



DECONSTRUCTING MISSIONS

MATTHEW 9:35-38

Deconstructing Missions

- Missions has always been a significant part of church history
- Matthew 28:18-20, Acts, 1:8, John 20:21

Missions Misunderstood

- Missions and missional living have become buzz words in the church
- We want to examine the idea of missions to gain a greater understanding of God's heart for missions
- Deconstruct - ,dē-kən-'strəkt - to take apart or examine (something) in order to reveal the basis or composition often with the intention of exposing biases, flaws, or inconsistencies

Two Basic Flaws in How We View Missions

1. We minimize or reduce missions
2. We make missions the ultimate point of the church

1. Minimized Missions

- An imposition
- Somewhere else
- A summer trip or project
- Sending money
- Poor communication of good missional opportunities

2. Overemphasized Missions

- Missions is the ultimate goal of the people or the church

The Worship of God is Ultimate—Not Missions

- **John Piper:** “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 faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporal necessity. But worship abides forever.”

Establishing a Groundwork for Worship

- God is Eternal
- God is the creator

Why Did God Create Everything?

- Did He create us for our own good?
- Colossians 1:15–17 ESV
 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- It is all about the Lord and it is all for the Lord
- Building on a foundation of Worship

The Biblical Mandate for Missions

- John Stott: “Biblical Christians need biblical incentives. For we believe the Bible to be the revelation of God and of His will. So we ask: has He revealed in Scripture that “mission” is His will for His people? Only then shall we be satisfied. For then it becomes a matter of obeying God, whatever others may think or say.”
- So what is this Biblical incentive or mandate? And who does this mandate apply to?

The Great Commission

- Matthew 28:18-20 ESV
 - 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- Jesus' statements break down into three basic components.
 - His authority
 - His command
 - His encouragement

All Authority

- Two facets of this for us:
 - Do not worry because He has complete authority
 - Obey Him because He has complete authority
 - Both of these are reminders that He is worthy of our total praise

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"...I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- He will never leave us—and He isn't sending us somewhere that he is unwilling to go.

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Worship Precedes the Mission

- Matthew 28:16-17 ESV
 - 16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.

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Building Our Missional Philosophy

- We must build on the proper foundation with the proper goal in mind.
- Why Jenny Lane?
- Why Penitas?
- Why Uganda?
- Why your ONE?
- We want to see the worship of Christ expanded into hearts of those who do not know Him.
- We go, and we make disciples, and we baptize people, and we teach them to observe the commands of Christ—not because missions is our ultimate goal, but because the Worship of the Lord is...

