When he was 16 he entered Brown University as a sophomore and graduated at the top of his class three years later in 1807.

What his godly parents didn't know was that Adoniram was being lured away from the faith by a fellow student name Jacob Eames who was a Deist. By the time Judson was finished he had no Christian faith. He kept this concealed from his parents until his 20th birthday, August 9, 1808, when he broke their hearts with his announcement that he had no faith and that he intended to go to New York and learn to write for the theater - which he did six days later on a horse his father gave him as part of his inheritance.

It didn't prove to be the life of his dreams. He attached himself to some strolling players, and, as he said later, lived "a reckless, vagabond life, finding lodgings where he could, and bilking the landlord where he found opportunity."¹¹ That disgust with what he found there was the beginning of several remarkable providences. He went to visit his uncle Ephraim in Sheffield, but found there, instead "a pious young man" who stunned him by being firm in his Christian convictions without being "austere and dictatorial."¹² Strange that he should find this young man there, instead of his uncle.

The next night he stayed in a small village inn where he had never been before. The innkeeper apologized that his sleep might be interrupted because there was a man critically ill in the next room. Through the night he heard comings and goings and low voices and groans and gasps. It bothered him to think that the man next to him may not be prepared to die. He wondered about himself and had terrible thoughts of his own dying. He felt foolish because good deists weren't supposed to have these struggles.

When he was leaving in the morning he asked if the man next door was better. "He is dead," said the innkeeper. Judson was struck with the finality of it all. On his way out he asked, "Do you know who he was?" "Oh yes. Young man from the college in Providence. Name was Eames, Jacob Eames."¹³

Judson could hardly move. He stayed there for hours pondering the death of his deist friend. If his friend Eames were right, then this was a meaningless event. But Judson could not believe it: "That hell should open in that country inn and snatch Jacob Eames, his dearest friend and guide, from the next bed - this could not, simply could not, be pure coincidence."¹⁴

His conversion was not immediate. But now it was sure. God was on his trail, like the apostle Paul in the Damascus road, and there was no escape. There were months of struggle. He entered Andover Seminary in October, 1808 and on December 2 made solemn dedication of himself to God. The fire was burning for missions at Andover and at Williams College (the haystack prayer meeting had taken place in August of 1806, near Williams College, and two from there had come to Andover).

On June 28, 1810 Judson and others presented themselves to the Congregationalists for missionary service in the East. He met Ann that same day and fell in love. After knowing Ann Hasseltine for one month he declared his intention to become a suitor, and wrote to her father the following letter:

I have now to ask, whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of missionary life; whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean, to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death. Can you consent to all this, for the sake of him who left is heavenly home, and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion, and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with the crown of righteous, brightened with the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Savior from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?¹⁵

Her father, amazingly, said she could make up her own mind. She wrote to her friend Lydia Kimball:

I feel willing, and expect, if nothing in Providence prevents, to spend my days in this world in heathen lands. Yes, Lydia, I have about, come to the determination to give up all my comforts and enjoyments here, sacrifice my affection to relatives and friends, and go where God, in his Providence, shall see fit to place me.¹⁶



They were married a year and a half later on February 5, 1812,¹⁷ and sailed for India 12 days later with two other couples and two single men¹⁸ divided among two ships in case one went down. After a time in India they chose to risk Rangoon and arrived there July 13, 1813. There began a life-long battle in the 108-degree heat with cholera, malaria, dysentery, and unknown miseries that would take two of Judson's wives and seven of his 13 children, and colleague after colleague in death.

The first news from home arrived two years later on September 5, 1815. They had died to the nearness of family. Adoniram would never see his mother or father or brother again. He does not return for 33 years. "Missionary time"

in those days was very slow. It was a world of difference from today. If someone was sick enough the typical remedy to save life was a sea voyage. So a marriage or the entire work could be put on hold, so to speak, for three to six months.

Or it could be longer. Eight years into their mission Ann was so ill that the only hope was a trip home. She sailed on August 21, 1821. She returned on December 5, 1823, two years and four months later. And when she arrived he had not heard from her for 10 months. If you are married and you love your wife, this is the way you die day after day for a greater good and a greater joy.

One of the joys was seeing some of God's goodness in the dark providences. For example, when Ann was recovering in the States, she wrote a book, *An Account of the American Baptist Mission to the Burman Empire*. It had a huge influence in stirring up recruits and prayer and finances. This would have never happened without her sickness and two-year absence. But most of the time the good purposes for pain were not that clear.

Through all the struggles with sickness and interruptions Judson labored to learn the language, translate the Bible, and do evangelism on the streets. Six years after they arrived, they baptized their first convert, Maung Nau. The sowing was long and hard. The reaping even harder for years. But in 1831 there was a new spirit in the land. Judson wrote:

The spirit of inquiry . . . is spreading everywhere, through the whole length and breadth of the land." [We have distributed] nearly 10,000 tracts, giving to none but those who ask. I presume there have been 6000 applications at the house. Some come two or three months' journey, from the borders of Siam and China - 'Sir, we hear that there is an eternal hell. We are afraid of it. Do give us a writing that will tell us how to escape it.' Others, from the frontiers of Kathay, 100 miles north of Ava - 'Sir, we have seen a writing that tells about an eternal God. Are you the man that gives away such writings? If so, pray give us one, for we want to know the truth before we die.' Others, from the interior of the country, where the name of Jesus Christ is a little known - 'Are you Jesus Christ's man? Give us a writing that tells us about Jesus Christ.'" ¹⁹

But there had been an enormous price to pay between the first convert in 1819 and this outpouring of God's power in 1831.

In 1823 Adoniram and Ann moved from Rangoon to Ava, the capital, about 300 miles inland and further up the Irrawaddy River. It was risky to be that near the despotic emperor. In May of the next year the British fleet arrived in Rangoon and bombarded the harbor. All westerners were immediately viewed as spies, and Adoniram was dragged from his home and on June 8, 1824 and put in prison. His feet were fettered and at night a long horizontal bamboo pole was lowered and passed between the fettered legs and hoisted up till only the shoulder and heads of the prisoners rested on the ground.

Ann was pregnant, but walked the two miles daily to the palace to plead that Judson was not a spy and that they should have mercy. She got some relief for him so that he could come out into a court yard. But still the prisoners got vermin in their hair amid the rotting food, and had to be shaved bald. Almost a year later they were suddenly moved to a more distant village prison, gaunt, with hollow eyes, dressed in rags crippled from the torture. There the mosquitoes from the rice paddies almost drove them mad on their bloody feet.



JUDSON IN PRISON AT CUNDY-PENNA.



MRS. JUDSON'S VISIT TO HER HUSBAND IN PRISON, WITH LITTLE MARIA

The daughter, Maria, had been born by now and Ann was almost as sick and thin as Adoniram, but still pursued him with her baby to take care of him as she could. Her milk dried up, and the jailer had mercy on them and actually let Judson take the baby each evening into the village and beg for women to nurse his baby.

On November 4, 1825 Judson was suddenly released. The government needed him as a translator in negotiations with Britain. The long ordeal was over - 17 months in prison and on the brink of death, with his wife sacrificing herself and her baby to care for him as she could. Ann's health was broken. Eleven months later she died (October 24, 1826). And six months later their daughter died (April 24, 1827).

While he was suffering in prison Adoniram had said to a fellow prisoner, "It is possible my life will be spared; if so, with what ardor shall I pursue my work! If not - his will be done. The door will be opened for others who would do the work better."²⁰ But now that his wife and daughter were gone, darkness began to settle over his soul. In July, three months after the death of his little girl, he got word that his father had died eight months earlier.

The psychological effects of these losses were devastating. Self-doubt overtook his mind, and he wondered if he had become a missionary for ambition and fame, not humility and self-denying love. He began to read the Catholic mystics, Madame Guyon, Fenelon, Thomas a Kempis, etc. who led him into solitary asceticism and various forms of self-mortification. He dropped his Old Testament translation work, the love of his life, and retreated more and more from people and from "anything that might conceivably support pride or promote his pleasure."²¹

He refused to eat outside the mission. He destroyed all letters of commendation. He formally renounced the honorary Doctor of Divinity that Brown University had given him in 1823 by writing a letter to the *American Baptist Magazine*. He gave all his private wealth (about \$6,000) to the Baptist Board. He asked that his salary be reduced by one quarter and promised to give more to missions himself. In October, 1828 he built a hut in the jungle some distance from the Moulmein mission house and moved in on October 24, 1828, the second anniversary of Ann's death, to live in total isolation.

He wrote in one letter home to Ann's relatives: "My tears flow at the same time over the forsaken grave of my dear love and over the loathsome sepulcher of my own heart."²² He had a grave dug beside the hut and sat beside it contemplating the stages of the body's dissolution. He ordered all his letters in New England destroyed on condition of returning a legal document his sister needed. He retreated for forty days alone further into the Tiger-infested jungle, and wrote in one letter than he felt utter spiritual desolation. "God is to me the Great Unknown. I believe in him, but I find him not."²³

His brother, Elnathan, died May 8, 1829 at the age of 35. Ironically, this proved the turning point of Judson's recovery, because he had reason to believe that the brother that he had left in unbelief 17 years earlier had died in faith. All through the year 1830 Adoniram was climbing out of his darkness.

And you recall that it was 1831 - the next year - when he experienced the great outpouring of spiritual interest across the land. Is that a coincidence? Or was that a God-ordained pattern for spiritual breakthrough in a dark and unreached place?

