

Fellowship Notes ~ Sunday, February 9th, 2020



Mission Sunday - Part 1: "God's Heart for the World"

Goals of Mission Month

- 1.) To grow a greater biblical understanding of Christ's mission and God's heart for the world so that we grow in becoming World Christians

WORLD CHRISTIAN: A person who understands God's heart for the world and who strategically lives their life in such a way that wherever they are and whatever they do, they are striving to see Him glorified among all nations.

NATIONS: In the Bible this word most often refers to ethnic people groups (not geographic locations). The words "peoples" or "Gentiles" are also used to convey this same idea.

- 2.) To cast vision showing how everyone can and must be involved in Christ's mission
- 3.) To increase awareness about the Global Discipleship Partners that our church supports

God's Heart for the World Can Be See In...

1. God's Priority – All of history is moving toward one goal: the worship of God and His Son by people from every tribe, language, and nation (Revelation 5:6-10; 7:9-10).
2. God's Plan – The Bible reveals God's plan
The Introduction: Genesis Chapters 1-11
The Story: Genesis chapter 12 – the book of Jude
The Conclusion: Revelation

The Recurring Activity of God's Plan:

God blesses His people
God gives them the responsibility to bless others
The Result: God receives the glory and His plan is fulfilled

BLESS: To be "blessed" in Scripture means we've been given the privileged responsibility of being part of God's family and inviting others to join us.

3. God's Purpose for me – I have been blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

Going Deeper

1. Get a copy of the Xplore Study our Growth Groups are using and work through the lessons on your own.
2. Take the 7 Day Challenge: Take the next week and read a sampling of Scriptures that reveal God's heart for the world as well as the biblical basis for living as a World Christian.



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The video as well as a printable manuscript of the message and this handout are available online.

Missions Month



Week 1 ~ Sunday, February 9th, 2020

“God’s Heart for the World”

(TURN TO GENESIS Chapter 1). Welcome to Missions Month. I’m so happy you’re here this morning. We actually got started last Sunday with Pastor Eddie Passmore from Mexico Caravan Ministries being with us.

I want to thank you for expressing your generosity to him. We sent him back to Mexico with a great love offering. He was really blessed and thankful and wanted me to express his appreciation to all of you.

Now we’ve set a few goals for our church family for Mission month.

(NOTES)

Goals of Mission Month

- 4.) To grow a greater biblical understanding of Christ’s mission and God’s heart for the world so that we grow in becoming World Christians

What is a “World Christian”? Well first of all, it’s not a WorldLY Christian. God doesn’t want us to be worldLY, or like the world, in the way that we live for Him. We can’t represent Christ to the world if we’re living like the world lives. Here’s a great definition...

WORLD CHRISTIAN: A person who understands God’s heart for the world and who strategically lives their life in such a way that wherever they are

and whatever they do, they are striving to see Him glorified among all nations.

A World Christian is a person who understands God's heart for the world. We'll talk more about strategic living in the coming weeks, but today I hope and pray that you'll come to a fresh understanding of God's heart for the world.

Have you ever thought about what makes God's heart beat passionately? We all have certain things or people put a spark in our heart. For some people they're passionate about a professional athlete, or a rock star, or it's doing something dangerous or exciting, or just something they love.

Let me show you what makes God's heart beat with passion and what He loves more than anything else...

SHOW GLOBE: God loves the world, specifically all the various nations of the world (explain). This morning we're going to look at why He loves the nations and what He did all throughout the Bible to show His love to all the nations of the world.

Let me give you another definition that will help shape your thinking about God's passion for the nations...

Nations: The word "nations" in the Bible most often refers to ethnic people groups (not geographic locations). The words "peoples" or "Gentiles" are also used to convey this same idea.

For example, a verse we'll look at in a few minutes, Matthew 28:19 says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all NATIONS." That Greek word nations is ethne from which we get our word ethnic.

It's referring to people of the same ethnic background – culture, language, customs, etc. In a moment I'll show you how we got all the ethnic nations of the world and why God's heart beats for all the nations of the world and wants us to make disciples of all of them.

Our second goal...

- 5.) To cast vision showing how everyone can and must be involved in Christ's mission

We're going to see that when you became a follower of Christ at salvation, your salvation was actually God recruiting you to become involved in His mission of discipling all the nations.

Your job, and my job is to continue following the Lord and discerning how to be involved, and committing ourselves to be part of His great plan of the ages.

Our third goal...

6.) To increase awareness about the Global Discipleship Partners that our church supports

PRAYER UPDATE – We provide this for you and update it every month so you can pray for these folks and these ministries. This month our focus is on the Global Discipleship Partners (pages 2-4). Take it home and pray.

And we have some of these folks who are with us this month. Last Sunday Pastor Eddie was here from Mexico. This morning we have one of our families from SE Asia that we're going to hear from. And in a couple of weeks we'll have another one of these families sharing here in our morning services.

We do this so you can hear from them and what God is doing in and through them and so you can get to know them better so you can pray for them more effectively.

So as we move forward, the place to start in understanding Christ's mission and God's heart for the world is right here in the Word of God. Let's watch this clip that provides us with a brief high-level understanding of the Bible and God's heart for the world.

Youtube Clip: "Biblical Basis of Missions / God's Heart for the Nations" (6:27)

The first thing that comes to my mind when I watch that clip is that a lot of people are misguided in how they view the Bible. We often think it's all about

us. That's a mistaken view. The Bible isn't about us. It's about Him, about His mission and His heart for the world.

