

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Missio Dei's Mission

Selected Passages

Keywords: gospel, God, Missions, Bible, Church, Membership

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: With the launch of a second campus it is important that those who come to Missio and those who have been part of it for a long time be reminded of our purpose. If we fail here then we fade into the woodwork and become something other than our God-given purpose to bring the gospel to a dark world and glory to God.

I. Introduction.

A. Our History.

1. It is a new day for Missio Dei Fellowship with the launching of our new campus. By the grace of God it will take root and begin to flourish over time.
2. But to do this requires us all to remember who we are and why we do what we do.
3. In September, 2009 Missio Dei Fellowship came into being.
4. We have seen many changes over these years and so much of it has been encouraging and a cause for joy.
5. Our mission statement is on every page of the sermon notes I create: "We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ."

B. But there are certain things that can never change. If you are new to Missio then these next several sermons will help you understand us better.

1. We must remain God-focused.
2. We must remain gospel-centered.
3. We must remain Word-bound.
4. We must remain Church-committed.

II. What can never change.

A. We must remain God-focused.

1. To lose this is to lose everything.

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2. The **triune** God is why we exist.
 - a. It is important that you heard that word, “triune.” We worship one God who is three persons.
 - b. The Bible says we are called to fear Him, love Him, obey Him and follow Him.
 - c. The Bible says He is to be our delight and our joy.
 - d. The Bible says in Him we live and breath and in Him we find eternal life.
 - e. The Bible says He is our Creator and He is our sustainer.
 - f. The Bible says He is mysterious and yet He is knowable.
 - g. The Bible says He is far and yet near.
 - h. The Bible says He is God and there is none other.
3. Malachi 1:6-14 is a good place to start here. As you read this don’t merely think about the Old Testament sacrifices and terms. Think about how this is so true of us too often when we are called to honor our Lord.
 - a. Note the way God has so strongly expressed His offended heart. He alone is God and yet the very people He has shown so much grace to has become very careless with their worship of Him.
 - b. “Hosts” is a reference to the myriads of angels that obey Him. At His beck and call are creatures that are beyond our comprehension.
 - c. The heavens and earth are His and His alone.
 - d. And somehow the people have lost that focus while not losing focus of the traditions of worship.
 - e. And so they offer animals with the stench of disease and broken limbs. The weak and the sick, are the sweet offerings to the Lord of Hosts.
 - f. Let us never do this.
4. We must go beyond the mere abstract theology of God and contemplate the person of God.
 - a. That can be frightening for some and even troubling as you find He is often not at all like the simple, tame god we hear from people.

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- b. For as Romans 11 says, Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
 - c. The depths of God, depths beyond comprehension. This does not mean He is unknowable, for He has made Himself known to us. But it does mean we will not be able to fully grasp Him.
 - d. The call of the bible is to relentlessly pursue knowing God, all the while being content to be lost in His sheer majesty.
5. How then shall we fathom God? How shall we plumb the depths of God? Two ways:
- a. Jesus Christ:
 - (1) John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
 - (2) John 1:18, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.”
 - (3) The bible says that in Jesus Christ the fulness of deity dwells.
 - b. The Holy Spirit:
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, “For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”
 - (2) Ephesians 3:14-19, show logic of passage and the essential “hiddenness” of God apart from His own work in us.
 - (3) May we seek the fulness of the Spirit in our lives that we might begin to know the unknowable.
- B. Second, we must remain gospel-centered.

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1. Without the gospel, we cease to be a church. We become many things at that point, but not a church.
2. And this point is so closely connected with remaining intensely God focused.
3. As one man so wonderfully put it, God is the Gospel.
 - a. The joy and glory of the good news is that in it we find God.
 - b. God removes the barriers that prevent us from seeing Him and His gloriousness and majesty.
 - c. This is to be our heart cry—that our friends, family and co-workers might finally give honor and thanks to their God.
 - d. But how does this happen? Through the work of Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection.
 - (1) On the Cross He poured out His wrath upon His Son rather than Us, that we might be His children.
 - (2) In His resurrection He destroys death (as the old theologian John Owen describes it, “The death of death in the death of Christ.”) and brings us into the fulness of true, eternal life.
 - e. The gospel bids us to come, see and believe in God.
 - f. And when we believe, we are given a task to take that gospel to others. It is the reality that all Christians here are missionaries.
4. Gospel to those around us.
 - a. Local.
 - b. Relational.
 - c. Intentional.
5. Gospel to the world.
 - a. We must always keep a vision of the unreached peoples who have not heard.
 - b. It is a missionary gospel. One that engages rather than retreats from people.
 - c. May we make Psalm 67 our constant heart cry.

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God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us—That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For You will judge the peoples with uprightness And guide the nations on the earth. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us, That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.”

