

For the Sake of the Name

For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 21:13

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. Philippians 3: 7-8a

The Travail of His Soul and the Right Kind of Love

*I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. **And glory has come to me through them.** John 17:9-10*

Conclusion:

This is the great point that we must understand in this lesson. Our hope in missions is that Christ will be glorified by the Father's completion of the request brought by the Son. And what is that work which the Father will certainly complete? Giving eternal life to all those which the Father has given to the Son.

Missions is fundamentally about God getting glory through his grace displayed in the marvelous gospel of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Next week: Why Missions? – A Biblical Theology

Core Seminars – Christian Growth

Missions: What? - God's Passion for His Glory

Week 1 – March 3, 2013

I. What fuel powers God's passion for missions?

Our need or His glory?

The Greatness of God.

The greatness of God is the initial ground of missions.

- Isaiah 40:25-26...“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

The goodness and sovereignty of God...the backbone of missions.

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, and the example of the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were 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, missionary to India, 1793)

The Primacy of God's Glory

The global praise of God's glory is the final goal of missions.

- Psalm 67:3-4...May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.
- Psalm 97:1...The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

God's Zeal for His Own Glory

Our passion to trumpet God's greatness is rooted in His own passion for His own glory.

- Isaiah 48:9-11... For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off. See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

God's Glory and God's Humility

1. Not all self-love is wrong for everybody.
2. God is not an idolater.

God himself is the most excellent and glorious being in the universe, for God to be truthful He must work to exalt his own glory above all else.

For the Glory of His Grace

- Romans 15:8-9... For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

(See also - Matthew 9:36-38 and Ephesians 1:5-14)

God's twin passions, glory and mercy, are made one in the cross of Christ.

- Ephesians 3:10... His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.

God's passion for His glory exults in the joy of His people through their praise for His mercy. So the real power of missions comes as God's people are caught up in this passion and goal....worship.

II. What fuel powers OUR passion for missions?

The Right Fuel for Missions

I. A knowledge of God – not of “missions.”

A right passion for missions overflows from an increasing delight in the excellence and worth of God revealed in Christ.

II. A knowledge of God's Sufficiency - God works FOR His people

Isaiah 46:1-4

Missions is not a recruitment project for God's labor force. It is a liberation project from the heavy burdens and hard yokes of other gods. - John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad

III. A knowledge of God's Sovereignty – His will always comes to pass.

IV. A knowledge of God's Wisdom – the best means for the best ends.

V. A knowledge of God's Gospel – a message of joy

A call to joy is a call worth sharing.

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad. Psalm 97:1

Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy! Psalm 67:3-4