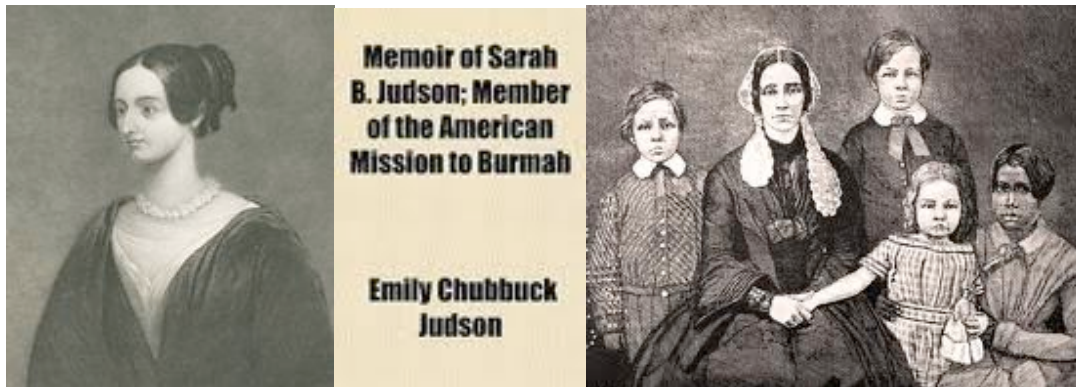
If we had time we would tell of his remaining sufferings and joys. He married Sarah Boardman, a missionary widow, on April 10, 1834, eight years after Ann died. They had eight children. Five survived childhood. She was a gifted partner and knew the language better than any but himself.

But 11 years later she was so sick that they both set sail for America with the three oldest children. They left the three youngest behind, one of whom died before Judson returned. Judson had not been to America now for 33 years and was only returning for the sake of his wife. As they rounded the tip of Africa in September, 1845, Sarah died. The ship dropped anchor at St. Helena Island long enough to dig a grave and bury a wife and mother and then sail on.

This time Adoniram does not descend into the depths as before. He has his children. But even more, his sufferings have disengaged him from hoping for too much in this world. He was learning how to hate his life in this world without bitterness or depression. He had one passion: to return and give his life for Burma. So his stay in the states was long enough to get his children settled and find a ship back. All that was left of the life he knew in New England was his sister. She had kept his room exactly as it had been 33 years earlier and would do that same to the day she died.

To everyone's amazement, Judson fell in love a third time, this time with Emily Chubbuck and married her on June 2, 1846. She was 29; he was 57. She was a famous writer and left her fame and writing career to go with Judson to Burma. They arrived in November, 1846. And God gave them four of the happiest years that either of them had every known.

On her first anniversary, June 2, 1847 she wrote, "It has been far the happiest year of my life; and, what is in my eyes still more important, my husband says it has been among the happiest of his. . . I never met with any man who could talk so well, day after day, on every subject, religious, literary, scientific, political, and - nice baby-talk."²⁴



They had one child, but then the old sicknesses attacked Adoniram one last time. The only hope was to send the desperately ill Judson on a voyage. On April 3, 1850 they carried Adoniram onto the *Aristide Marie* bound for the Isle of France with one friend, Thomas Ranney, to care for him. In his misery he would be roused from time to time by terrible pain ending in vomiting. One of his last sentences was: "How few there are who . . . who die so hard!"²⁵

At 15 minutes after 4 on Friday afternoon April 12, 1850 Adoniram Judson died at sea, away from all his family and Burmese Church. That evening the ship hove to.

"The crew assembled quietly. The larboard port was opened. There were no prayers. . . . The captain gave the order. The coffin slid through the port into the night. The location was latitude 13 degrees North, longitude 93 degrees East, almost in the eastward shadow of the Andaman Islands, and only a few hundred miles west of the mountains of Burma. The *Aristide Marie* sailed on toward the Isle of France."²⁶

Ten days later Emily gave birth to their second child who died at birth. She learned four months later that her husband was dead. She returned to New England that next January and died of tuberculosis three years later at the age of 37.

The Bible was done. The dictionary was done. Hundreds of converts were leading the church. And today there are close to about 3,700 congregations of Baptists in Myanmar who trace their origin to this man's labors of love.

One Final Plea

Life is fleeting, brothers. In a very short time we will all give an account before Jesus Christ, not only as to how well we have shepherded our flock, but how well we have obeyed the command to make disciples of all nations.

Many of the peoples of the world are without any indigenous Christian movement today. Christ is not enthroned there, his grace is unknown there, and people are perishing with no access to the gospel. Most of these hopeless peoples do not want you to come. At least they think they don't. They are hostile to Christian missions. Today this is the final frontier. And the Lord still says, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. . . . some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish" (Matthew 10:16; Luke 21:16-18).

Are you sure that God wants you to be a pastor in this comparatively church-saturated land? Or might he be calling you to fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, to fall like a grain of wheat into some distant ground and die, to hate your life in this world and so to keep it forever and bear much fruit?

Judson wrote to missionary candidates in 1832:

"Remember, a large proportion of those who come out on a mission to the East die within five years after leaving their native land. Walk softly, therefore; death is narrowly watching your steps."²⁷

The question, brothers, is not whether we will die, but whether we will die in a way that bears much fruit.

Let The Nations Be Glad – John Piper

Preparation For Next Study

Prayerfully re-read and consider Chapter Three of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

The Staines Family – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAnschqJe9Q> -
http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/people/s/graham_staines/index.html

Trusting God in the Dark - Robert G. Spinney - http://www.agapeindia.com/steve/isaiah50_10.htm

How Few There Are Who Die So Hard! Suffering and Success in the Life of Adoniram Judson: The Cost of Bringing Christ to Burma - 2003 Bethlehem Conference for Pastors <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/biographies/how-few-there-are-who-die-so-hard>

FUTURE MATERIALS

When an Unreached People Group Hears the Storyline of the Gospel for the First Time

via Justin Taylor by Justin Taylor on 9/11/11

If you've never seen this old-school video about the moving EE-TAOW story, it is very much worth 25 minutes of your time to fan the flames for frontier missions where Christ is not yet named. Make sure to watch to the end.

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2011/09/12/when-an-unreached-people-group-hears-the-storyline-of-the-gospel-for-the-first-time/?comments#comments>

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 7 - The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering – Part 2 – 23 October 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

Psalm 67 - For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us— Selah.
- 2 That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah.
- 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.
- 6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us.
- 7 God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

1. The Joyful Worship Of God Is The Purpose Of The Church

- a. He Is Worthy
- b. His Desire Is To Be Glorified
- c. A Missional Church Desires To See Him Glorified Among All Peoples

2. Missions Is The Means Of Creating Worshipers

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

1. A Passion For God Is What Spurs Missions

- a. Not Primarily A Love For The Lost
- b. Greater Than That, A Love For God
- c. When God Is Esteemed In His Glory And Greatness, Missions Comes From A Heart Of Joy To See His Name Worshipped

2. God's Passion For God Spurs His Mission

- a. God's Desire Is For His Name To Be Glorified
- b. God Rightly Seeks His Own Glory
- c. Righteousness Is Worshipping The Truly Worthy

3. Where A Small View Of God Exists, Missions Doesn't

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

1. Life Is War

2. Power & Authority For Missions

3. Prayer Proves The Supremacy Of God In Missions

4. Prayer Was Specific & Comprehensive

E. The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

1 Thessalonians 5: 21 – 22 - But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Although we have a strong foundation for the truth, we often times find ourselves with a lack of courage and gumption to plainly, openly and boldly proclaim the gospel.

There are times when God's people shrink back from believing God and His Word and appear to be following Jesus

The problems that we get given are limited and KNOWN! It's like this book which was prepared for sales people.

Anthony Flew was a very famous atheist of his day whose arguments against the truths of the bible. They are still being circulated today. One of them was the "infinite monkey" theorem. The theorem states that, given enough time, a monkey sitting at a typewriter could produce all of the works of Shakespeare.

This illustration is used to support how, given enough time (including the ever expanding age of the universe) chance and randomness could produce life as we know it.

It's an old nut that is easily disproven and shown to be meaningless. It has actually been shown to be fallacious. Now the British Academy actually experimented and put a keyboard in a monkey cage and allowed them to pound on it for a month. Aside from using it as a toilet, they typed 6 pages, but the monkeys actually produced not ONE word in English; a phenomenal trick especially when you consider that the smallest word in the language is a single letter ('l' or 'a') with a space on either side. To produce this would be 1 in 27 thousand.

These researchers limited the infinite monkey to only a singular sonnet of Shakespeare. "All sonnets are the same length. They're by definition fourteen lines long. If we choose one, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" there are 488 letters in that sonnet. What's the likelihood of hammering away and randomly getting 488 letters in the exact sequence as in "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" What you end up with is 26 multiplied by itself 488 times – or 26 to the 488th power. Or, in other words, 1 over 10 to the 690th power. That's a one with 690 zeroes behind it.

Unless we happen to be a banker, or a televangelist, or a fan of "quantitative easing", we can't understand these numbers.

Now the number of particles in ALL the mass in the universe—not grains of sand, I'm talking about protons, electrons, and neutrons—is 10 to the 80th. Ten to the 80th is 1 with 80 zeros after it. Ten to the 690th is 1 with 690 zeros after it. There are not enough particles in the universe to write down the trials; you'd be off by a factor of 10 to the 600th."

If you took all of the mass in the universe and convert it to microchips (1 millionth of a gram) and each chip was producing 1 million times a second 288 characters have been running since time began (an old earth theory). Under they we would have produced 10 to the 90th power combinations. Even with those, it would NOT be sufficient and you'd be off by a factor of 10 to the 590th power!

But apparently monkeys can do this every time!

After hearing Schroeder's presentation, I told him that he had very satisfactorily and decisively established that the "monkey theorem" was a load of rubbish, and that it was particularly good to do it with just a sonnet; the theorem is sometimes proposed using the works of Shakespeare or a single play, such as Hamlet. If the theorem won't work for a single sonnet, then of course it's simply absurd to suggest that the more elaborate feat of the origin of life could have been achieved by chance.

