
Let the Nations Be Glad:

— *The Supremacy of God in Missions* —

Seoul Bible Church

February 25, 2024

Series Background: The Book Behind the Series

In 1993 a pastor was asked to preach in a missions conference. He was preaching a series of sermons that would become another book, but he applied the series' theme to the sermon.

The first series of sermons became *Desiring God*.

The missions sermon became *Let the Nations Be Glad: the Supremacy of God in Missions*.

The pastor was John Piper. We do not agree with every detail of Piper's message, but he gets one thing correct: missions is ultimately about God.

Want to Follow Along?

This book is available as a free download from the Desiring God website.

The site page for this book is:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/books/let-the-nations-be-glad>

If you prefer, you can email Pastor Bright at pastorjbright@gmail.com for an email of the pdf of this book.

Part 1: MAKING GOD SUPREME IN MISSIONS: The Purpose, Power, and Price of Missions

God's Supremacy in Missions Displayed through Worship (ch 1)

God's Supremacy in Missions Displayed through Prayer (ch 2)

God's Supremacy in Missions Displayed through Suffering (ch 3)

Part 2: MAKING GOD SUPREME IN MISSIONS: The Necessity and Nature of the Task

Christ's Supremacy is the Conscious Focus of Saving Faith (ch 4)

God's Supremacy will be Displayed among "all the nations" (ch 5)

Part 3: MAKING GOD SUPREME IN MISSIONS: The Practical Outworking of Compassion & Worship

The Example of Jonathan Edwards' focus on God's supremacy combined with compassion for man's soul (ch 6)

The Inner Simplicity and Outer Freedom of Worldwide Worship (ch 7)

The Purpose, Power, & Price of Missions

Thesis 1: Missions' Purpose is the Worship of God by All the World. (ch 1)

Missions exists because worship does not.

God is zealous to Glorify Himself!

- In choosing us and creating us for His glory (Ephesians 1:4-6; Isaiah 43:6-7)
 - In redeeming us and displaying His power for His glory (Psalm 106:7-8; Rom 9:17; Exodus 14:4, 17-18). He brought Israel, keeping His Word, for His own glory (Ezekiel 20:14; 2 Samuel 7:23). God's people were protected, then brought back to Israel after the exile, for His glory (2 Kings 19:34; Ezekiel 36:22-23).
 - Jesus glorified the Father (John 7:18; 12:27-28; Romans 15:7). The Holy Spirit glorifies the Son of God (John 16:14). Jesus' return will glorify the Father (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10). God's people will see and enjoy His glory ((John 17:24). The entire world will see God's glory (Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 11:36) **Therefore:**
1. **Zeal for God's glory motivates missions and obedience to the Great Commission (Romans 15:8-9).**
 2. **A servant's spirit and a heart of mercy motivate world missions.**
 3. **1&2 work together.**

The Purpose, Power, & Price of Missions

Thesis 2: Prayer empowers missions to be successful (Chapter 2)

Life is a spiritual war that must be won with prayer!

Prayer wields the sword of the Spirit (God's Word).

The field of battle is the world (John 15:16). The soldier talks to the Commander about the battle situation by walkie talkie. It asks Christ to build His church, extend His Kingdom, and ensure His rule— His will is done. It asks for peace (1 Timothy 2:1-4). These prayers glorify Father & Son (Jn 14:13; 16:24)

Seek God in prayer regarding EVERYTHING (pp. 59-62)

The Purpose, Power, & Price of Missions

Thesis 3: The Price of Doing Missions is Suffering (Ch 3)

Suffer involves following Christ's example for God's exaltation (John 15:20; 1 Peter 2:20-21).

Because Christ suffered for us, we can suffer like Him (1 Peter 3:8-9; 4:1,11; 5:9). This is normal Christianity (Acts 14:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3; 2 Timothy 3:12).

