

## BF&M 11: EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

**Memory Verses:** *"For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'" Romans 10:13-15*

It is appropriate that the consideration of evangelism and missions follows immediately after the kingdom of God (Article 9) and last things (Article 10). As the BF&M affirms, the kingdom includes "His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King." In our study of last things, we observed that the eternal bliss of communion with Christ awaits those who, in this life, willfully acknowledge Christ and King. On the other hand, eternal judgment, punishment, and torment await those who do not acknowledge Christ. The task of evangelism & missions then follows. In evangelism we point others to Christ and his kingdom, in part, because of the eternal consequences both for those who do and those who do not turn to and trust Christ.

The BF&M states that *"It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ."*

### Every Believer and Every Church

Evangelism, discipleship, and missions are both individual and corporate responsibilities. That is, both individual believers and churches have the duty and privilege to make disciples of nations. Just before his ascension, Christ commissioned his disciples to r\_\_\_\_\_ themselves, **Matt 28:18-20**. One aspect of this task is "teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This task does not fall to a class of "spiritual elite." All who have been saved by God's grace should be p\_\_\_\_\_ to share the good news of Christ, **1 Pet 3:15**. God does gift and call certain individuals to d\_\_\_\_\_ their lives to this task (**Eph 4:11; Acts 21:8**), but all believers have been commissioned to share.

Every church also bears a responsibility in this task. The story of the early church was one of growth and expansion through the proclamation of the gospel leading to the c\_\_\_\_\_ of s\_\_\_\_\_, **Acts 1:8; 2:47; 6:7; 14:1**. At the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas on their m\_\_\_\_\_ journey, **Acts 13:2-3**. Paul commended the

Thessalonian church for the way the word of God went out from them, **1 Thess 1:8**. He praised the Philippians for their partnership in the g\_\_\_\_\_, **Phil 1:3-5**. He was grateful for the g\_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel among the Colossians, **Col 1:3-6**. A New Testament church is an evangelistic, disciple-making church.

### **The Necessity of Verbal Witness**

Missions can be defined as “the church’s God-given responsibility to bring God’s love and the Christian gospel to all people through evangelism, education, and ministry.” Historically, this task has involved addressing both s\_\_\_\_\_ needs and p\_\_\_\_\_ needs (hospitals and healthcare, agricultural training, clean water, schools, orphanages, ESL, etc.). In part, physical ministry is intended to open doors for spiritual ministry. Likewise, the way we live our lives should open doors to s\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel, **Phil 1:27; 1 Pet 3:15-17; Matt 5:14-16**.

Our previous studies on man (Article 3), salvation (Article 4), and God’s purpose of grace (Article 5) examined what we believe about our s\_\_\_\_\_, from God, our need of a S\_\_\_\_\_, and the necessity of a personal r\_\_\_\_\_ (repentance and faith) to who Christ is and what he has done. There is a message that must be h\_\_\_\_\_, **Rom 10:17**. There is a message that must be t\_\_\_\_\_, **1 Cor 15:1-5, Rom 10:9-10**. Therefore, we must g\_\_\_\_\_ and t\_\_\_\_\_, **Rom 10:13-15, Matt 9:37-38**. In his grace, God uses our speaking the truth to bring new life, **1 Cor 3:6-7**.

### **The Borderless Task**

The need for the gospel is not restricted by a\_\_\_\_\_ or social s\_\_\_\_\_. **Joel 2:28-29**. The need for the gospel is not restricted by g\_\_\_\_\_ or n\_\_\_\_\_, **Gal 3:27-28**. The vision of heaven in Revelation includes the redeemed from around the w\_\_\_\_\_, **Rev 7:9-10**. Our Lord has given us a borderless task, **Matt 24:14; 28:18-20**. We live in a time when this challenge is more accessible than ever. How will we respond?

### **How Have Baptists (especially Southern Baptists) Responded?**

- Andrew Fuller, William Carey, and the “Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Heathens” (1792)
- William Carey, English missionary to India (1793-1834)
- Adoniram & Ann Judson, Luther Rice, and American Baptist support (1813ff.)

- Establishment of the Southern Baptist Convention (1845) – “organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel”
  - Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board
  - Domestic (Home) Mission Board, now the North American Mission Board
- The Women’s Missionary Union (1888)
  - “Educate and involve women, girls, and preschoolers in the cause of Christian missions”
  - Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
  - Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- The Cooperative Program (1927)
- Currently the IMB has ~5,200 field missionaries, the NAMB has ~5,300 field missionaries
- The Great Commission Resurgence (2009-2010)
  - "concerning how Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission."
  - Great Commission obedience is not primarily a denominational or agency issue. Such obedience is a church issue, a family issue, and an individual issue.