There Is A God After All - Antony Flew

3 years after his debate with C.S. Lewis

A quotation attributed to a 1996 speech by Robert Wilensky states "We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare; now, thanks to the Internet, we know that is not true."

The answer to why we don't engage this type of thing is either related to Christian skepticism or ignorance and confusion. Luke chapter 1 provides us with such an illustration.

Luke 1: 18 - Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years."

Luke 1: 34 - Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Each are afraid – not happy and delighted. Both have scientific issues.

But, N.B., Zacharias is praying and asking for a child, yet he asks this question!

Peter, released from prison in Acts 12: 15, they thought Rhoda was out of her mind and that the being at the door is Peter's angel!

Do we believe God enough to trust Him at His Word and to boldly proclaim it OR do we fear shame, embarrassment, and suffering?

FBC Evangelism course in Winter 2011 - 2012

F. The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

1. The Example & Witness Of The Staines Family

2. Christ's Death – Our Substitution & Pattern

1 Peter 2: 20 – 21 - For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

3. Our Calling – Includes Suffering!

SEE RICHARD WURMBRAND'S QUOTE ON PAGE 101 OF LTNBG

4. God's Plan Is That His Purposes Triumph Through The Suffering Of His People

5. Our Times Cry Out For Tremendous Missionary Effort And Great Missionary Sacrifice

6. The Pain And Suffering Of Adoniram Judson Illustrates This Sacrifice

Life is fleeting, brothers. In a very short time we will all give an account before Jesus Christ, not only as to how well we have shepherded our flock, but how well we have obeyed the command to make disciples of all nations.

Let The Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

Judson wrote to missionary candidates in 1832:

"Remember, a large proportion of those who come out on a mission to the East die within five years after leaving their native land. Walk softly, therefore; death is narrowly watching your steps."

Advice to Missionary Candidates – *Adoniram Judson*

The question, brothers, is not whether we will die, but whether we will die in a way that bears much fruit.

Let The Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

SHOW THE SLIDES FROM ORISSA BOOK FILE ON THUMB DRIVE AS THE NEXT PARAGRAPH IS READ

This a short note to let you all know, that I have reached home safely from Orissa.

Thanks ever so much for your prayers.

It was a moving experience to meet around 32 pastors from Kandhamal Orissa, What a joy to present these dear brothers with a set of books from Banner of Truth, I am exhausted and tired. I will be sending a brief report with pictures, may be soon. The need is immense, physical, material as well as spiritual. I understand now there are many Charismatic groups coming in and trying to help these brother, may be we are the only reformed group trying to help them in a small way. May be a drop in the bucket.

Sushmita and I would like to thank you for your prayers, email and phone calls assuring us of our prayers, Priya was really moved by your care and concern for us.

I hope to do a brief report by next week, please do keep these pastors in prayer, over these years we were able to send out books in small packets or through friends. This is the first time we were able to present books publicly in a group.

There is an immense need of producing these books in Vernacular languages in India, we are praying to get at least started with the J C Ryles commentary, not many pastors can understand English. I was told there were over 80 pastors in this group but only 32 of them could read English. Still there are many who just have their Bible only, not even a concordance.

Please keep them in your prayers.

Personal & **CONFIDENTIAL** Email - *Jyoti P. Chakravartty*

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES
PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE OR POST THIS EMAIL ON LINE

Romans 8: 35 - Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Underline anything in this passage that has to do with suffering.

How does this passage uphold the Christian who is suffering? _____

Explain how Paul's exhortation could embolden certain individuals for radical ministry to unreached peoples.

Play Session # 6 – “Suffering: The Cost Of Missions” from Disc 2 of Let The Nations Be Glad – 27 minutes

Watch the video and answer these questions:

- a. The _____ church has taken a wartime _____ and turned it into a _____.
- b. There is no vacation from the devil. There is no vacation from war. There is only relief at the end. The devil _____ and he _____ us.
- c. In reference to Matthew 5: 13, what makes the good deeds “tasty”?
- _____
- d. What is the foundation of the work of missions? What is the motive of missions? What is the cost of missions?
- _____
- _____

What is the connection between the sovereignty of God and prayer?

Interact with the common objection people have with prayer and God’s sovereignty.

How does believing in God’s sovereignty with prayer empower the missions movement?

How has this lesson changed our perspective on hardships and suffering?

Application

How am I a goer, a sender or disobedient? Practically answer this question: _____

Preparation For Next Study

Read and consider Chapter Five of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy of God among “All The Nations”

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

Courage - 2011 Desiring God Conference - Michael Ramsden

Trusting God in the Dark - Robert G. Spinney - http://www.agapeindia.com/steve/isaiah50_10.htm

Personal & Confidential Letter From Indigenous Missionary Within India

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 8 - The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering – Part 3 – 30 October 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

E. The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

1 Thessalonians 5: 21 – 22 - But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

F. The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

1. The Example & Witness Of The Staines Family

2. Christ's Death – Our Substitution & Pattern

1 Peter 2: 20 – 21 - For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Isaiah 50: 10 - Who is among you that fears the Lord, that obeys the voice of his servant, that walks in darkness and has no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

Luther once wrote that if you want to interpret the Bible accurately you must pray, meditate, and suffer.

Following the Lord Jesus Christ Means That You Will Share In His Experience

Consider The Servant Songs Of Isaiah:

Isaiah 42:1 - _____

Isaiah 49: 5 - _____

Isaiah 50: 6 - 10 - _____

Isaiah 52: 13 - 15 - _____

Isaiah 53: - _____

Jesus Christ obeyed. He persevered in dark times.

Isaiah 50: 10 - _____

The man that fears the Lord, and obeys His Servant's voice, such an one may be in darkness, and walk in it . . . not only in affliction and misery, expressed by 'darkness' in Scripture, but in desertion, under the hidings of God's face, and which may continue for a while, without the light of God's countenance shining upon him, without the light of spiritual joy and comfort shining in his heart.

Commentary On Isaiah – *John Gill*

In the darkness of sin and ignorance we no longer walk; but with the darkness of trouble and perplexity we are sometimes surrounded. The Lord is our light and our salvation, and therefore we do not walk in that darkness wherein the prince of darkness rules supreme; but yet at times we are in the gloom of sadness, and we see no light of consolation. . . . Be not, therefore, surprised as though some strange thing had happened to you, if you find yourself in darkness; for this text warns you of what you may expect. . . The darkness which is spoken of in the text includes providential trial of many sorts . . . bereavement . . . poverty . . . slander and reproach . . . sickness . . . desertion by friends . . . The worst cloud of all, I think, is deep depression of spirit accompanied with the loss of the light of God's countenance. . . . Surely, at some time or other, all the children of God walk in darkness. . . . Personally, I have often passed through this dark valley.

The Suffering Of God's Servant Sermon – *C.H. Spurgeon*

3. Our Calling – Includes Suffering!

a. God's people will experience hardship in this life.

Spiritual darkness of any sort is to be avoided, and not desired; and yet, surprising as it may seem to be, it is a fact that some of the best of God's people frequently walk in darkness; ay, some of them are wrapt in a sevenfold gloom at times, and to them neither sun, nor moon, nor stars appear. As the pastor of a large church, I have to observe a great variety of experiences, and I note that some whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgment among the very choicest of God's people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to Heaven by night.

The Suffering Of God's Servant Sermon – *C.H. Spurgeon*

b. God uses hardship to mature His people.

c. There are benefits in adversity and advantages to suffering

- When you are in a tough spot and you rejoice and people see your faith, they glorify God. I have seen that happen. I have sat in funeral homes where Christians have suffered great loss, and I have heard non-Christians next to me say, "I can't believe the faith of that person. They must serve a huge God." I am an eyewitness to lost people glorifying God because godly people have an unswerving faith.
- When you suffer loss, you reexamine your priorities. Christians almost universally confess the need to reexamine their priorities; sometimes God helps us.
- Affliction cultivates dependence upon God. It encourages more appreciation for spiritual comforts, as opposed to earthly comforts. To put this a different way: suffering weans you from the world. It helps us to "love not the world, neither the things in the world."
- Hardship exposes my sin. Often difficulty lays me bare before God; I see myself with greater clarity.
- Difficulty promotes endurance and perseverance. The more you face adversity, the better equipped you are to face it in the future.
- Suffering encourages both *more* contentment and *less* satisfaction with the world . . . *more* spiritual contentment and *less* worldly satisfaction.

I am mended by my sickness, enriched by my poverty, and strengthened by my weakness. What fools we are, then, to frown upon our afflictions! They are not indeed for our pleasure, they are for our profit.

Abraham Wright

Sin is pleasant but unprofitable; sorrow is profitable but unpleasant. . . . saints are generally holiest when in affliction.

William Secker

d. Reasons Why This Is a Poorly Understood Part of the Christian Life

i. We think it is unspiritual to talk about (or admit to) difficulty, pain, hardship, and/or suffering.

The Christian life for Paul was not the so-called good life of prosperity and ease. Instead, it was a life of freely chosen suffering beyond anything we ordinarily endure. Paul's belief in God, and his confidence in resurrection, and his hope in eternal fellowship with Christ, did not produce a life of comfort and ease that would have been satisfying even without resurrection. No, what his hope produced was a life of chosen suffering. Yes, he knew joy unspeakable. But it was a 'rejoicing in hope' (Romans 12:12).

Desiring God - John Piper

ii. We wrongly define "adversity" as "intentional persecution aimed at me by bad men."

