

Paul's Model: Mission Fields to Missions Forces / Rom. 15:19-23

Outposts Sunday School Class, CMC, Summer '25

Two Priorities in Paul's mission: *Planting Healthy Churches and Pioneering Unreached Fields*

A) PLANTING HEALTHY CHURCHES

- Acts chapters 13-14, first missionary journey model
 - o Going to new cities.
 - o Preaching the Gospel (evangelism).
 - o Gathering the converts into churches.
 - o Teaching them (obeying the Great Commission).
 - o Establishing elders.
- Key Verse: Acts 14:23 "...they appointed elders in every church..."
 - o **MATURITY IS THE GOAL OF MISSIONS¹**
 1. Maturity is goal of Christ's great commission (Matt. 28:19-20).
 2. Maturity is the goal of the Church's ministry effort (Eph. 4:11-16)
 3. Maturity is the goal of Paul's missionary practice (Col. 1:25-29; 1 Thess. 3:1-8; Phil. 2:19-30; Gal. 4:19; 1 Thess. 2:17-20; Phil. 1:9-11; Phil. 1:21-25).

B) PIONEERING UNREACHED FIELDS (ROM. 15:20)

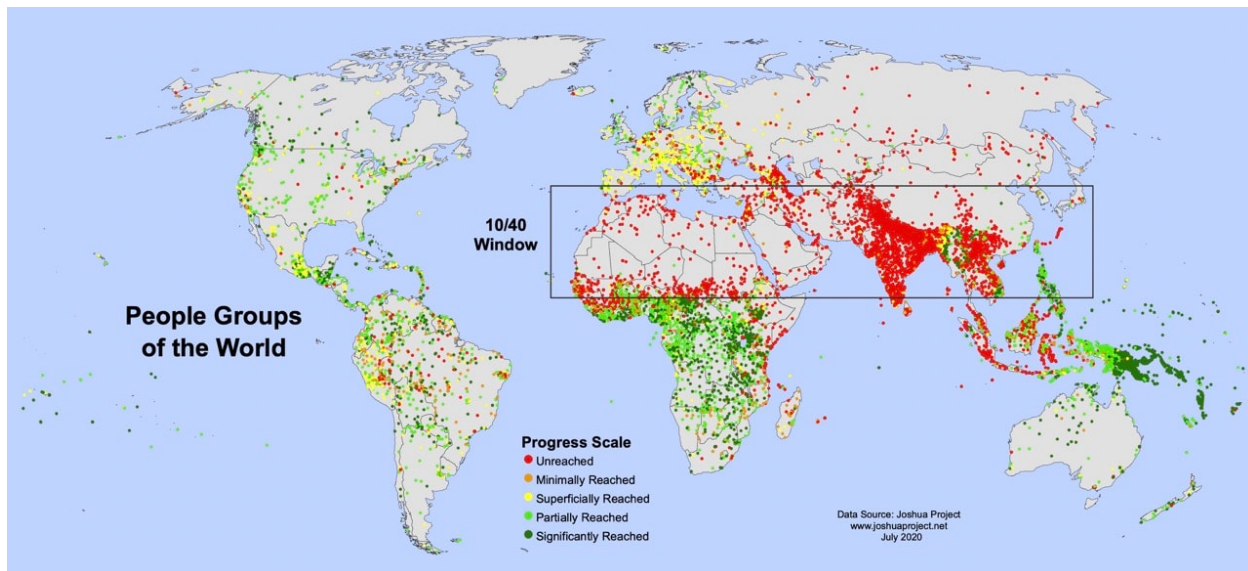
Three Categories of Mission Fields:

- a) **Missionary *Sending* Fields (Reached):** *there is a viable movement of biblical, healthy, indigenous church planting (it has become a missionary sending force).*
- b) **Missionary *Dependent* Fields (Unfinished):** *The work has started, but still no viable movement of biblical, healthy, indigenous church planting (still a missionary dependent field).*
- c) **Missionary *Absent* Fields (Unreached):** *there is effectively no access to the proclamation of the Gospel.*

Models of NT "missionary types":

- a) **Paul type:** *pioneering, planting, and pastoral ministry. Staying as long as needed for a church to reach maturity with training and established elders and then moving to a new location. (e.g. Acts 14:21-28).*
- b) **Timothy type:** *a foreigner sent to Ephesus to do pastoral ministry and training of men. Staying in place for lifelong shepherding ministry and training up of qualified men (e.g. 2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2:2).*
- c) **Epaphroditus type:** *support ministry. A qualified churchman capable of being sent to strengthen churches (e.g. Phil. 2:25-30).*

¹ Adapted from Bob Whitney, class lectures given at The Expositors Seminary, Spring 2024.



The 10/40 Window

- The Expanse between 10° N to 40° N latitude
- Covers parts of **northern Africa, the Middle East, and Asia**
- Home to the **majority of the world's population** (over 5 billion people)
- Dominated by **Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and atheism**
- A high concentration of unengaged people groups, little to no access to missionaries or the Gospel.