6. Gospel to our own hearts.
 - a. Ever must we wash our own souls in the gospel promises.
 - b. Satan is our adversary and he seeks to take our eyes off of what God has promised in the gospel.
 - c. And when Satan succeeds, we are frozen in discouragement or in self-righteousness.
 - d. But where the gospel is present, hope and power resides.

C. Third, we must remain Word-bound.

1. If we are to be God-focused and Gospel-centered then it requires that we be Word-bound.
2. Matt Miller is going to bring us some sermons on the necessity of being a people of the Word of God so I will be very brief here.
3. And in a world that is constantly changing, we can stand upon the unshakable certainty of God’s Word— Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
 - a. We either believe this or not. Frankly there is no middle ground.
 - b. This is why I pressed so hard last week regarding believing the resurrection. It is true or not. If true then we have infinite hope. If it is a lie then every Christian is to be pitied.
4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
5. 1 Peter 2:1-2, “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”
 - a. Vs 1 must first begin to occur for vs 2 to take place.

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- b. We must be a people who make careful, considered decisions to put away certain things that are simply unacceptable in the Word of God.
 - c. But also make a careful note **how** God has chosen to have you grow as a Christian. No tricks and no secrets. Just a faithful intake of the Word of God.
6. John 8:31-32—it is a key mark of true faith. “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”
7. And Psalm 19 reminds us that the bible is how a person heart is changed and how a simple person is made wise.
- D. Finally, we must remain Church-committed.
- 1. Salvation is not something that is vague or individual.
 - 2. In Acts 2 Peter is preaching to the people of Jerusalem.
 - a. He is calling them to turn from their self-righteousness, from their rejection of Jesus as the promised Lord and Messiah, and to be saved.
 - b. He is brutally blunt in this sermon. It is not designed to attract but to confront. It is not a conversation; rather, it is a dividing line.
 - c. Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
 - d. **Added to what?** To the church. True membership flows from faith, to baptism, to membership.
 - 3. To think you can be a Christian but be apart from the church is simply an impossibility. For the church is the body of Jesus.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:13 tells us that a true Christian is brought into the Church through the Holy Spirit.
 - b. But it is also important to note that of the vast majority of passage referencing the Church, it is almost always the local church in focus.

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- c. It is a foreign idea to be a Christian and not become a part of the local church in your area.
 - d. The vast majority of commands and responsibilities given in the New Testament are corporate in nature rather than individual.
 - e. Hebrews 13:17 makes it hard to justify being apart from a local church when it commands you and I to obey our church leaders and let them watch over our souls.
 - f. Acts 20:28 commands the leaders of local churches to guard the people in the churches from false teachers.
 - g. 1 Peter 5:1-2 commands the leaders of local churches to be examples to the people so that they can follow their lead.
4. These and many others show that the local church was clearly defined with a membership.
 - a. They had the ability to know who belonged where, who were the “flock” that needed shepherding, who were the elders who were to be followed and obeyed.
 - b. It is interesting that often when Christians would travel to another city they would carry a letter of recommendation and introduction (*cf.* Acts 18:27).
 5. At Missio Dei we welcome people to come, visit and hear.
 - a. But make no mistake, we want to move those who come and settle here to move beyond mere attendance and into membership.
 - b. And as we do this we want you to buy into these non-negotiables as they are central to a faithful church.

III. Conclusion.

- A. To the degree that Missio Dei remains committed to these points, it shall prosper however the Lord ordains.
- B. To the degree that you commit yourself to Missio Dei, you will prosper.
 1. My counsel to any Christian is simple, find a solid church, built upon the principles I have just laid out, and join it.
 2. Roll up your sleeves and seek ways to serve.

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3. Battle against the temptation to merely listen and rest.
 4. Contemplate long and hard what it means to consider others as more important than yourself.
 5. Look at your leaders and consider how you are baring your soul to them, how you are submitting to them, how you are honoring them.
 6. Be a man or woman of the bible. Open your bibles at church. Read your bibles during the sermons. Mark in your bibles, make them your own.
- C. My prayer is that Missio Dei shall be a true light to this community.
1. That we will meld emotion and knowledge into a shout of praise to God.
 2. That our hearts shall sing for joy and shall weep for those outside of Jesus Christ.
 3. That God is made much of and we are made little of.
 4. And in doing so, that we will relentlessly pursue the mission of God.

Community Group Questions

1. Share resolutions you may have made this year regarding your Christian life? How do they fit within the mission of MDF?
2. Of the main points in this message, which is the one that you need the most help in and why? How can your CG help you?
3. Spend time as a group praying for each main point of the sermon on behalf of your CG and Missio Dei. Think through how to pray before doing so. You may want to break up into 4 groups and as a group work out a written prayer that one will actually pray on behalf of the group. If you do this, make sure not to let a strong personality inadvertently take it over. It is a group effort.