Practical examples of how believers are called to endure hardship in this life:

- A Christian who has faithfully served God is diagnosed with cancer.
- A Christian who has faithfully served God must live with a chronic illness or some painful handicap.
- A Christian who is obeying God is called to persevere through financial hardship. God has called them to do that. They could choose to disobey Christ and possibly generate more income, but they say, "I choose to follow Christ. This is the path God has me on, and I'll be content with that."
- A Christian who seeks to please God suddenly suffers the loss of a spouse or child through death.
- A Christian who is walking with God has to endure criticism, loneliness, or ostracism.
- A Christian who seeks to obey God must continue in a marriage to an unsaved spouse.
- A Christian must endure seasons of sadness and depression. Charles Spurgeon confessed that God had called him to endure this kind of affliction.

iii. We assume hardship is not God's will, so we do not look for God's purposes in the trial.

4. God's Plan Is That His Purposes Triumph Through The Suffering Of His People

5. Our Times Cry Out For Tremendous Missionary Effort And Great Missionary Sacrifice

6. The Pain And Suffering Of Adoniram Judson Illustrates This Sacrifice

7. The Pain And Suffering Of William Carey Illustrates This Sacrifice



1761-1834 - English Baptist missionary to India. Pastor before going to the mission field, he spent an active forty-one years serving the Lord in India, including translating the Scriptures.

"Shoemaker by trade, but scholar, linguist and missionary by God's training," William Carey was one of God's giants in the history of evangelism! One of his biographers, F. Dealville Walker, wrote of Carey: "He, with a few contemporaries, was almost singlehanded in conquering the prevailing indifference and hostility to missionary effort. What kept him going? Incredible faith in the sovereign goodness of God.

When I left England, my hope of India's conversion was very strong; but amongst so many obstacles, it would die, unless upheld by God. Well, I have God, and His Word is

true. Though the superstitions of the heathen were a thousand times stronger than they are, the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all and persecuted by all, yet my faith, fixed on that sure Word, would rise about all obstacles and overcome every trial. God's cause will triumph.

1761 - Born at Paulerspury, Northamptonshire (England), August 17.

1775 - Apprenticed to shoemaker Clarke Nichols.

1779 - First attended Sunday meeting of Dissenters with fellow apprentice John Warr, February 10.

1781 - Married Dorothy Plackett at Piddington (England), June 10.

1782 - Birth of daughter Ann.

1783 - Baptized by John Ryland Jr., October 5.

1784 - Death of daughter Ann.

1785 - Moved to Moulton, Northamptonshire (England) and pastored the Baptist chapel. Birth of son Felix.

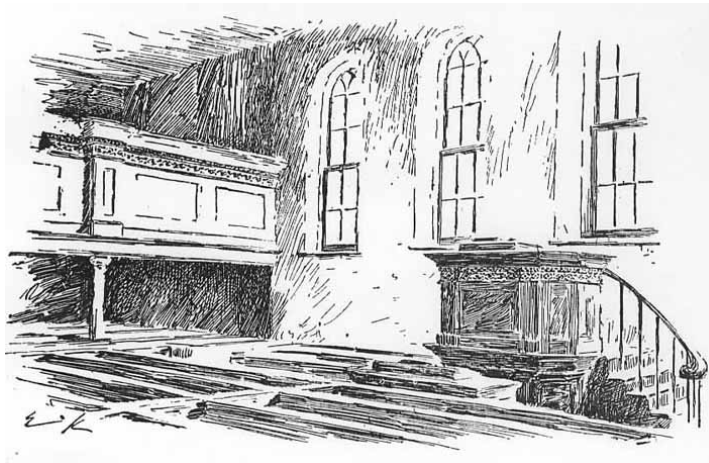
It was in Moulton that Carey heard the missionary call. In his own words he cried, "My attention to missions was first awakened after I was at Moulton, by reading the *Last Voyage of Captain Cook*." To many, Cook's *Journal* was a thrilling story of adventure, but to Carey it was a revelation of human need! He then began to read every book that had any bearing on the subject. (This, along with his language study — for at twenty-one years of age Carey had mastered Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Italian, and was turning to Dutch and French. One well called his shoemaker's cottage "Carey's College," for as he cobbled shoes along with his preaching he never sat at his bench without some kind of a book before him.)

Revelation 5: 9 - 10 - Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

Carey saw, in this passage, a universal sacrifice in that there was not one nation exempted from this purchase. It was a particular sacrifice in the sense in that what is in view is not all nations collectively but all nations representatively. This is the passage that sent William Carey to India.

1788 - Birth of son William.

1789 - Birth of son Peter. Moved to Leicester (England) and pastored Harvey Lane Baptist Church.



1791 - Birth of daughter Lucy. Died in her second year.

Thus Carey wrote his famed *Enquiry Into the Obligations of the Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*. In this masterpiece on missions Carey answered arguments, surveyed the history of missions from apostolic times, surveyed the entire known world as to countries, size, population and religions, and dealt with the practical application of how to reach the world for Christ!

And he prayed. And he pled. And he plodded. And he persisted. And he preached — especially his epoch-producing message, "EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD. ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD."

1792 - Preached "Expect great things. Attempt great things" sermon.

Isaiah 54: 2 - 3 - Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. For Thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and Thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

Published "An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians..." In the Introduction of the *Enquiry*, Carey sets forth the question of whether Jesus' teaching recorded in Matthew 28:18-20 remains as an obligation on Christians after the apostles.

Section I includes Carey's treatment of the Matthew 28:18-20 in relation to Christians of the late eighteenth century. In **Section II**, Carey reviews former attempts to convert various peoples of the world to Christianity; included in this chapter is Carey's rehearsal of Christian missionary history, including an exposition of Paul's four missionary journeys as recorded in the New Testament book, the Acts of the Apostles.

Section III contains a survey of the world's countries, those countries' land size, populations, and religious preferences. Carey presents twenty-three tables of detailed statistical information, followed by a discussion of the information in the tables.

In **Section IV**, Carey offers a defense in support of sending Christian missionaries to the peoples of the world who had not heard the Christian message.

Lastly, in **Section V**, Carey presents an argument in support of Christians' duty to promote missionary efforts to peoples who had not heard the Christian message.

1792 - Baptist Missionary Society in England formed, October 2.

1793 - Appointed along with John Thomas as a missionary to Bengal (India). Birth of son Jabez. Sailed from Dover with his family for India on Danish ship, *Kron Princesa Maria* Arrived in Calcutta, November 11.

The Condition Of The Indians In Bengal

- "On landing in Bengal, in the year 1793, our brethren found themselves surrounded with at least one hundred millions of souls.
- "On the subject of the divine nature, with the verbal admission of the doctrine of the divine unity, they heard these idolaters speak of 330,000,000 of gods. They saw this immense population prostrate before dead matter, before the monkey, the serpent, before idols the very personifications of sin; and they found this animal, this reptile, and the lecher Krishnu {u with inverted ^ like sy} and his concubine Radha, among the favourite deities of the Hindoos...
- Reincarnation - Karma
- Euthanasia
- British imperialism
- State Sponsored Slavery
- Women – female infanticide, not a single school for girls, concubinage, Burning & Burying Alive Of Widows



1794 - Moved to Debhatta in the Sundarbans. Moved to Mudnabatti near Malda to work on indigo plantation. Death of five year old son Peter, October 11.

1795 - One of the letters from England criticized him for "engaging in affairs of trade." In other words, he was working to earn a living for his family as well as doing mission work.

It is a constant maxim with me that, if my conduct will not vindicate itself, it is not worth vindicating...I only say that, after my family's obtaining a bare allowance, my whole income, and some months, much more, goes for the purposes of the gospel, in

supporting persons to assist in the translation of the Bible, write copies, teach school, and the like... The love of money has not prompted me to pursue the plan that I have engaged in. I am indeed poor, and shall always be so until the Bible is published in Bengali and Hindosthani, and the people want no further instruction.

Personal Correspondence – *William Carey*

1796 - Birth of son Jonathan.

1800 - Moved to Serampore, January 10. Began work with William Ward, and Joshua and Hannah Marshman.



Befriended by Richard Wellesley – Governor of the Danish Colony in India

Baptized Krishna Pal, first Bengali convert, December 28.



1801 - Became tutor (professor) of Bengali at Fort William College in Calcutta. Completed New Testament in Bengali. His first edition of the Bengali New Testament appeared in 1801, his Grammar in the same year. Death of John Thomas, October 13.

1802 - In 1802, the daughter of Krishna Pal, a Sudra, married a Brahmin. This wedding was a public demonstration that the church repudiated the caste distinctions.

1807 - Doctor of Divinity conferred on Carey by Brown University (United States).

Death of Dorothy Carey, December 8.

1808 - Married Charlotte Rumohr in May. New Testament in Sanskrit published.

"27th April 1808.--The report of the burning of women, and some others, however, were made by me. I, at his expense, however, made the inquiries and furnished the reports, and believe they are rather below the truth than above it. I have, since I have been here, through a different medium, presented three petitions or representations to Government for the purpose of having

the burning of women and other modes of murder abolished, and have succeeded in the case of infanticide and voluntary drowning in the river. Laws were made to prevent these, which have been successful."

1809 - Completed translation of Bible in Bengali.

1812 - Serampore mission printing office destroyed by fire.

In one short evening the labours of years are consumed. How unsearchable are the ways of God! . . . The Lord has laid me low that I may look more simply to him.

1815 - His Dictionary of 80,000 words began to appear in 1815.

1818 - Prospectus issued for Serampore College. The mission founded [Serampore College](#) to train indigenous ministers for the growing church and to provide education in the arts and sciences to anyone regardless of caste or country. The [King of Denmark](#) granted a royal charter in 1827 that made the college a degree-granting institution, the first in Asia.



