

Missions: Taking the Gospel to All Nations
Week 7 – January 20, 2008

I. God has a passion to see His name glorified by showing mercy to sinners...but does he have a plan for this mission and can we know it?

A. God's Commission for Missions - Matthew 28:18-20

B. *God's call for missions in Scripture cannot be defined in terms of crossing cultures to maximize the total number of individuals saved. Rather 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.*

- John Piper, "Let the Nations be Glad," pg. 169-170.

II. The Biblical basis for People Group thinking:

A. **Mathew 28:18-20** - "go and make disciples of all nations..."

Nation = *ethnos*

"all nations" = *panta ta ethne* = all the nations

B. **Genesis 12:1-3** - "all peoples on earth will be blessed..."

- C. **Revelation 5:9** - “with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

III. What is a People Group?

A significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation ,etc., or combinations of these.

- 1982 Lausanne Strategy Working Group

IV. Who is “reached” and who is “unreached?”

- A. **Romans 15:18-21** - “I have fully proclaimed the Gospel...”

Romans 15:23-24 - “no more place for me to work...”

It seems that Paul had considered an area reached where the Gospel had been preached clearly and there was some established group of believers that had taken root.

- B. Is frontier missions to unreached people groups the only Biblical model for missions?

V. The Goal: Evangelism or Church Planting?

VI. A Brief Introduction to Contextualization

C1 – Americanized church plant.

C5 – Secret disciples in majority culture.

Contextualization’s objective: Clarity for the gospel vs. avoiding the offense of the cross.

VII. Why does God do missions this way?

- A. Diversity exalts His glory – Psalm 96:3-4
- B. Demonstrates his universal greatness and worth – Romans 15:11
- C. Crushes ethnocentric pride.
- D. Shows he is greater than all false gods.

Next Week: Short-term Missions – Their nature and usefulness