

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

Introduction

After **HIS RESURRECTION**, **JESUS** showed **HIMSELF** alive to **HIS** eleven remaining **DISCIPLES** for a period of forty days here on the earth.

During that time, the **LORD JESUS** not only showed **HIMSELF** alive, but **HE** gave **HIS DISCIPLES**, **THE CHURCH** what we know as **THE GREAT COMMISSION!**

Matthew 28:18-20—“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Luke 24:46-48—“46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.”

And then here in the BOOK OF ACTS:

Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Now, how is it that the **DISCIPLES (THE CHURCH)** was to accomplish this since there was no way for the **DISCIPLES** to individually visit every place in the world and **PREACH** the **GOSPEL**?

Well, the answer is behind the **GREAT COMMISSION** is **MISSIONS!** (*Acts 13:1-5*) **CHRIST** wants **HIS CHURCH** to be **MISSION-MINDED!**

(e.g. Understand this is about more than just the **MISSIONARIES** we support and other **CHURCHES** support around the world!)

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

So, here is the question I want to both pose and answer this morning—
“WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?”

I. MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CONVICTION!

The CONVICTION That All Who Are Without CHRIST Are LOST! This is a REALITY made clear by the APOSTLE PAUL!

Romans 3:9-11—“. . . we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

That **DEATH** is speaking of **MORE** than just **PHYSICAL DEATH**. It is speaking about the **SECOND DEATH** spoken of in:

Revelation 20:14-15—“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Let me ask a few questions:

- A. Don’t you think we should be at least as MISSIONS-MINDED as those who are in HELL?**
Remember how the rich man in *Luke 16* did not want his five brethren to join him in hell.
- B. Don’t you think we should be at least as MISSIONS-MINDED as our GOD?**
John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

- C. **Don't you think that we should be at least as MISSIONS-MINDED as CHRIST?**
GOD had only one **SON**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, and **HE** was a **MISSIONARY!**

Luke 19:10—"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2 Corinthians 5:14-15—"14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead**: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

- D. **Don't you think that we should be at least as MISSIONS-MINDED as the early CHURCH?**
In Acts, we see those who **SURRENDERED THEIR LIVES TO CARRY THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST** in other places! (Paul and Barnabas and others who accompanied them+Others)

There were many who **SACRIFICED TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THOSE WHO CARRIED THE GOSPEL!**

There were many who **OFFERED PRAYERS DAILY FOR BOTH THE LOST AND THOSE WHO PLACED THEMSELVES IN HARMS WAY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL!**

- E. **Don't you think that we should be at least as MISSIONS-MINDED as THOSE WHO REACHED US?**

What if the person who **SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH YOU** or **INVITED YOU TO A CHURCH SERVICE WHERE YOU HEARD THE GOSPEL** had been as **MISSION-MINDED** as you are? Would you be saved?

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

You may have been raised up in a **CHRISTIAN** family like me or maybe even for generations your family has been made up of **BELIEVERS**. Suppose the folks who first reached your **FAMILY** with the **GOSPEL**—your father, grandfather, great grandfather or ever how far back it goes—suppose they had been as **MISSIONS-MINDED** as you? Would your family have come to know the **LORD**? Would you have come to know the **LORD**?

MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CONVICTION!
The Conviction That All Who Are Without Christ Are Lost!

- II. **MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CURE!**
ONLY The GOSPEL Can SAVE Those Who Are LOST!
A. **How Can A SICK PERSON Who Has The Ultimate Sickness Be Cured?—(i.e. He's A DEAD MAN?)**
DEATH is the ultimate sickness! A **DEAD** man doesn't need **RESUSCITATION**, he needs a **RESURRECTION!**

One can give a **DEAD MAN** shelter, food to eat, the finest clothes to wear or anything else they want to give him, but it won't meet **HIS GREATEST NEED!** He needs **LIFE!**

Jesus said in *Matthew 9:12-13*, "12...They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

JESUS spoke these words to the **RELIGIOUS PHARISEES** who were in need of the **GOSPEL** as much as anyone else!

The **PHARISEES** were more **RELIGIOUS** than most folks in **CHURCHES** today!

They went to **GOD'S HOUSE!** They **TITHED!** They gave **ALMS** to those who were in need!

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

They were supposedly men of the **BOOK!** They prided themselves that they were men of **PRAYER!** But they had a very big problem! They were **SPIRITUALLY BLIND** and so therefore they were **SPIRITUALLY DEAD!**

The PHARISEES viewed themselves as RIGHTEOUS, not SINNERS! (They were only SELF-RIGHTEOUS which means they were NOT RIGHTEOUS at all!)

They viewed themselves as WHOLE, not SICK!

They viewed themselves as ALIVE, not DEAD!

They viewed themselves as GODLY, not GODLESS!