1820 Organized the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India.

1821 Death of Charlotte Carey, May 30.

1823 Elected a fellow by the Linnean Society of London. Death of William Ward. Married Grace Hughes.

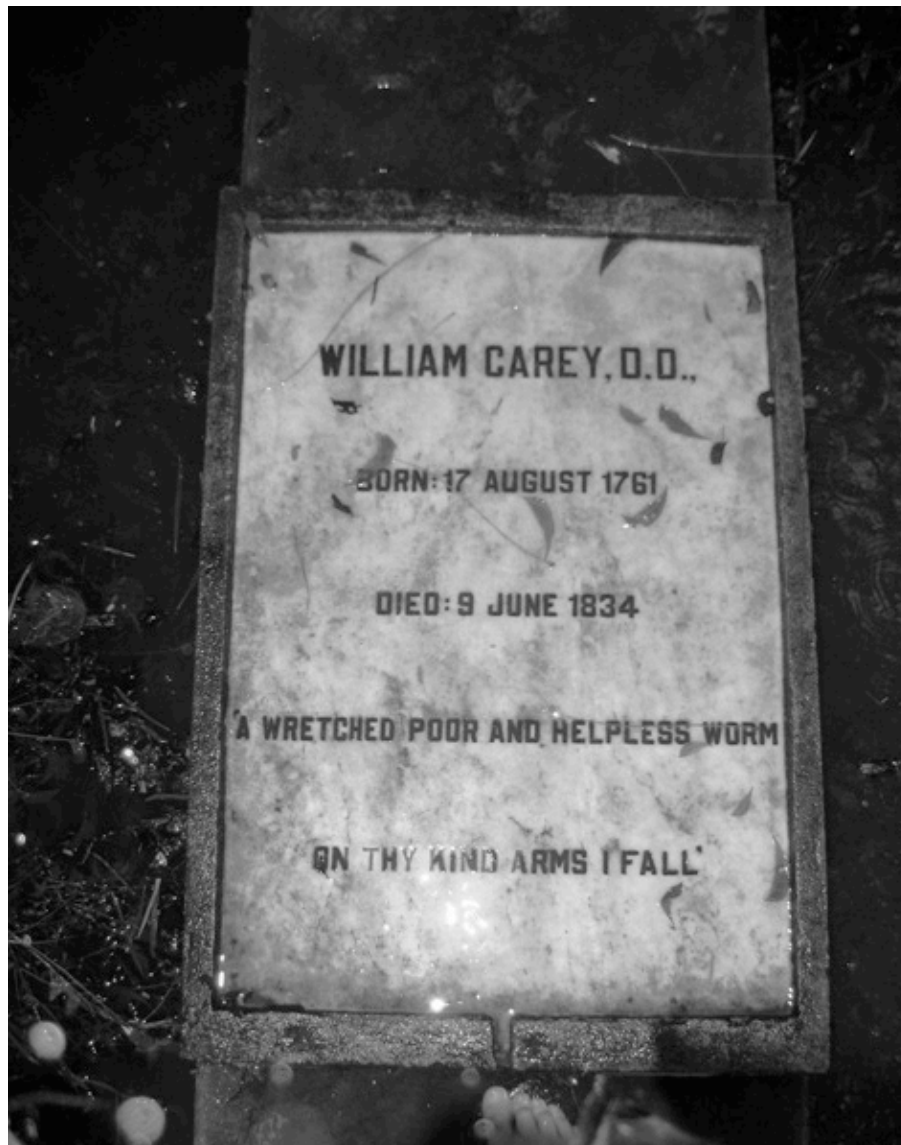
1829 *Sati* prohibited through efforts of Carey, December 4.

1834 Died at Serampore, June 9.

When he died at 73 (1834) the following things had been accomplished by the social impact of Carey and his missionary efforts in India:

- Scriptures translated and printed into forty languages
- College professor
- Founded a college at Serampore
- India open its doors to missionaries
- Edict passed prohibiting *sati* (burning widows on the funeral pyres of their dead husbands)
- Converts for Christ.
- Established the Bengali language - Mastering the complex classical speech and literature of the learned and priestly class, and living with his Master's sympathy among the people whom that class oppresses, he takes the popular dialects which are instinct with the life of the future; where they are wildly luxuriant he brings them under law, where they are barren he enriches them from the parent stock so as to make them the vehicle of ideas such as Greek gave to Europe, and in time he brings to the birth nations worthy of the name by a national language and literature lighted up with the ideas of the Book which he is the first to translate. This was what Carey did for the speech of the Bengalees.
- Creation Of First Newspaper
- Humane Treatment Of Lepers
- Outlawing Female Infanticide
- Outlawing Euthanasia
- Outlawing of Piercing Festivals
- Abolition Of British Held Slaves (post mortem)

On his deathbed Carey called out to a missionary friend, "*Dr. Duff! You have been speaking about Dr. Carey; when I am gone, say nothing about Dr. Carey — speak about Dr. Carey's God.*" That charge was symbolic of Carey, considered by many to be a "unique figure, towering above both contemporaries and successors" in the ministry of missions.



Preparation For Next Study

Read and consider Chapter Five of Let The Nations Be Glad – The Supremacy of God among “All The Nations”

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

Trusting God in the Dark - Robert G. Spinney - http://www.agapeindia.com/steve/isaiah50_10.htm

What Kept William Carey Going – Sam Shaw - <http://samshaw.wordpress.com/2009/08/18/what-kept-william-carey-going/>

Piper On Missions Giving - <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/taste-see-articles/the-william-carey-wild-card>

William Carey: Missionary-Evangelist by Fred Barlow <http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bcarey1.html>

Chronological Biography - <http://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/biorpcarey.html>

Personal & Confidential Letter From Indigenous Missionary Within India

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 9 - The Scope Of Missions – 6 November 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

E. The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

1 Thessalonians 5: 21 – 22 - But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

F. The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

1. The Example & Witness Of The Staines Family

2. Christ's Death – Our Substitution & Pattern

Isaiah 50: 10 - Who is among you that fears the Lord, that obeys the voice of His Servant, that walks in darkness and has no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

3. Our Calling – Includes Suffering!

a. God's people will experience hardship in this life.

Acts 14: 22 - Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God

b. God uses hardship to mature His people.

Romans 5: 3 - 4 - We also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.

c. There are benefits in adversity and advantages to suffering

d. Reasons Why This Is a Poorly Understood Part of the Christian Life

i. We think it is unspiritual to talk about (or admit to) difficulty, pain, hardship, and/or suffering.

ii. We wrongly define "adversity" as "intentional persecution aimed at me by bad men."

iii. We assume hardship is not God's will, so we do not look for God's purposes in the trial.

4. God's Plan Is That His Purposes Triumph Through The Suffering Of His People

5. Our Times Cry Out For Tremendous Missionary Effort And Great Missionary Sacrifice

6. The Pain And Suffering Of Adoniram Judson Illustrates This Sacrifice

7. The Pain And Suffering Of William Carey Illustrates This Sacrifice

The more he read and studied, the more convinced he was "the peoples of the world need Christ." He read, he made notes, he made a great leather globe of the world and, one day, in the quietness of his cobbler's shop — not in some enthusiastic missionary conference — Carey heard the call: "If it be the duty of all men to believe the Gospel ... then it be the duty of those who are entrusted with the Gospel to endeavor to make it known among all nations." And Carey sobbed out, "*Here am I; send me!*"

Revelation 5: 9 - 10 - Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.**

Carey saw, in this passage, a universal sacrifice in that there was not one nation exempted from this purchase. It was a particular sacrifice in the sense in that what is in view is not all nations collectively but all nations representatively. This is the passage that sent William Carey to India.

I know there are people ordained to eternal life there because He purchased people out of every tribe and nations. In His sacrifice the text is clear. He got what He paid for. Nothing here about who He purchased potentially. Rather human beings purchased in effect for God out of every tribe, nation, language and people.

Personal Journal – *William Carey*

G. The Scope of Missions

"We will not know God in His full majesty until we know Him moving triumphantly among the nations. We will not admire and praise Him as we ought until we see Him gathering a company of worshipers for Himself from every people group on earth including all the Muslim and Hindu and Buddhist peoples. Nothing enlarges our vision of God's triumphant grace like the scope of His saving work in history.

Don't Waste Your Life – *John Piper*

We were made for this. Like Queen Ester being reminded by Mordecai, God has put us where we are, with the socio-economic background, in the country and with the resources we have for this reason; for this time; for this purpose! There are certain implications in having a heart that is on board with God's global purposes and His work in history.

Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards.

The Laymen's Missionary Movement – *J. Campbell Wright*

Global and local searching out and calling out of God's elect; those redeemed by Christ is a large concern on God's heart! Paul's letter to the Roman is where many go to discern God's sovereign purposes and see, as

Romans 1: 1 – _____

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,

⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

⁵ **through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,**

⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

⁷ to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle brings the letter to a close what he says:

Romans 15: 8 – _____

For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers, 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written,
**“THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES,
AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME.”**

10 Again he says,

“REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.”

11 And again,

**“PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES,
AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.”**

12 Again Isaiah says,

**“THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE,
AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES,
IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.”**

Romans 16: 25 – _____

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,

²⁶ but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, **according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;**

²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

1. God Commanded And Exhorted That His Glory Be Declared And Praised Among And By The Nations

Psalms 9: 11- _____

Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; Declare among the peoples His deeds

Psalms 96: 3, 7, 10 - _____

³ Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ Splendor and majesty are before Him,
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name;
Bring an offering and come into His courts.

⁹ Worship the LORD in holy attire;
Tremble before Him, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns;
Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved;
He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Psalms 105: 1 - _____

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.

Isaiah 12: 4 - _____

And in that day you will say, “Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make *them* remember that His name is exalted.”

