

God's Co-Mission

What is God's Mission?

The Mission of God by Christopher J. H. Wright*: "The Bible presents to us a portrait of God that is unquestionably purposeful. The God who walks the paths of history through the pages of the Bible pins [God's] mission statement to every signpost along the way. ... Christ crucified and risen is the key to all history, for he is the one who accomplished the mission of God for all creation."

The fact that God's Great Co-Mission is a common thread throughout Scripture tells us:

- *every* believer is an equal participant.
- *no one nation* or generation will be able to complete the job on their own.

*pg. 23/*The Mission of God*/Intervarsity Press/2006

Reviewing the video's "signposts" of God's mission in Scriptures:

Genesis 12:2-4a

*I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, **and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...***

- ...all the families of the earth (not just a few) were to be blessed through Abram
- ~ Abram followed the guidance of the Lord. He and the families of the earth were blessed as he trusted the promise

Psalm 2: 7,8

The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

- Jesus is promised the heritage of the nations of the earth

Psalm 86:9-13

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your Name. For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Here we see the "multiplication" effect of disciples – of all nations. Obviously the eleven could not possibly reach every person in every nation, the job was assigned to every believer.
- No one person, nation or generation would be able to complete the job on their own. Jesus calls us to work together in love. (John 13:35 *By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*)
- Jesus promised to *always* be with them in this task being assigned

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Never mind *our* mission to have power and be part of a grand kingdom on earth. Jesus invites us to a more meaningful grand assignment.
- We don't need to be professional clergy or have special education. The Holy Spirit will give us the needed power to be witnesses in our local communities, to our countries, to those on the fringes of society ("Samaria" is sometimes defined as those we wouldn't normally associate with) and to all the nations.
- There is not an option of one place and not another – we are to be witnesses wherever God sends us.

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- All believers have been adopted as equals into the same family of God.

Revelation 7: 9-12

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

- The results of God's mission are for His glory, not ours

In summary:

Envisioned Success: Revelation 7:9/10

Arrival at Destination

Mission is complete; Jesus is praised

Mission: Reaching the Unreached

Vehicle: The Great Commission

Cyclist: The Bride of Christ; the Church

Powered by: The Holy Spirit

Here are some questions that have been helpful to others. Choose which might be helpful for you to prayerfully think through and discuss with others.

1. Is the front wheel of your ministry allowed to steer toward its God-given destination?
2. Is the front wheel being prepared for becoming a “back wheel”?
3. Is there an “exit strategy” for the back wheel of your ministry before it breaks down?

On the Faith Reliance website, www.twr.org/faith-reliance, you can see a list of books, videos and articles pertinent to this first step we’ve taken together regarding Faith Reliance in ministry. Under, “Community” – post a question or comment and participate in the global conversation.

Any comments, questions or critiques are welcome at faith-reliance@twr.org