Why suffer? 1. Deepen faith & holiness (Heb 5:8; 2 Cor 1:8-9) 2. Increase reward, increased cup (2 Cor 4:17-18) 3. Needed to inspire others (Phil 1) 4. Fills up Christ's suffering- others see 5. Shows importance of going (Acts 8:1; 1:8) 6. Manifests Christ's supremacy (Phil 3:7-8).

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

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Sunday School focus is on missions & fulfilling the Great Commission.

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February's memory verse is: **Habakkuk 2:14** *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Habakkuk 2:14

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

Last week: Part 1

God commands missions to declare God's glory among the nations so God will be glorified in all the world (Ch 1- the purpose of missions).

Missions are empowered by God as His people seek His aid in prayer (Ch 2). The church enters the battle by putting on her armor and praying.

Christian suffering displays God's power and grace and is one price paid to advance the gospel (ch 3).

Conclusion: The declaration of God's glory enabled by prayer and seen in suffering all show God's supremacy in Missions.

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

Christ's Supremacy is the focus of Saving Faith (chapter 4)

Three Key Questions Christian Missionaries (Evangelists) Must Answer:

1. Will anyone experience eternal conscious torment under God's wrath?

Universalists & Annihilationists.

2. Is Christ's work necessary?

Some say Jesus only died for Christians.

3. Is conscious faith in Christ necessary?

Some say that unevangelized people could be saved without knowing the name of Jesus.

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

Bible Answers to these three key questions:

1. Yes, Hell is a place of **conscious eternal torment** (Daniel 12:2; Mark 9:43-48; Jude 12-13; Revelation 14:11; 19:3).
2. Yes, **Christ's atonement is absolutely necessary for salvation** (Romans 5:17-19; 3:9-25; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Revelation 5:9-10; Acts 4:12).
3. Yes, people must hear of Christ and His work to be saved.

Jesus Christ is the **revealed mystery** proclaimed by Scripture and gospel proclamation (Romans 16:25-27). **Faith in Him is necessary** (Eph. 2:19-3:6). **Repentance comes after proclamation of the gospel** (Acts 17:30-31; Rom 1:5).

Cornelius had to hear the gospel from Peter to be saved (Acts 10-11).

Romans 9:30-10:21 show the importance of proclaiming the gospel.

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The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

The Supremacy of God among “All the Nations” (Ch 5)

“Go make disciples of all nations.”

Question: Is the point “of all nations” 1) to make as **many** of possible, or 2) to **go into every field** or 3) to make **some** of **each** people group?

In 1974 at the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism, Ralph Winters spoke of “**people blindness,**” ‘that is, **blindness to the existence of separate peoples within nations.**”

Eighteen times “all nations” (*panta ta ethne*) is used in the Bible. Matthew 25:32 is a gathering of individuals for judgment; people groups are mentioned in Acts 2:5; 10:35; and 17:26 by context and OT connection (Mk 11:17; Lk 21:24; Acts 15:17; Gal 3:8; Rev 12:5; 15:8). 8 are ambiguous (could go either way). Singular *ethne* is a people group; plural may be people group or individual or either. Thus: **all the nations (people groups) is the best understanding.**

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

The Supremacy of God among “All the Nations” (Ch 5)

The Old Testament Hope to Every Family on Earth through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14). “All the families” and “All the nations” are mentioned. The NT quotes: Acts 3:25 (*pasai hai patria*); Galatians 3:6-8 (*panta ta ethne*).

Response to the OT hope from Isaiah and Psalms

1. Exhortation to Declare His Glory among the Nations (Pss 9:11; 47:1; 66:8; 96:3,7,10; Isaiah 12:4; 34:1).
2. Promise that Nations Shall Come to God’s Light brings Hope (Pss 2:8; 45:17; 47:9; 86:9; 87:6; 102:15; 111:6-7; Isaiah 25:6-7; 49:6)
3. Prayer that God Will be Praised by All Nations (Pss 67:1-5; 72:11,17)
4. Personal Praise of God among the Nations (Pss 18:49; 57:9; 108:3)

The Necessity and Nature of the Task of Missions (Pt 2)

The NT hope expressed claim to OT hope

John- John 10:16; 11:52; Revelation 7:9-10; 14:6-7; 15:4 (cf Ps 86:9); 21:3;
Luke- 24:45-47

Paul Romans 15;

The temple was to be the house of prayer *for all nations* (Mark 11:17; cf. Isaiah 56:7).