2. God Promised That One Day The Nations Will Worship Him, The One True God

Psalm 2: 8 - _____

Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession

Psalm 45: 17 - _____

I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever

Psalm 86: 9 - _____

All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.

Psalm 102: 15, 22 - _____

So the nations will fear the name of the LORD

And all the kings of the earth Your glory.

¹⁶ For the LORD has built up Zion;

He has appeared in His glory.

¹⁷ He has regarded the prayer of the destitute

And has not despised their prayer.

¹⁸ This will be written for the generation to come,

That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

¹⁹ For He looked down from His holy height;

From heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth,

²⁰ To hear the groaning of the prisoner,

To set free those who were doomed to death,

²¹ That *men* may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion

And His praise in Jerusalem,

²² When the peoples are gathered together,

And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.

Isaiah 25: 6 - 7 - _____

The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain;

A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow,

And refined, aged wine.

⁷ And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples,
Even the veil which is stretched over all nations.

Isaiah 52: 10, 15 - _____

¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see
The salvation of our God.

¹¹ Depart, depart, go out from there, Touch nothing unclean; Go out of the midst of her, purify yourselves,
You who carry the vessels of the LORD.

¹² But you will not go out in haste, Nor will you go as fugitives; For the LORD will go before you,
And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard.

¹³ Behold, My servant will prosper,

He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, *My people*,

So His appearance was marred more than any man

And His form more than the sons of men.

¹⁵ Thus He will sprinkle many nations,

Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;

For what had not been told them they will see,

And what they had not heard they will understand.

Isaiah 55: 5 - _____

“Behold, you will call a nation you do not know,
And a nation which knows you not will run to you,
Because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel;
For He has glorified you.”

Isaiah 66: 18 – 19 - _____

“For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory. ¹⁹ I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.

3. God Demonstrates His Commitment To The Nations By Prayers Included In His Word

Psalms 67: 1 – 5 - _____

God be gracious to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us—
Selah.

² That Your way may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
For You will judge the peoples with uprightness
And guide the nations on the earth.
Selah.

⁵ Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

Psalms 72: 10 - 20 - _____

¹⁰ Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents;
The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹ And let all kings bow down before him,
All nations serve him.

¹² For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.

¹³ He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And the lives of the needy he will save.

¹⁴ He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in his sight;

¹⁵ So may he live, and may the gold of Sheba be given to him;
And let them pray for him continually;
Let them bless him all day long.

¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains;
Its fruit will wave like *the cedars of Lebanon*;

And may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth.

¹⁷ May his name endure forever;

May his name increase as long as the sun *shines*;
And let *men* bless themselves by him;
Let all nations call him blessed.

¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who alone works wonders.

¹⁹ And blessed be His glorious name forever;
And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen, and Amen.

²⁰ The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

4. The Writers Of Scripture Announce Their Willingness To Be Committed To All Peoples

Psalm 57: 9 - _____

I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

Psalm 18: 49 - _____

Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name.

Psalm 67: 1 – 2 - _____

We are blessed to be a blessing!

God be gracious to us and bless us, *And* cause His face to shine upon us— *Selah*.

² That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.

5. God Sent His Prophets To The Nations

Jonah 4: 1 – 3 – _____

But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. ³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”

6. God Revealed This To The Patriarchs & Disciples & Apostles

Genesis 12: 1 – 3 - _____

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 17: 4 – 5 - _____

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

⁵ “No longer shall your name be called Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;
For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

John 10: 16 - _____

I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd.

Acts 13: 46 – 47 - _____

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us,

‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES,
THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”

7. The Apostle Paul Was Driven BY FRONTIER MISSIONARY WORK

Romans 15: 18 – 21 - _____

For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,¹⁹ in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that **from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.**²⁰ And thus **I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;**²¹ but as it is written,

“THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE,
AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.”

²² For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you;²³ but now, **with no further place for me in these regions**, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you²⁴ whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while—²⁵ but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

Though there were THOUSANDS who had not heard the gospel in that sector, God established believers through Paul's work. Is there really NO FURTHER PLACE for Paul? No, he is committed to the commission He received from God as a frontier missionary.

God's will for missions is that every people group be reached with the testimony of Christ and that a people be called out for His name from all the nations.

Let The Nations Be Glad – John Piper

N.B. Piper goes into a lengthy description of specific groups that are to be targeted from pages 177 – 189. We don't cover that in this lesson since he does an excellent job and we simply use his definition.

Conclusion – Obedient goer (frontier or support), obedient sender, or disobedient. Which one am I?

Preparation For Next Study

Read through the Acts Of The Apostles and review how the gospel spread.

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

Let The Nations Be Glad – Third Edition, DVD, and DVD Study Guide

Other sources as cited above

Let The Nations Be Glad – Missions

Faith Bible Church
Adult Christian Education Class
September – November 2011

Lesson # 10 – Missions – Apostle Style – Part I – 13 November 2011

A. The Purpose of Missions is Worship

B. The Passion for Missions is God's Glory

C. The Product of Worship is Joy and Gladness

D. Prayer – The Power Source Of Missions

You cannot know what prayer is for until you know that life is war.

Let the Nations Be Glad – *John Piper*

E. The Supremacy Of Christ – The Conscious Focus Of All Saving Faith

1 Thessalonians 5: 21 – 22 - But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

F. The Supremacy Of God In Missions Through Suffering

1. The Example & Witness Of The Staines Family

2. Christ's Death – Our Substitution & Pattern

Isaiah 50: 10 - Who is among you that fears the Lord, that obeys the voice of His Servant, that walks in darkness and has no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

3. Our Calling – Includes Suffering!

a. God's people will experience hardship in this life.

Acts 14: 22 - Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God

b. God uses hardship to mature His people.

Romans 5: 3 - 4 - We also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.

c. There are benefits in adversity and advantages to suffering

d. Reasons Why This Is a Poorly Understood Part of the Christian Life

4. God's Plan Is That His Purposes Triumph Through The Suffering Of His People

5. Our Times Cry Out For Tremendous Missionary Effort And Great Missionary Sacrifice

6. The Pain And Suffering Of Adoniram Judson Illustrates This Sacrifice

7. The Pain And Suffering Of William Carey Illustrates This Sacrifice

Revelation 5: 9 - 10 - Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

I know there are people ordained to eternal life there because He purchased people out of every tribe and nations. In His sacrifice the text is clear. He got what He paid for. Nothing here about who He purchased potentially. Rather human beings purchased in effect for God out of every tribe, nation, language and people.

Personal Journal – William Carey

G. The Scope of Missions

"We will not know God is His full majesty until we know Him moving triumphantly among the nations. We will not admire and praise Him as we ought until we see Him gathering a company of worshipers for Himself from every people group on earth including all the Muslim and Hindu and Buddhist peoples. Nothing enlarges our vision of God's triumphant grace like the scope of His saving work in history.

Don't Waste Your Life – John Piper

We were made for this. Like Queen Ester being reminded by Mordecai, God has put us where we are, with the socio-economic background, in the country and with the resources we have for this reason; for this time; for this purpose! There are certain implications in having a heart that is on board with God's global purposes and His work in history.

1. God Commanded And Exhorted That His Glory Be Declared And Praised Among And By The Nations
2. God Promised That One Day The Nations Will Worship Him, The One True God
3. God Demonstrates His Commitment To The Nations By Prayers Included In His Word
4. The Writers Of Scripture Announce Their Willingness To Be Committed To All Peoples

We are blessed to be a blessing!

5. God Sent His Prophets To The Nations
6. God Revealed This To The Patriarchs & Disciples & Apostles
7. The Apostle Paul Was Driven BY FRONTIER MISSIONARY WORK

Though there were THOUSANDS who had not heard the gospel in that sector, God established believers through Paul's work. Is there really NO FURTHER PLACE for Paul? No, he is committed to the commission He received from God as a frontier missionary.

God's will for missions is that every people group be reached with the testimony of Christ and that a people be called out for His name from all the nations.

Let The Nations Be Glad – John Piper

Conclusion – Obedient goer (frontier or support), obedient sender, or disobedient. Which one am I?

H. Missions – Apostle Style

1. God's Power Is Required For All Missions Work

Acts 1: 4 - Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 14: 1 - In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.² But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren.³ Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

2. God's Power Is Given To Declare His Mighty Deeds

Acts 2: 8 - And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.¹² And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Acts 2: 41 - So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;⁴⁵ and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 3: 1 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer.² And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.⁴ But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"⁵ And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.⁶ But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.⁸ With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God;¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 4: 13 - Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4: 32 (after priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees laid hands on them and put them in jail overnight) - And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 5: 3 - Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land?"⁴ While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."⁵ And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.⁶ The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.⁷ Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.⁸ And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."⁹ Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as *well.*"¹⁰ And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.¹¹ And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.¹² At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem.¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*,¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow

might fall on any one of them.¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said,²⁰ "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."²¹ Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.

Acts 6: 8 - Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 8; 14 - Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.¹⁶ For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹⁷ Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,¹⁹ saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!²¹ You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.²² Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."²⁴ But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

N.B. There are many other passages, but I ran out of time while preparing for this lesson.

3. The Preaching Was Based On God's Revelation And Focused On Christ To His Praise & Glory

Acts 2: 15 - For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day;¹⁶ but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says,
'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND;
AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY,
AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS,
AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS;

¹⁸ EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,
I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT
And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ 'AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE
AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW,
BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.

²⁰ 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS
AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD,
BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.

²¹ 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.'

²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—²³ this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.²⁴ But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.²⁵ For David says of Him,

'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE;
FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.
26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED;
MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;
27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,
NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.
28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE;
YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'

²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. ³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore having been exalted to

the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, 'SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"
36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 2: 42 - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 3: 6 - But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.⁸ With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God;¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.¹¹ While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.¹² But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. 16 And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18 But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. 22 Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. 23 And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days. 25 It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' 26 For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."

