

I. Introduction. Mt. 28:18-20 Acts 1:6-8 John 20:21

II. Why Send Missionaries (Why Go)?

A. Send (Go) to gather worshipers for the glory of God. Psalm 67:3-5 I Co. 10:31

1. God is great and deserves to be worshiped by multitudes from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Isa. 45:22-25 48:11
2. This is the most important motive for missions. Eph. 1:5-6 John 10:17-18 17:1
3. Israel was given a mission. Ge. 12:3 Ps. 47:1 67:1-7 68:31 72:17 96:3 Is. 2:2-3 19:23-25 66:18-19 42:6 49:6 51:4 60:1-3 Zec. 8:23 Je. 36:22f Eze. 28:23 Hab. 2:14
4. God's promise is fulfilled in Christ. Ro. 15:8-12 Isa. 11:10 Luke 2:32
5. The church has taken over Israel's role as a light to the nations. I Pet. 2:9 Lu. 24:47 Acts 1:8 Mt. 21:33-43 24:14 Acts 8:1-4

B. Send (Go) out of compassion for the lost.

1. The greatest need of man is to know God. Jn. 17:3 Phil. 3:8 Ro. 3:23
2. God has compassion for the lost. Mt. 9:36-38 23:37 Rom. 9:2-3 Ezek 33:11
3. God sincerely offers salvation to all of humanity. Acts 17:30 Isa. 45:22 Mt. 11:28
4. The cross of Christ is the only means by which people may be right with God and avoid God's holy wrath. Jn. 14:6 Acts 4:12

C. Missions killers include liberalism, Arminianism, hyper-calvinism, and division.

III. Who is to do the work of missions? Acts 13:1-4

A. Missions is a work of the church.

1. Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the church in Antioch. Acts 13:1
2. The missionaries reported back to their sending church. Acts 14:26-28
3. The Lord has established His church as the means of extending His Kingdom. Mt. 16:18 I Tim. 3:15
4. Missionaries should be called by their local churches, not self appointed.

B. The church sends its best men to be missionaries. I Ti. 3:1f Titus 1:5f

C. The church takes responsibility for her missionaries.

1. Prayer. Acts 13:3 Col. 4:3 Eph. 6:18-20 II Thess. 3:1-2 II Co. 1:11 Phil. 1:19
2. Supply. I Ti. 5:17-18 II Co. 11:8-9

D. Missions involves sacrifice.

1. The church makes sacrifices.
2. Those who go must be ready to make sacrifices. II Co. 11:23f I Co. 9:19 Jn. 15:20

IV. What is the Work of Missions?

A. The work of the missionary is not:

1. Political and social reform.
2. Cultural transformation.
3. Missions does not consist of mere "humanitarian" aid.
4. Missions is not man centered.

B. The work of missions centers on proclaiming the gospel of Christ so that God will be glorified as people are converted and churches are established. Acts 13:16

1. The glory of God is best seen in the person and work of Jesus Christ. I Co. 2:2 1:23 Acts 2,4,17
2. The gospel is to go to all nations and peoples. Luke 24:47 Acts 1:8 John 3:16
3. You have a right to go because you are God's ambassador. II Co. 5:20 Acts 17:30
4. Call people to repentance and faith in Christ. Acts 2:37f 16:30-31 17:30-31
5. Baptize and disciple (train) those whom God saves. Mt. 28:18

C. The work of missions involves establishment of new churches. Acts 14:23 Mt. 16:18

1. God's purposes in this age are focused in His church. Eph. 2:19f 1:22-23 I Ti. 3:15
2. The church is central to missions work in the book of Acts.
3. The goal is that the new churches will be independent. Acts 14:23

V. Concluding Applications.

A. God sovereignly determines the extent and success of missions. Isa. 55:11 Mt. 16:18 Acts 13:48 11:18 16 17:25 Ps. 50:12

B. You should expect success in missions. John 15:16 10:16 Mt. 28:18-20 Acts 1:8 18:10 14:27 13:15,42 Isa. 55:11 6:8-13 II Co. 2:14-17 I Co. 16:9

C. In order to succeed in missions, you must be preoccupied with God and with the glory of His kingdom.

D. For further reading:

1. Bavinck, An Introduction to the Science of Missions.
2. Wells, A Vision for Missions.
3. Tucker, From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya
4. Taylor, Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret
5. Milton, Christian Missionaries

Discussion questions

1. What is the most important motive for missionary effort?
2. How does our belief in God's sovereignty in election help affect our view of missions?
3. Why does liberalism kill missions?
4. What is hyper-calvinism and why does it kill missions?
5. How does our compassion for the lost reflect the love of God?
6. Who is to do the work of missions?
7. What are some problems with parachurch agencies?
8. What responsibility should the church take for its missionaries?
9. What is the work of missions?
10. How can we evaluate the success of our missionary effort?
11. How can we experience greater success in missions?