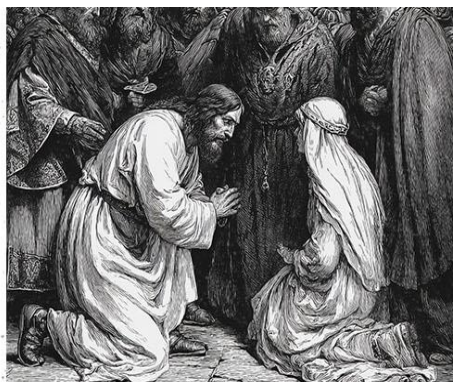
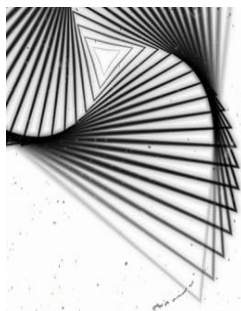
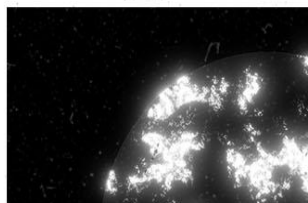
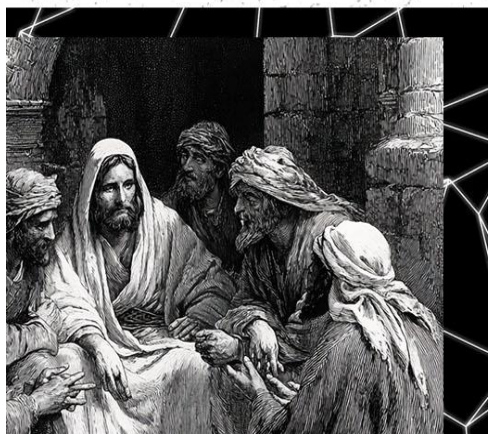




12

GOSPEL-CENTERED FOUNDATIONS

Wk 7



DOCTRINE of MISSION

7

...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Act 1:8b (NIV)

Intro Video

Check out the introduction video from Pastor Chase at:

www.templebiblechurch.org/studyfall25/

Overview

In this session, we will look at the doctrine of Mission and what that means for us both as a church and as individuals. We will look at how this puts us directly in conflict with the culture which tells us to live for ourselves.

Warming Up

- Read Article I Section 2 from the TBC Constitution for our statement of Mission. The idea of Mission does not have a specific section in Article II but our understanding of Mission underlies all that we do.
- Over the course of your life have felt a sense of purpose? How about currently in your life?
- Was there anything in this week's sermon that you have questions about, or thought was particularly interesting?

Wk 7 Case Study

Ben told you that he and his wife will be appearing before your church's missions committee seeking support. They and their two teenage children are planning to go to a country that is very hostile to Christians. There have been numerous reported cases of violence recently, but that has not deterred them. Ben says they feel God has called them to that area and they are committed to going. He confides in you, however, that the violence targeting Christians has given him some concerns. He asks for your thoughts on whether that should be something that affects their decisions to go.

- What would you say to Ben?
- What questions might you have about the situation that might affect your advice?

Helpful Definitions:

Mission vs. Missions – “Mission” is used generally to refer to the purpose and calling to which God has sent us whether individually or collectively. The term “Missions” is specifically used to refer to the work of the church in reaching across cultural, religious, ethnic and geographical barriers to advance the work of making disciples of all nations (IMB). “Missions” is a subset of the “Mission”.

People Group – A group of individuals who see themselves as having a common affinity because of shared language, religion, ethnicity, etc... It is the largest group within which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without barriers of understanding or acceptance. (Joshue Project)

Unreached People Group – People group with less than 5% Christian/2% evangelical adherents. There are 7662 unreached people groups with a population of 3.57B.

Unengaged People Group – People group where there is no known effort to establish self-sustaining churches. This is a subset of unreached people groups. There are 5082 unengaged people groups with a population of almost 2B.

Study & Discussion

- 1) Look up the following verses and look at what is progressively revealed about God's eternal plan at each point. Note carefully the context of each passage.

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 12:2-3

Isaiah 49:6

Mark 7:26-27

Acts 10:44-45, 11:17-18

Ephesians 3:5-6

Ephesians 3:10-11

Revelation 7:9-10

- How would you summarize briefly what was known about God's plan of redemption in the OT?
- How would you summarize what was additionally revealed about God's plan of redemption in the NT?

- How would you describe God's ultimate purpose in Creation and Redemption?

- 2) Carrying the gospel to the nations was a crucial point of God's plan from the beginning and the mission he gave the church. Note the context of each of the passages below and what you learn about the importance of carrying out the mission.

Matthew 24:14

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 24:47

- How would you describe why we should care deeply about seeing the gospel taken to the nations?
 - Why might we feel or appear indifferent to the mission? In other words, can we be fully committed to Jesus and not care deeply about missions?
- 3) Read Romans 10:13-15 and 1 Corinthians 1:21-24. Why did God choose preaching as the method to bring people to salvation?

For Deeper Reflection

- 1) Sharing the gospel in your native culture should be easier than in a cross-cultural situation because you do not have to deal with barriers of language or culture.
 - Do you feel equipped to share the gospel in your culture? What is your greatest fear or concern in sharing the gospel?
 - How would you explain the gospel to an 8-year-old? How would you explain it to a college professor? What are the similarities and differences?
- 2) Historically there has been a divide between “liberal” groups that emphasized addressing social issues and “conservative” groups that emphasized “sharing the gospel”. Both were justly open to criticism from the other side. What errors occur when either is neglected? How should concerns for social issues and concerns for sharing the gospel relate to one another?
- 3) In addition to the very helpful systematic theology resources mentioned in the introduction to this series, below are a few resources related to the topic in this section that are good options for learning more.
 - Ashford, Bruce. *Every Square Inch* (Lexham, 2015).
 - Johnson, Andy. *Missions* (10Publishing, 2017).
 - Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad*, 3rd ed (Baker, 2010).

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