Acts 4: 8 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people,⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11 He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 4: 33 - And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

Acts 5: 17 – But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy.¹⁸ They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail.¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said,²⁰ "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."²¹ Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest and his associates came, they called the Council together, even all the Senate of the sons of Israel, and sent orders to the prison house for them to be brought.²² But the officers who came did not find them in the prison; and they returned and reported back,²³ saying, "We found the prison house locked quite securely and the guards standing at the doors; but when we had opened up, we found no one inside."²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them as to what would come of this.²⁵ But someone came and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"²⁶ Then the captain went along with the officers and

proceeded to bring them back without violence (for they were afraid of the people, that they might be stoned).²⁷ When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."³³ But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.

Acts 5: 41 – *(This is after the apostles were all imprisoned out of jealousy, had been released by the angel of the Lord, brought back (without violence out of fear of the people) they were chastised by Peter and the apostles and cut to the quick by the message. Even though they "intended to kill them", Gamaliel, convinced them to NOT fight against God, so the Council warned, them, flogged them, and released them!) – So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

Acts 6: 8 – And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.⁹ But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, *including* both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.¹⁰ But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.¹¹ Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and *against* God."¹² And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him before the Council.¹³ They put forward false witnesses who said, "This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law;¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us."¹⁵ And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.

Acts 6: 3 – Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."⁵ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Acts 7: 1 - The high priest said, "Are these things so?"² And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,³ and said to him, 'LEAVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR RELATIVES, AND COME INTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.'⁴ Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there, after his father died, God had him move to this country in which you are now living.⁵ But He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground, and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that HE WOULD GIVE IT TO HIM AS A POSSESSION, AND TO HIS DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM.⁶ But God spoke to this effect, that his DESCENDANTS WOULD BE ALIENS IN A FOREIGN LAND, AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ENSLAVED AND MISTREATED FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.⁷ 'AND WHATEVER NATION TO WHICH THEY WILL BE IN BONDAGE I MYSELF WILL JUDGE,' said God, 'AND AFTER THAT THEY WILL COME OUT AND SERVE ME IN THIS PLACE.'⁸ And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so *Abraham* became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac *became the father of* Jacob, and Jacob *of the* twelve patriarchs.

⁹ "The patriarchs became jealous of Joseph and sold him into Egypt. Yet God was with him,¹⁰ and rescued him from all his afflictions, and granted him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his household.

¹¹ "Now a famine came over all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction *with it*, and our fathers could find no food.

¹² But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers *there* the first time.¹³ On the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family was disclosed to Pharaoh.¹⁴ Then Joseph sent word and invited Jacob his father and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five persons *in all.*¹⁵ And Jacob went down to Egypt and *there* he and our fathers died.¹⁶ *From there* they were removed to Shechem and laid in the tomb which Abraham had purchased for a sum of money from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

¹⁷ "But as the time of the promise was approaching which God had assured to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt,¹⁸ until THERE AROSE ANOTHER KING OVER EGYPT WHO KNEW NOTHING ABOUT JOSEPH.¹⁹ It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their infants and they would not survive.²⁰ It was at this time that Moses was born; and he was lovely in the sight of God, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home.²¹ And after he had been set outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him away and nurtured him as her own son.²² Moses was educated in all the learning of

the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.²³ But when he was approaching the age of forty, it entered his mind to visit his brethren, the sons of Israel.²⁴ And when he saw one of *them* being treated unjustly, he defended him and took vengeance for the oppressed by striking down the Egyptian.²⁵ And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand.²⁶ On the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, 'Men, you are brethren, why do you injure one another?'²⁷ But the one who was injuring his neighbor pushed him away, saying, 'WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND JUDGE OVER US?'²⁸ YOU DO NOT MEAN TO KILL ME AS YOU KILLED THE EGYPTIAN YESTERDAY, DO YOU?'²⁹ At this remark, MOSES FLED AND BECAME AN ALIEN IN THE LAND OF MIDIAN, where he became the father of two sons.

³⁰ "After forty years had passed, AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM IN THE WILDERNESS OF MOUNT Sinai, IN THE FLAME OF A BURNING THORN BUSH.³¹ When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look *more* closely, there came the voice of the Lord:³² 'I AM THE GOD OF YOUR FATHERS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB.' Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.³³ BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, 'TAKE OFF THE SANDALS FROM YOUR FEET, FOR THE PLACE ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING IS HOLY GROUND.³⁴ I HAVE CERTAINLY SEEN THE OPPRESSION OF MY PEOPLE IN EGYPT AND HAVE HEARD THEIR GROANS, AND I HAVE COME DOWN TO RESCUE THEM; COME NOW, AND I WILL SEND YOU TO EGYPT.'

³⁵ "This Moses whom they disowned, saying, 'WHO MADE YOU A RULER AND A JUDGE?' is the one whom God sent to be both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush.³⁶ This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and in the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.³⁷ This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN.'³⁸ This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai, and *who was* with our fathers; and he received living oracles to pass on to you.³⁹ Our fathers were unwilling to be obedient to him, but repudiated him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt,⁴⁰ SAYING TO AARON, 'MAKE FOR US GODS WHO WILL GO BEFORE US; FOR THIS MOSES WHO LED US OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT—WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.'⁴¹ At that time they made a calf and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their hands.⁴² But God turned away and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, 'IT WAS NOT TO ME THAT YOU OFFERED VICTIMS AND SACRIFICES FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS, WAS IT, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?'⁴³ YOU ALSO TOOK ALONG THE TABERNACLE OF MOLOCH AND THE STAR OF THE GOD ROMPHA, THE IMAGES WHICH YOU MADE TO WORSHIP. I ALSO WILL REMOVE YOU BEYOND BABYLON.'

⁴⁴ "Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed *him* to make it according to the pattern which he had seen.⁴⁵ And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua upon dispossessing the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, until the time of David.⁴⁶ David found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for Him.⁴⁸ However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says:

⁴⁹ 'HEAVEN IS MY THRONE,
AND EARTH IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF MY FEET;
WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?' says the Lord,
'OR WHAT PLACE IS THERE FOR MY REPOSE?

⁵⁰ 'WAS IT NOT MY HAND WHICH MADE ALL THESE THINGS?'

⁵¹ "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.⁵² Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;⁵³ you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it."

⁵⁴ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him.⁵⁵ But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;⁵⁶ and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse.

⁵⁸ When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8: 5 – (N.B. This is recorded after Stephen was stoned to death and Saul started persecuting the church.) - Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

Acts 8: 9 - Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."¹¹ And they were giving him

attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

Acts 8: 25 – (Peter and John return to Jerusalem after preaching in Samaria) - So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Acts 8: 26 - But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” ³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

33 “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY:
WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION?
FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁷ [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 9: 9 - Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹ All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and *who* had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²² But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

²³ When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, ²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; ²⁵ but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening* in the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. ³⁰ But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

Acts 9: 32 - Now as Peter was traveling through all *those regions*, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. ³⁴ Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up. ³⁵ And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.” ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his

hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 10: 17 - Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you."²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"²² They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you."²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.²⁶ But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man."²⁷ As he talked with him, he entered and **found many people assembled.*²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean."²⁹ That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,³¹ and he **said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.*³² Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the tanner by the sea.'*³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,⁴⁷ "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11: 19 - So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Acts 13: 4 - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.⁵ When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.⁹ But Saul, who was also *known* as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"¹¹ Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

Acts 13: 13 - Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." ¹⁶ Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said,

"Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. ¹⁸ For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance—all of which took about four hundred and fifty years. ²⁰ After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' ²³ From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus. ²⁴ after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. ²⁸ And though they found no ground for putting Him to death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead; ³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. ³² And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' ³⁴ As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.' ³⁵ Therefore He also says in another Psalm, 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' ³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; ³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon you:

⁴¹ 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH;

FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS,

A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU."

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³ Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us,

'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES,

THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH."

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14: 1 - In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. **FAST FORWARD TO** ³ Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. ⁵ And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, ⁶ they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; ⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

⁸ At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹ This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and *began* to walk. ¹¹ When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." ¹² And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM. ¹⁶ In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; ¹⁷ and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ *Even* saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

FAST FORWARD TO ²¹ After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." ²³ When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 15: 1 - Some men came down from Judea and *began* teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, *the brethren* determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. ³ Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and were bringing great joy to all the brethren.

Acts 17: 1 - Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. ⁶ When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; 7 and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

Acts 17: 10 - The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

Acts 17: 22 - So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' ²⁹ Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. ³⁰ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, ³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some *began* to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." ³³ So Paul went out of their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Acts 18: 5 - But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Acts 19: 8 - And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.¹⁰ This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today."⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,⁵ as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

⁶ "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, 7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' 8 And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.' 9 And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me. 10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.'¹¹ But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

Acts 18: 5 - But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Acts 22: 12 - "A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, *and* well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,¹³ came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him.¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.'¹⁵ For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.¹⁶ Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

¹⁷ "It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance,¹⁸ and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.'¹⁹ And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You.'²⁰ And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.'²¹ And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Acts 24: 1 – (Before Felix after being seized in Jerusalem and sent to him under protection) - After five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders, with an attorney *named* Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul.² After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying *to the governor*,

"Since we have through you attained much peace, and since by your providence reforms are being carried out for this nation,³ we acknowledge *this* in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness.⁴ But, that I may not weary you any further, I beg you to grant us, by your kindness, a brief hearing.⁵ For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.⁶ And he even tried to desecrate the temple; and then we arrested him. [We wanted to judge him according to our own Law.⁷ But Lysias the commander came along, and with much violence took him out of our hands,⁸ ordering his accusers to come before you.] By examining him yourself concerning all these matters you will be able to ascertain the things of which we accuse him."⁹ The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.¹⁰ When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense,¹¹ since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.¹² Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city *itself* did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot.¹³ Nor can they prove to you *the charges* of which they now accuse me.¹⁴ But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."¹⁶

In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both* before God and before men.¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings;¹⁸ in which they found me *occupied* in the temple, having been purified, without *any* crowd or uproar. But *there were* some Jews from Asia—¹⁹ who ought to have been present before you and to make accusation, if they should have anything against me.²⁰ Or else let these men themselves tell what misdeed they found when I stood before the Council,²¹ other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, *'For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today.'*

²² But Felix, having a more exact knowledge about the Way, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case."²³ Then he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have *some* freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.

