

Neighbors & Nations: Made to Worship

Made to Praise

Psalms 96:1-13

Missions. A fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith is that we are a missionary people. But, that word can & has meant a great deal of different things throughout church history & calls to mind various ideas even today. While the Bible has much to say on the subject, some hear missions & brace for a guilt trip, or they think in business terms of marketing & expansion. Others hear “missions” and they think of arguing someone out of their beliefs and into our own. But what is it, exactly? And, how do we embrace it?

The Great Commission

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Mission is essentially glorifying God by helping people step into the flourishing that can only come as they exist according to God’s design for their lives. God is glorified and people flourish as we go make disciples!

“Missions are not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist 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...Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It’s the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory.” **John Piper**

Main Idea: For God’s Glory & Their Good, We Declare His Splendor Among Our Neighbors & Nations

“Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.’ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.” **Psalms 96:1-13**

Three Elements of Praise for Those Made to Worship in Psalms 96:1-13

I. Object of Praise – Our Glorious God

This Psalm was composed & sung at a time in Israel’s history recorded in 1 Chr 16 as the Ark returned to Jerusalem signifying God’s presence & power. Everyone celebrated...even King David got so into it his wife was embarrassed.

“...his salvation...his marvelous works...For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods...the LORD made the heavens...Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary...splendor of holiness... Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!”

“Praise should be proportionate to its object, therefore let it be infinite when rendered unto the Lord. We cannot praise him too much, too often, too zealously, too carefully, to joyfully. He deserves that nothing in his worship should be little, but all the honour rendered unto him should be given in largeness of heart, with the utmost zeal for his glory.” **Charles Haddon Spurgeon (Treasury of David)**

Consider this, Is God selfish to pursue his own glory? Actually, no. God, by pursuing his own glory, upholds & demonstrates the one thing in the universe that can satisfy my soul forever. If God prioritizes or permits us to prioritize self, then he ceases to love. Love isn’t making much of us, but transforming our hearts that we can make much of God...FOREVER

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” **Psalms 16:11**

It’s all about the God who created the world, made us in his image, sent his son to redeem us from our sins, & will restore all things to himself. He’s the object of our praise! So keep the main thing the main thing, & don’t deviate! Our Glorious God!!!

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II. Essence of Praise – How it’s Done

We were made to worship and praise the Lord.

To God: *“Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name...Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!”* **Excerpts from Psalm 96**

About God: *“...tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples...tremble before him, all the earth! Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’”* **Excerpts from Psalm 96**

In Psalm 96 we see words like sing/declare/tell/ascribe/ 16x’s. These can be metaphors for praising God in non-musical ways, but there’s no way that this doesn’t ALSO MEAN SING! We sing to the Lord (vs. 2), & delight in lifting our voices.

“So if this world is a music box, gladly I’ll join in the song. Knowing creation from mountain to rock, is adding its praise right along. We lift our voices in adoration, a cadence of the redeemed. A melody of full of great anticipation of all that yet to be

seen. Hallelujah, sing we now to our king. Hallelujah, this is our offering.”

Ashley Welborn (A Sweet Hallelujah)

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Culmination of Praise – What’s Coming

There is an urgency to join in our mission to neighbors and nations.

“Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.’ ...for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.”

Psalms 96:10-13

“Why do we send out missionaries, including to places that are hostile to Christian witness, to closed countries where it is illegal to convert to Christianity? We do it... as a global invocation, a global call to worship!” **Jim Shaddix**

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I am calling on us to embrace a sound missiology rooted in the Biblical doctrine that God designed us for worship, so our Neighbors & the Nations will thrive only as they embrace a life lived for God’s glory!

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.” **2 Cor.**

4:4-5a

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Treasury of David** – Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1869)
- **Message of the Psalms** – Michael Wilcock (2001)
- **CCE: Exalting Jesus in Psalms 51-100** – Mason, Platt, & Shaddix (2020)
- **Bible Exposition Commentary** – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- **New American Commentary: Psalms 73-150** – D.J Estes (2019)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **Let the Nations Be Glad** – John Piper (1993)
- **A Sweet Hallelujah (Song)** – Ashley Welborn (2008)