

Greenforest Community Baptist Church

3250 Rainbow Drive / Decatur, GA 30034

Pastor Emory Berry, Jr.

January Bible Study (1/6/21)

I. Scriptures to support Global Missions

- a) Matthew 25:32 – “And before him shall be gathered all *nations*: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats”
- b) Matthew 28:19 – “Go ye therefore, and teach all *nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”
- c) John 3:16 – “For God so loved the **world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life”
- d) John 17:18 – “As you sent me into the **world**, I have sent them into the world.”
- e) 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.*”

II. Common reasons & excuses people give for not participating in Missions

1. We send money so we do not have to go
2. We have people who do the work for us
3. Jesus was not serious about everybody going
4. There is plenty of need right here in the U.S.
5. I do not have the time, money, or interest in it
6. That is not my calling or purpose in life
7. I have never been taught about missions

III. Going Global with the Gospel helps us:

1. Remain committed to Jesus’ commandment
2. Reach lost souls in Jesus’ name
3. Remind people to repent for their sins
4. Reclaim backsliders who have strayed from God
5. Release the love and word of God
6. Relieve the suffering of others
7. Relay the gospel in new places

IV. It could be said that our Christianity is...

Incomplete and Insufficient when we do live out the Great Commission

Delinquent and Negligent when we fail to witness for Christ at home and abroad

Myopic and Shortsighted if we are only concerned about our own salvation

V. History of the Book of ACTS

1. Continuation of the Gospel of Luke
2. Chronicles the ministry, message, and missionary journey of the apostle
3. Captures the impact that can be made when the Holy Spirit working in our lives

VI. History of the Writer – LUKE

1. Occupation was a physician
2. Only Gentile writer in the New Testament
3. Outspoken about Jesus ministry to women, weak, and wicked.

VII. Understanding the 3 MOVEMENTS of this passage:

1. Inward look – The Holy Spirit working in us.
2. Outward look – Witnessing with others for Kingdom building.
3. Onward look – Start reaching other at home and abroad.

Going Global Beyond the Boundaries:

The Role of the Black Church in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ

By: Carl F. Ellis, Jr.

Introduction

“My six weeks in South Africa were eye opening to say the least. The kinship I felt with my African Christian brothers and sisters was unmistakable and powerful. Countless times I was asked, “why haven’t more African Americans come to help us?” This South African experience melted my heart about missions overseas and completed my journey toward being a global Christian.”

Ch.1 – Unashamed of the Gospel

In His Image

“Black is beautiful, and African Americans are magnificent in their variety. Our Afrocentrism is a uniquely valuable culture. Our Afrocentrism is a uniquely valuable cultural expression. However, as Christians, we realize the beauty of our ethnicity is rooted in the understanding that we are in God’s image. It is the truth of God’s revelation that protects us from adopting a negatively distorted self-image.” (5)

African American Theology

“Western theology, as we know it, developed under the challenge of disbelieving philosophy science...African American theology, on the other hand, developed under the challenge of oppressive slavery and racism.” (6)

“For example, during slavery African-American were not allowed to read. However, it is evident that we developed a remarkable ability to transform the basic truths of the Bible into oral form. Therefore, what developed in our experience was an oral tradition that carried much of the biblical truth that sustained us for many years.” (7)

God-Breathed

“The Word of God speaks to every cultural and historical situation. It gives us a transcendent reference point to reflect upon our circumstances and ourselves. There is no life situation whose pattern is not already revealed in the Bible.” (8)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is, by God’s plan, universal in nature (John 3:16-17). God has called His church to penetrate every culture, and every language with the Good news of the kingdom of God.” (8)

Preaching and Practicing the Whole Counsel of God

“For example, many in the American church have places so much emphasis on Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior that we have forgotten that He is also Lord and Savior in the broader sense. As a result we have migrated into preaching a private salvation as opposed to a holistic salvation.” (9)

“There are times when a mere revival is inadequate. Personally, I believe we have gone beyond the need for a revival. What we really need today is reformation, a true reformation that not only bridges the gaps, but also restores our focus on the whole counsel of God.” (9)

Sharing the Gospel

“The Gospel is the Good News that God, through Jesus Christ, has provided the solution to the human problem of unrighteousness. By the sacrificial of His Son and the gift of His Spirit, God has provided deliverance from His wrath and is developing in His people the will and the power to pursue His righteousness. (10)

Gospel of the Gap only covers the higher issues like the meaning in life, eternal life, peace of mind, and those things that system cannot produce. We allow the system to deliver the basic needs like food, shelter, roads, etc. But when we limit, or reduce, the Gospel to address only life’s spiritual issues and allow the system to deliver the basic, in the middle we will have unaddressed cultural issues and needs. (11)