February 25, 2024 SS class slides begin with slide 19.

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

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Habakkuk 2:14

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

Jonathan Edwards' Example of Combining Focus on God's Supremacy with Compassion for Men's souls: Chapter VI

Big Question: *What is the ultimate goal of redemption and of history and of creation?*

Jonathan Edwards sought to answer the question in a book called *The End for Which God Created the Whole World*. This can be found in Jonathan Edwards' works at ccel.org. You can download this at: <https://ccel.org/ccel/edwards/works1/works1.iv.ii.html> Note: 70 pages of 1700s style writing!

Jonathan Edwards' conclusion: *All that is ever spoken of in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God's works, is included in the one phrase, the glory of God.*

*God had respect to Himself as His highest end in this work [of creation] because He is worthy in Himself to be so, being infinitely the greatest and best of all beings. All things else, with regard to worthiness, importance, and excellence **are perfectly as nothing in comparison with Him.***

Biblical proof texts: **Romans 11:36:** "from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever." **Colossians 1:16:** "all things were created... for Him" God is the One "for whom and by whom all things exist." (**Hebrews 2:10**). **Proverbs 16:4:** "The Lord hath made all things for Himself."

Note **Isaiah 48:9-11**

God delights in the praise of His people as they honor His name. It brings Him glory to have His people delight in Him (**Romans 1:20-21**).

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

Indictment: *The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you*

(Romans 2:24). **This means:**

The glory of God is not honored.

The greatness of God is not admired.

The truth of God is not sought.

The beauty of God is not treasured.

The faithfulness of God is not trusted.

The justice of God is not respected.

The grace of God is not cherished.

The holiness of God is not revered.

The power of God is not praised.

The wisdom of God is not esteemed.

The goodness of God is not savored.

The commands of God are not obeyed.

The wrath of God is not feared.

The person of God is not loved.

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

God's Plan Is for Worship to Happen from the Inside Out

1. Heart worship, not lip worship (Matthew 15:8-9).
2. True worship, in spirit and truth with right affections rising for God, rooted in right thinking about God (John 4:23).
3. God's glory is to be made public. Our light is to shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Conclusion: God aims for His glory to be reflected in the deeds of His people through their thoughts that reflect His truth and affections that reflect His worth. Worship sees, savors, and shows God's glory to all the earth!

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

God's People Honor God by Rescuing Other People from Hell.

Jonathan Edwards preached "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" to plead for sinners to come and receive mercy while there was still time to repent.

1. Compassion pursues the rescue of perishing sinners (1 Thess 1:10).
2. Fear of hell by itself saves no one. People who love sin fear but love their sin. Show them the greater love of God in Christ. Give them a thirst for Jesus (John 6:35).
3. Compassion warns of hell and lures to Jesus with the pleasure of knowing Jesus Christ. Call people to love Jesus who died for them (1 Cor 16:22).
4. Satisfaction in Christ magnifies Christ and glorifies God.
5. The aim of compassion is to rescue sinners from pain of hell to love of God and a passion to see God honored.

Compassion & Worship in Missions (Pt 3)

The Inner Simplicity and Outer Freedom of Worldwide Worship: Chapter VII

4 Implications from worship being satisfaction with God in Christ:

1. The pursuit of joy in God is not optional. It is our highest duty. (“seek first”)
2. If the essence of worship is satisfaction in God, worship will be radically God-centered.
3. This forces us to realize worship is an end in itself. Our worship is not the instrument to bring us to the sermon. We worship. This is our purpose.
4. Paul accounts all life an expression of worship.