

A quick summary . . .

God has written to us in the Bible that history will end with a representative from every tribe and tongue and nation and people group in heaven that has been purchased *by His blood*. That is, saved by Christ. Those prophecies in the Bible are *true*. That is, “that is the way things really are” (or at least will be).

A new way of God working in people occurred at Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit came to indwell and empower the new “temple” of God for the purpose of making His name known in all nations as Matthew 28 tells us.

What is both fascinating and humbling is the knowledge we have that God has chosen to use us, fill us, equip us, set us apart and called us to a specific work in missions. That is truly remarkable. We have been given the opportunity to labor in the vineyard of God. And we must give an account for the use of those time, treasure and talents entrusted to us. You have a task to perform that only you can do. No person who is born again can say, “I have my ticket to heaven and so I'll kick back and take it easy.”

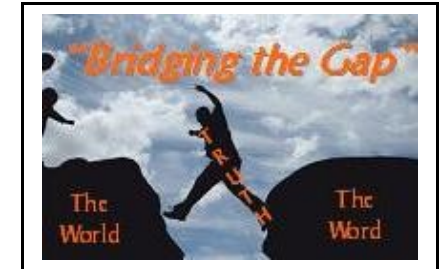
So, with the gifts and calling we have before us, knowing with 100% certainty that God wants to use these feeble vessels of His to participate in His work of redeeming a lost world—of bridging the gap—let us go about our work as diligent laborers .

*“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Cor. 5:16-20*

# Bridging the Gap

## Sunday: TRUTH EXPERIENCED

What is Truth?  
What is postmodernism?  
What is the gap?  
What is tolerance?  
Can a postmodern person be saved?  
Where does *MISSION* fit in all of this?  
What do we do about it in *MISSIONS*?



*“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 knees before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.”*

John Piper, Let The Nations Be Glad

*“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”*

Revelation 5:9

Revelation 5:9 teaches universal *representation*. That is, no matter how you divide the world (ethnically, linguistically, culturally, politically, geographically) there will be a representative from that group in heaven. NOT to be confused with universal *salvation* that teaches all people are saved, even without Christ.

**Where do I fit in the grand scheme of God's mission plan?**

- 1) Mission is God's **intention for his lost world, and He has left us here with a God-ordained purpose in this world** Psalm 69:2-4
- 2) Missions takes **time, God is patient, not wanting to any perish.** 2 Peter 3:9
- 3) Missions began **at Pentecost. That is, the current *dispensation* of missionary activity** Acts 2:2ff
- 4) Mission ends when **when the full number of Gentiles has come in . . . or the marriage feast in Rev. 19:7** Luke 21:24
- 5) Mission is governed **by the Holy Spirit, as this is where the distribution of gifts comes from (your "job description")** 1 Cor. 12:4-7
- 6) Mission starts **when you walk outside of the church. The role of the Pastor is to prepare people for service** Eph. 4:11-12
- 7) Mission includes me! That is, God the Father planned, God the Son made the plan available, and God the Holy Spirit makes the plan personal. This "pattern" of the Tri-unity working for us applies to personal salvation, to missions, to the Church and all aspects of this present dispensation.
  - i. What is my **Passion? Making things? People? Music? Preaching? Orphans and children?**\_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. What are my **Experiences and gifts? Mission trips? Leadership? Teaching?** \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. What do others **See in me? Others might notice an area God has gifted you that you don't even know about!**\_\_\_\_\_
  - iv. What opportunities **Are available? A need does not constitute a call, but needs can be a place to start serving** \_\_\_\_\_
  - v. What is my **Motivation? Self satisfaction or God's glory? Mission without theology = philanthropy** \_\_\_\_\_
  - vi. What is the amount of **Time left? Time is an nonrenewable resource. Life is short, use it wisely!**\_\_\_\_\_
  - vii. Have I ever sensed **A call. The church and missions are not volunteer organizations but living organisms**\_\_\_\_\_
  - viii. My story . . . . . **What is my personal, individual, unique, God-directed and God-accountable story . . . . .**