

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*

5311 Windridge Lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Missions**Lesson 20**

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**"What is Missions and What is its Significance
In my Christian Life"**

Missions is the heartbeat of GOD. Without missions there would be no redemption for mankind; man would be lost and undone. Without missions there would be no local church. It is the responsibility of the church and the individual believer to further the Kingdom of GOD through Missions.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint the new Christian with the what and how of missions so that he can understand what his responsibility is and what he can do to further God's purposes in this world.

I. The Message - What Is Missions?

- A. Too often we make Missions much too complicated by naming it Missiology or worshipping at the shrine of the "new" and the "current."

Missions is ... the Lord burdening my heart for a young man Robert who got saved and got a burden for his sister. His sister got saved and got a burden for her cousin who got saved and the chain continues on.

Missions is nothing more than one nobody telling another nobody about Somebody who can save anybody.

Missions is an unbroken chain of burdens for our lost friends, friend reaching friend for Christ.

- B. Missions is the heartbeat of God ... *"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 "(John 3.16).*
- C. Missions is a ministry of reconciliation ... *" And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (II Cor 5:18-20)*
- D. Missions is evangelism.

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- E. Missions is discipleship ... *'And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also' (II Timothy 2.2)..*
- F. Missions is church planting-believers reproducing believers, churches reproducing churches.

II. The Mandate

- A. It is a command, and we owe God our allegiance.
The LORD JESUS CHRIST said, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16.15).*
"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20 21).
- B. We have the disciples in the Bible as our example. *" Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*
As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister." (Acts 13:1-5)
- C. Out of love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has done for us that constrains and motivates us to tell others about Him(cf. II Cor 5:14,15).

- D. There are rewards for faithful service.

The apostle Paul said that it was necessary for him to preach the gospel and that he would receive a reward for doing so willingly (I Cor. 9:16,17)

There is great joy and a crown to be received for having a part in bringing others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 2:19)

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III. The Messenger - Who Has Been And Should Be Committed To Missions?

- A. Adam was the first missionary, and his charge was to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth ... (Gen 1:27,28). Noah was given the same mandate after the flood (cf. Gen 9:1).
- B. In Abraham we see God begin to unfold His plan of redemption.
- 1) Abraham received a divine call (Gen 12) and received the promise: *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"* (verses 2,3).

God was saying, "Follow Me and I will make you a fisher of men" (cf. Matt 4:19; Mark 1:17)

God was reaching down to man with a worldwide purpose.

- 2) Abraham influenced the surrounding nations (Gen 14).
 - 3) Abraham persisted in intercession for the heathen (Gen 18).
- C. The nation of Israel had a threefold purpose in God's plan of redemption.
- 1) Recipient of God's revelation to the world (Heb 1:1-3).
 - 2) Channel through whom the Redeemer would come (Matt 1:1; Gen 49:10; Rom 1:3).
 - 3) Witness in the midst of the nations (Isaiah 44:1,2; 43:10).
- D. The prophet Jonah was called to be God's missionary to the Ninevites in the book called by his name. Obadiah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were prophets also called to be missionaries in the Old Testament.
- E. The consummation of God's redemption and the greatest missionary to ever live was God Himself in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved"* (John 3:17). *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10 cf Matt 18: 11).

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See I John 2:2; 4:14.

- F. Five things about a missionary as seen in Paul the Apostle.
- 1) Called by the Holy Ghost through the local church - Acts 13:1-3. Missionaries have a home church that they:
 - a) Go out from,
 - b) Report to
 - 2) Starts local churches wherever they go.
 - 3) His message is primarily "According to the scriptures" (I Cor 15:3,4) Paul depended on the word of God.
 - 4) Watch care of the churches.
 - 5) Gives his life.
- G. God calls families like yours, from churches like yours, to be missionaries to the uttermost parts of the world.
- H. However, not everyone is called to go to Africa, China, or some other remote and isolated land, but everyone can and should be involved with and committed to missions; after all it is the heartbeat of God.
- God would have us be as Abraham a blessing to those around us, influencing them for the cause of Christ.
- God wants us - our time, our talents (abilities), and our treasures (money). Be a missionary right where you live. You will never be a missionary to Zaire until you can be a missionary right where you are, reaching out to the souls of men, women, and children you come in contact with every day.
- You can be involved and committed by supporting other Christians who have gone to foreign fields with your prayers and finances. There will be fruit that abounds to your account (see Phil 4:16,17).

IV. The Method - The How, Where, and When of Missions

- A. Missions is a direct outreach of the local church. Paul and Barnabas were sent out from the local church, and they reported back to that local church in Antioch - responsibility and accountability (Acts 13:1-5; 14:25-27).
It is the responsibility of the church to send and support; it is the responsibility of the missionary to go, show, and report.
- B. The goal of missions is church planting we have the example of our Master's plan to follow.

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- 1) Evangelism-"Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God..." (Mark 1:14,15).
We need to proclaim the gospel to people who do not know it, using all available appropriate means.
 - 2) Discipleship - Jesus took twelve men "that they should be with him (for training) and that He might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14).
 - 3) Partnership - Knowing that He would not always be with them, Jesus' next step was to put His disciples to work as partners with Him. They did as He did and they all rejoiced together (Mark 6:7,12,30).
 - 4) Full responsibility - The time came when the Master put the responsibility for His ministry into the hands of His disciples. He continued to work with them through the Holy Spirit, but they became responsible for the work that He had begun (Mark 16:14-20).
- C. The sending church, the local church such as your church, must uphold the missionary and his work in prayer and support him financially that the work may continue.
- 1) Prayer for laborers - Matt. 9:37, 38.
 - 2) Prayer for Holy Ghost power - I Thess. 1:5; Eph. 6:18,19.
- D. When and Where?

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."

Be a missionary every day. Tell the world that Jesus is the way in Africa, China, or wherever you may stay, be a missionary, be a missionary, be a missionary every day.

notes

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Missions

Lesson 20

Name _____

1. Missions is the heartbeat of God. What well known scripture verse demonstrates this and briefly explain how.
2. How is missions an unbroken chain of burdens?
3. How in each instance does Israel's threefold purpose in God's plan of redemption relate to us today?
 - a. God's revelation
 - b. God's channel
 - c. God's witness
4. In what ways does God want us to be like Abraham?
5. What are five things we learn from the Apostle Paul about missionaries?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
6. What are the responsibilities of the local church in missions?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
7. What are the responsibilities of the missionary in missions?

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- a.
- b.
- c.
8. The goal of Missions is _____; _____ reproducing _____ and _____ reproducing _____.
9. What are the four steps of missions?
- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
10. In what three ways can you be involved and committed to missions?
- a.
- b.
- c.
11. Briefly explain the purpose of this lesson.

Key Memory Verses (write these on the back page) John 3:16,17;
 Luke 19:10; Matthew 9:37,38

True/False

1. The church and her social programs and not missions is what is important to God.
2. Missions is the responsibility of those individuals that God has called to be missionaries.
3. The primary responsibility of missions is to meet the physical and social needs of third world countries.

Write any questions you may have concerning this lesson or any other