²⁴ But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him *speak* about faith in Christ Jesus.²⁵ But as *he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come*, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."²⁶ At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and converse with him.²⁷ But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Acts 25: 1 - Now when several days had elapsed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.¹⁴ While they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man who was left as a prisoner by Felix;¹⁵ and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.¹⁶ I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand over any man before the accused meets his accusers face to face and has an opportunity to make his defense against the charges.¹⁷ So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought before me.¹⁸ When the accusers stood up, they *began* bringing charges against him not of such crimes as I was expecting,¹⁹ but they *simply* had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and *about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive*.²⁰ Being at a loss how to investigate such matters, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there stand trial on these matters.²¹ But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him to be kept in custody until I send him to Caesar."²² Then Agrippa *said* to Festus, "I also would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," he **said*, "you shall hear him."

Acts 26: 1 - Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and *proceeded* to make his defense:

² "In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today;³ especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among *the* Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ "So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem;⁵ since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.⁶ And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;⁷ *the promise* to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.⁸ Why is it considered incredible among you *people* if God does raise the dead?

⁹ *"So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.*

12 "While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. 21 For this reason some Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death. 22 So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day

testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴ While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus *said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." ²⁵ But Paul *said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. ²⁶ For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." ²⁸ Agrippa *replied* to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." ²⁹ And Paul *said*, "I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

³⁰ The king stood up and the governor and Bernice, and those who were sitting with them, ³¹ and when they had gone aside, they *began* talking to one another, saying, "This man is not doing anything worthy of death or imprisonment." ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Acts 28: 1 - When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta. ² The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. ³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. ⁴ When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they *began* saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." ⁵ However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm. ⁶ But they were expecting that he was about to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and *began* to say that he was a god.

⁷ Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. ⁸ And it happened that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to see* him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. ⁹ After *this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.* ¹⁰ They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.

¹¹ At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead. ¹² After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. ¹³ From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. ¹⁴ There we found *some* brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome. ¹⁵ And the brethren, when they heard about us, came from there as far as the Market of Appius and Three Inns to meet us; and when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

¹⁶ When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷ After three days Paul called together those who were the leading men of the Jews, and when they came together, he *began* saying to them, "Brethren, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. ¹⁸ And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death. ¹⁹ But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation. ²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel." ²¹ They said to him, "We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you. ²² But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere."

²³ When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. ²⁵ And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

²⁶ saying,

'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY,

"YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;

AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

²⁷ FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL,

AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,

AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES;

OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES,

AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,

AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,

AND I WOULD HEAL THEM."

²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will also listen.” ²⁹ [When he had spoken these words, the Jews departed, having a great dispute among themselves.] ³⁰ And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

4. The Message Included A Powerful Call To Repentance, Faith, And A Life Of Obedience

Acts 2: 37 - Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 3: 11 - While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. ¹² But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?” ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.” ¹⁸ But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you. ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. ²² Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. ²³ And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ ²⁴ And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days. ²⁵ It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ ²⁶ For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”

Acts 5: 30 – The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” ³³ But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.

Acts 7: 51 – (The sermon of Stephen right before he was stoned to death.) “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; 53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.” ⁵⁴ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.

Acts 8: 34 - The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁷ [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 13: 4 - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they reached Salamis, they *began* to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews;

and they also had John as their helper. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? 11 Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

Acts 17: 22 - So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. ²³ For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' ²⁹ Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. ³⁰ Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." ³³ So Paul went out of their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

5. Conversions Result In The Praise And Glory Of God, And Social Impact

Acts 2: 46 - Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4: 32 - And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. ³⁴ For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales 35 and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 5: 12 – (even after chastening of God in the case of Ananias & Saphira) - At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Acts 8: 34 - The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁷ [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 13: 4 - So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews;

and they also had John as their helper. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who was also *known* as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?" ¹¹ Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. ¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

Acts 21: 17 - After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. ¹⁸ And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. **20** And when they heard it they began glorifying God

6. Conversions Were Acknowledged To Be God's Work

Acts 2: 47 - And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 5: 12 – (even after chastening of God in the case of Ananias & Saphira) - At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. ¹³ But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added

Acts 8: 5 - Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶ The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷ For *in the case of* many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much rejoicing in that city. ⁹ Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." ¹¹ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. ¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³ Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Acts 9: 31 – (After the persecution and conversion of Saul.) - So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

Acts 9: 36 - Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us." ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 10: 22 – (Men were sent to Peter by Cornelius to gather Peter to come to his house.) - They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you."

Acts 10: 44 – (Peter is called of God to speak to the Gentile house of Cornelius) - While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?" ⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 11: 17 – (At the end of Peter’s account to the saints in Jerusalem concerning the Gentiles) - Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?¹⁸ When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

Acts 11: 19 - So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and *began* speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

Acts 13: 44 – (Paul and companions went from Paphos to Perga then Pisidian Antioch, and to the synagogue) - The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet *in protest* against them and went to Iconium.⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14: 1 - In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.² But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren.³ Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.**FAST FORWARD TO**⁸ At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother’s womb, who had never walked.⁹ This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well,¹⁰ said with a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he leaped up and *began* to walk.¹¹ When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have become like men and have come down to us.”¹² And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out¹⁵ and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.¹⁶ In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;¹⁷ and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”¹⁸ *Even* saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.**FAST FORWARD TO**²¹ After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” **FAST FORWARD TO**²⁶ From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.²⁷ When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 16: 14 - A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 18: 9 - Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent;¹⁰ for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”¹¹ And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

7. The Apostles Knew That Prayer Was Key

Acts 2: 42 - They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 3: 1 - Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.

Acts 4: 23 – (After Peter and James had been imprisoned overnight and examined) - When they had been released, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS? ²⁶ 'THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 6: 3 –Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

Acts 8: 14 - Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9: 36 - Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated *in Greek* is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us." ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 10: 9 - On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹ and he **saw* the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹² and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³ A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." ¹⁵ Again a voice *came* to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider unholy." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; ¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." ²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" ²² They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you." ²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his

relatives and close friends.²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped *him*.²⁶ But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am *just* a man."²⁷ As he talked with him, he entered and *found many people assembled.²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean."²⁹ That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,³¹ and he *said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.'³² Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.'³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said:

"I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.⁴² And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,⁴⁷ "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Acts 12: 1 - Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them.² And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.³ When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.⁶ On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.⁸ And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he *said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."⁹ And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.¹⁰ When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." ¹² And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened *the door*, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.

Acts 13: 1 - Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 14: 19 - But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.²⁰ But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.²¹ After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."²³ When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 16: 14 - A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,²⁰ and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews,²¹ and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."

²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods.²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.³³ And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace."³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered *the house of Lydia*, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Acts 20: 26 - When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.³⁷ And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.

Acts 21: 5 - When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another.

Acts 21: 39 - "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,⁵ as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.⁶ "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me,⁷ and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'⁸ And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'⁹ And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.¹⁰

And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.' ¹¹ But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.

¹² "A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, *and* well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him. ¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. ¹⁵ For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

¹⁷ "It happened when I returned to Jerusalem and *was praying in the temple*, that I fell into a trance, ¹⁸ and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.' ¹⁹ And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in You. ²⁰ And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the coats of those who were slaying him.' ²¹ And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Acts 27: 21 - When they had gone a long time without food, then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. ²² Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship. ²³ For *this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me*, ²⁴ saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' ²⁵ Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. ²⁶ But we must run aground on a certain island."

²⁷ But when the fourteenth night came, as we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors *began* to surmise that they were approaching some land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found *it to be* twenty fathoms; and a little farther on they took another sounding and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ Fearing that we might run aground somewhere on the rocks, they cast four anchors from the stern and wished for daybreak. ³⁰ But as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship and had let down the *ship's* boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, ³¹ Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved." ³² Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the *ship's* boat and let it fall away.

³³ Until the day was about to dawn, Paul was encouraging them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have been constantly watching and going without eating, having taken nothing. ³⁴ Therefore I encourage you to take some food, for this is for your preservation, for not a hair from the head of any of you will perish." ³⁵ Having said this, *he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all*, and he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ All of them were encouraged and they themselves also took food. ³⁷ All of us in the ship were two hundred and seventy-six persons. ³⁸ When they had eaten enough, they *began* to lighten the ship by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

³⁹ When day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. ⁴⁰ And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders; and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. ⁴¹ But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force of *the waves*. ⁴² The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none of *them* would swim away and escape; ⁴³ but the centurion, wanting to bring Paul safely through, kept them from their intention, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, ⁴⁴ and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and others on various things from the ship. And so it happened that they all were brought safely to land.

Acts 28: 7 - Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. ⁸ And it happened that the father of Publius was lying *in bed* afflicted with *recurrent* fever and dysentery; and Paul went in *to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him*. ⁹ After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. ¹⁰ They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied *us* with all we needed.

Preparation For Next Study

Read through the Acts Of The Apostles and review how the gospel spread.

SOURCES USED IN THIS STUDY

The Acts Of The Apostles