

Successful Missions

“The greatness of a church is not determined by its size, but by its reach.”

Messages in the “Successful Missions” Series:

MISSIONS - WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

1. Missions Explained
2. Missions Examined
3. Missions Explored

MISSIONS - WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

Text - Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 13:1-5

Introduction: A Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations, Charles Malik, asked this question in a speech: “What has been the greatest American contribution to the rest of the world? Has it been money? Has it been food? Has it been medical skill? Has it been military might? Has it been industrial know-how?” Then he answered, “The greatest thing to come out of America has been the American missionary effort: The quiet, selfless men and women who have left the comfort and security of their homeland to bring the gospel of Christianity to less favored nations.”

We hear about churches that are “missions-minded.” Faith Baptist Church does not have a mission’s program— We ARE a mission’s program!
Successful missionary outreach is the result of: “An infusion of factual INFORMATION with Scriptural INSPIRATION that leads to evangelistic INNOVATION.”

I. A STRONG CONVICTION — All without Christ are LOST.

- A. If all are not lost, why do people go to hell? Even in Hell, they are mission-minded.
- B. If all are not lost, then why did Christ die?
 1. If all are not lost, then John 3:16 is useless!
 2. God had only one Son and He was a missionary.
- C. If all are not lost, then why commission the disciples?
- D. If all are not lost, what is the church for? (Acts 13).
- E. If all are not lost, why preach? (Rom. 10:1-17).

II. A SURE CURE — The Gospel will save the LOST.

- A. What is the Gospel? It is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).

1. Power to change a life.

The story is told of an agnostic college professor who visited the Fiji Islands. He remarked to an elderly chief, “You’re a great leader, but it’s a pity you’ve been taken in by those Christian missionaries. No one believes the Bible anymore. People are tired of the story of Christ dying on a cross for the sins of mankind. They know better now. I’m sorry you’ve been so foolish as to accept their story.”

The old chief's eyes flashed as he answered, "See that great rock over there? On it we smashed the heads of our victims. Notice the furnace next to it? In that oven we used to roast the bodies of our enemies. If it wasn't for those missionaries and the Gospel of Christ that changed us from cannibals into Christians, you'd be our next supper!"

2. This is what people really need, not just humanitarian charity.

- B. If you had a cure for cancer, it would be criminal to withhold it.

III. A SIMPLE COMMAND — Every Christian responsible to take the Gospel to the LOST (Acts 8:1, 4).

- A. You are either a missionary or a mission field.
 - B. Not just a preacher's job.
 - C. Not an optional thing. "It's against my nature!" Yes, and it's against mine too!
1. The closest thing to the heart of God is winning the lost to Christ.
 2. He who has a little heart for the lost has little heart for the Savior.
 3. Perhaps the reason many people are not involved in missions is because they don't think their religion is worth sharing.

IV. A STRAIGHT COMPLIANCE — I will make myself available to go after the LOST.

- A. I will go in presence.
 1. The Gospel has never been where someone hasn't taken it.
 2. Many people think that God can't use them where they are. But it's more certain that God can't use them where they ain't.
- B. I will go in prayer. Paul said, "Brethren, pray for us..."
- C. I will go in pocketbook (2 Cor. 10:15-16).
 1. The tithe is obedient giving. Commanded
 2. The offering is love giving. Prove the sincerity of your love.
 3. Faith promise mission giving is faith giving.

CONCLUSION:

Are you part of the problem or the solution? Are you willing to help get the Gospel to some area of the world where Christ has not been preached?

Introduction To Christian Missions

I. MISSIONS EXPLAINED

A. Defining the Terms of Missions

- 1-Missions
- 2-Local Church
- 3-Deputation
- 4-Mission Board
- 5-Sponsoring Church
- 6-Indigenous / Autonomous
- 7-Nationals

B. Determining the Task of Missions

1-Identifying the Task

- a-Preaching
- b-Baptizing
- c-Teaching

2-Involvement in the Task

- a-Church responsibility
- b-Individual responsibility

3-Internationality of the Task

- a-Home missions
- b-Foreign missions

4-Importance of the Task

- a-Only adequate salvation
- b-Only adequate provision
- c-Only adequate redemption
- d-Only adequate revelation

5-Inspiration for the Task

- a-Inspired priority
- b-Inspired purpose
- c-Inspired plan
- d-Inspired people

II. MISSIONS EXAMINED

A. Examining Our Missionary Motives

- 1-Wrong motives
- 2-Worthy motives

B. Examining Our Missionary Aims

- 1-Seeking converts
- 2-Schooling churches

C. Examining Our Missionary Opposition

- 1-Internal
- 2-External

D. Examining Our Missionary Means

- 1-Power
- 2-Prayer
- 3-Person

III. MISSIONS EXPLORED

A. Missionary Qualifications

- 1-Call
- 2-Committment
- 3-Continuance

B. Missionary Quality

- 1-Training
- 2-Temperament
- 3-Tolerance
- 4-Tools

Did You Know???

...The world is increasing its population at the rate of 10,300 an hour...There are thirty times more people to reach with the gospel today than in the Apostles' lifetime...In the past ten years there has been a 50% reduction in the number of men surrendering to preach and the number of families going to the mission field...By the year 2005, 20,000 missionaries will have retired.

...At the present time there are only 3,383 preparing to replace them. (This uses the term "missionary" in the broadest possible form.)...Between 1984-1999, we lost 30% of the fundamental missionaries on the field...There are presently 138,000 missionaries sent out of the United States and only around 3,700 of those are said to be Independent Baptist... Half of the missionaries on the field are over 50 years old...America used to be #1 per capita in sending out missionaries. Today we are #16. Countries with far less means but a lot more vision send about 90% of the missionaries out...

...Since the invention of the printing press; over 2 billion Bibles have been printed. 85% of those were printed in one language. The other 15% are left to cover the other 6,528 languages of the world. 274 languages have a complete Bible. 745 languages have only the New Testament, leaving 4,564 with no Bible, and over 2,000 languages without a Single verse Of Scripture.

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