They had the problem that **PAUL** addressed in *Romans 10:1ff.*

B. ONLY The GOSPEL Can Cure Man's SIN SICKNESS!

Romans 1:16—“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

1. The GOSPEL Has The POWER To Change A Life!

It changed the **APOSTLES** from a bunch of rag tag cowards into one of the most courageous bunch of preachers that have ever lived.

It changed the **APOSTLE PAUL** from a **RELIGIOUS ZEALOT** who murdered for his faith, into a great **CHRISTIAN!**

There is a story told of an agnostic college professor who visited the Fiji Islands. He remarked to an elderly chief, "You're a great leader, but it's a pity. You've been taken in by those Christian missionaries. No one believes the Bible anymore. People are tired of the story of Christ dying on a cross for the sins of mankind. They know better now. I'm sorry you've been so foolish as to accept their story."

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

The old chief's eyes flashed as he answered, "See that great rock over there? On it we smashed the heads of our victims. Notice the furnace next to it? In that oven we used to roast the bodies of our enemies. If it wasn't for those missionaries and the Gospel of Christ that changed us from cannibals into Christians, you'd be our next supper!"

The Gospel Has The POWER To Change A Life...

2. The GOSPEL Is What PEOPLE REALLY NEED!

I'm not against humanitarian relief work, but it is not enough! It does not reach down to man's greatest need!

If you support humanitarian relief, you should do it with someone who is going to give them the **GOSPEL** at the same time! (e.g. *Our missionaries to Egypt, South Africa, Puerto Rico, and other places*)

3. The GOSPEL Is What We MUST Be About! (1 Corinthians 9:16-18)

How wrong would it be for us to hold the cure to cancer or some other deadly disease and not share it with those who are dying from it?

How much more wrong is it **NOT** to help get the **GOSPEL** to a lost and dying world.

MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CONVICTION!

The Conviction That All Who Are Without Christ Are Lost!

MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CURE!

Only The Gospel Can Save Those Who Are Lost!

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

- III. MISSIONS IS ABOUT A COMPASSION!**
It Is About Having The Compassion Of Christ!
- A. The BIBLE Shows That CHRIST Was FULL OF COMPASSION! (*Matthew 9:36-38*)**
- B. The BIBLE Says That Our GOD Is A GOD Who Is Full Of COMPASSION!**
Psalms 86:15–“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”
- John 3:16– “For God so loved the world...”*
- C. The Bible Says That We Should Be Full Of Compassion!**
1 John 3:17-18–“17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”
- If that be true with regard to **this world's goods** which are temporal, how much more is it true about the **GOSPEL** which is **ETERNAL!**
- Jude 1:22–“And of some have compassion, making a difference:”*
- If one has little heart for the lost, then he heart for the Saviour.”*
- MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CONVICTION!*
The Conviction That All Who Are Without Christ Are Lost!
MISSIONS IS ABOUT A CURE!
Only The Gospel Can Save Those Who Are Lost!
MISSIONS IS ABOUT A COMPASSION!

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

- IV. MISSIONS IS ABOUT A COMMAND! (*Acts 1:8*)**
Every Christian Is Responsible To Take The Gospel To The Lost. (*Acts 8:1, 4*).
- A. You Are Either A Missionary Or A Mission Field!**
- B. It Is Not Just The Preacher's Job!**
- C. It Is Not An Optional thing!**
You may say, "*But, it's against my nature!*" Yes, and it's against mine too...the **OLD NATURE!**
- V. MISSIONS IS ABOUT A COMPLIANCE!**
Making Ourselves Available To Go After The Lost.
Isaiah 6:8–“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”
- A. We Need To Go With Our PERSON!**
We Need People To Become Personally Involved Here.
- Many people think that **GOD** can't use them where they are, but **HE CAN!**
- B. We Need To Go With Our PRAYERS!**
Paul said, "*Brethren, pray for us...*"
- C. We Need To Go With Our POCKETBOOK!**
- 1. The TITHE is OBEDIENT GIVING!**
(It is commanded!)
 - 2. The OFFERING is LOVE GIVING!**
(We prove the sincerity of our **LOVE!**)
 - 3. FAITH PROMISE MISSION GIVING is FAITH GIVING! (Trusting God to give through you!)**

MISSIONS
WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?
ACTS 1:8; ACTS 13:1-5

Conclusion

So, the question is are we a part of the problem or the solution?

Are we willing to help get the **GOSPEL** to some area of the world where **CHRIST** needs to be **PREACHED?** How about here at home?

WHAT IS MISSIONS ALL ABOUT?:

A CONVICTION—*The Conviction That All Who Are Without Christ
Are Lost!*

A CURE—*Only The Gospel Can Save Those Who Are Lost!*

A COMPASSION—*It Is About Having The Compassion Of Christ!*

A COMMAND—*Every Christian Is Responsible To Take The Gospel
To The Lost!*

A COMPLIANCE—*Making Ourselves Available To Go After The Lost!*