

April 17, 2024

## “Missions Exists Because Worship Doesn’t”

### Goal for This Week:

To consider the purpose of the church by considering the purpose of its mission.

### Review of Past Weeks:

Our Ecclesiology and Missiology flow out of our doctrine of God and leads to doxology.

In Matthew 16 we see Jesus give the keys of the kingdom of heaven to the \_\_\_\_\_

and in Matthew 18 we see the keys of the kingdom given to \_\_\_\_\_.

The church is to be congregationally \_\_\_\_\_, elder \_\_\_\_\_, and deacon \_\_\_\_\_.

The church is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of missions because the church is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ helping the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (the *means*) get ready for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (the *end*).

How are healthy local churches a physical sign of our eternal union with Christ in heaven?

### Why does the church exist?

*Ephesians 3:8-11*, “To me [Paul], though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles, the *unsearchable riches of Christ* and to bring to light *for everyone* what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that *through the church* the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Why does the church exist according to this passage?

What is the manifold wisdom of God that the church is meant to show?

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How long was this hidden mystery (displayed through the church) planned for? What is the intended end result in revealing this mystery – God’s eternal purpose?

*Ephesians 1:3-6*, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In him he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

***Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper**

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. *Missions exists because worship doesn't*. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.”

*The Supremacy of God in Missions through worship, prayer, and suffering (Part 1)*

What is the purpose of missions? – Worship

What is the power of missions? – Prayer

“Prayer is God’s appointed means of bringing grace to us and glory to himself. This is crystal clear in Psalm 50:15. God says, ‘Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.’” – (*Let the Nations be Glad*, 78).

*Romans 15:18-19*, “For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power

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of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.”

*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, *but only God who gives the growth.*”

What is the price of missions? – Suffering

1 Peter 2:20-21, “For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”

Hebrews 13:12-14, “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.”

Six Reasons God Appoints Suffering for His Servants (*Let the Nations Be Glad*, 108-117)

1. Suffering Deepens Faith and Holiness – 2 Corinthians 1:8-9
2. Suffering Makes the Reward of God’s Glory Increase – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
3. Suffering Is the Price of Making Others Bold – Philippians 1:14
4. Suffering Fills Up What Is Lacking in Christ’s Afflictions – Colossians 1:24
5. Suffering Enforces the Missionary Command to Go – Acts 8:1 & Acts 11:19
6. The Supremacy of Christ is Manifest in Suffering – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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**Resources That Will Be Used This Semester:**

Akin, Daniel L. *10 Who Changed the World*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Clark, Elliot. *Mission Affirmed: Recovering The Missionary Motivation of Paul*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

George, Timothy and Denise George. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 1996.

Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *One Assembly: Rethinking the Multisite & Multiservice Church Models*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Leeman, Jonathan and Gregory A. Wills. *The Rule of Love: How the Local Church Should Reflect God's Love and Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation among All People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.