WE are not the center of history. God is at the center of history – in fact that's why the record of the universe is called history, it's HIS STORY.

Now there's a couple of reasons why people - when they read and study the Bible - they don't see the Bible as God's story. In fact they miss out on the whole theme of the Bible altogether.

One reason is that we tend to be self-centered creatures, we tend to write ourselves in as the main character of the Bible.

Another reason why we miss out on seeing the Bible as God's story is that we tend to look at it from the "bottom up" instead of from the "top down". What I mean is, when we read and study the Bible we usually are doing it from OUR perspective – a human perspective.

A human view of the Bible is one of looking upward. When we read the Bible or hear it taught we ask ourselves, "What can I get out of this?" "What can MY family and friends get out of this?"

To fully understand the Bible we must learn to see God as the main character. When we begin to understand the Bible in this way then we begin to see it from a "Top Down" perspective – God's perspective.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning...God – right?" So what we need to ask is something like this: "What has God been up to since the beginning of time and what does want me to do to be a part of it?"

Let me ask you a question and see if we don't tend to have the same "bottom up", "man-centered" perspective to our thinking: Why did God save you? Just think about that for a moment.

Was it to keep you out of hell? Was it to give you a life worth living now, and an eternal inheritance in heaven? Certainly, those blessings are true for anyone who places their faith in God's Son for salvation.

But was there also a greater purpose for your salvation? I mean, what does God get out of forgiving you of your sin and making you a joint heir with His Son Jesus Christ for all of eternity? What would God's "Top Down" purpose be for you?

Could it be that God saved you and God saved me because He wants us to glorify Him with our lives like Jesus did? I'm not saying we all have to literally die on a cross.

I'm saying there's a priority that God has established for every person on planet earth. And that priority is part of the plan that He began way back in Genesis chapter 1, with creation...

And it's a plan that will culminate someday at the throne of God in heaven that we see described in the last book of the Bible, Revelation.

So what is the priority of God?

(Slide) God's Priority – All of history is moving toward one goal: the worship of God and His Son by people from every tribe, language, and nation (Revelation 5:6-10; 7:9-10).

We'll look at these verses in a few minutes.

And what is the plan of God?

(Slide) God's Plan – The Bible itself is God's Plan presented in 3 sections:

The Introduction: Genesis Chapters 1-11

The Story (Plot): Genesis chapter 12 – the book of Jude

The Conclusion: Revelation

As we saw in the video a moment ago, the Bible isn't 66 separate books with independent themes and no correlation to one other. No, it's one book, with one theme, all interrelated with an Introduction, a Plot, and a Conclusion.

And what we see throughout all three sections of the Bible is a recurring cycle of God's activity...

(Notes)

The Recurring Activity of God's Plan:

God blesses His people

God gives them the responsibility to bless others

The Result: God receives the glory and His plan is fulfilled

BLESS: To be "blessed" in Scripture means we've been given the privileged responsibility of being part of God's family and inviting others to join us.

For each of us, being blessed begins with being saved from our sins, having Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit living inside us from that point forward, and have the blessing of a growing fellowship with God for the rest of our lives and for all eternity.

Are you blessed this morning? If so, say, "Amen"! When you've been blessed with salvation you'll forever have enjoy all the blessings of God that come with the initial blessing of salvation.

But God doesn't want you to keep those blessings, especially the gift of salvation, to yourself. He wants you and I to share the message of the gospel with others, to share our spiritual and material and material blessings with others so they too can experience the blessing of knowing Jesus Christ.

When we live this way we are participating in God's plan and we are perpetuating what He began in the beginning of time.

So now we know God's purpose for each and every one of us...

(Slide) God's Purpose for Me – I have been blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

As we go through the Scriptures this morning watch for God's priority, His plan and His purpose for each of us. Watch His recurring activity of blessing people

and then giving them the responsibility to bless others and the result that God receives the glory.

Let's begin in the Introduction in Genesis chapters 1-11...

[Gen 1:28](#) – God's first words to humankind: "be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, rule over it".

Gen 3 – Sin enters the world bringing death and separation from God passed down through all generations until God repents that he had made man, decides to wipe out the whole earth by a flood and start over with one man's family, Noah.

[Gen 9:1,7](#) – God's first words to Noah after he got off the ark: "be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, rule over it".

[Gen 11:1-4](#) – There was one language on the earth; the people's main sin at Babel was that they wanted to make a NAME for themselves and NOT be scattered.

[Gen 11:7-9](#) – God scrambles the languages and the people spread throughout the earth setting the stage for our story.

So that's the Introduction to the Story. The story itself begins in Genesis chapter 12 and goes all the way through the tiny book of Jude near the end of the New Testament.

Watch now as we continue to see the same themes and the heart of God for the nations throughout the story.

Story

[Gen 12:1-3](#) – God chooses a man named Abraham and his descendants (Israel) as his special people to be blessed by him so that they would be a blessing to all

peoples. (vs. 3 is a prophecy about the future Messiah – Jesus).

Gen 18:17-19 – God repeated His covenant again to Abraham in the presence of other men.

Gen 22:15-18 Abraham hears the covenant again after his willingness and obedience to sacrifice his son... God says “I swear by myself” that this will happen so we know that it is going to pass.

Gen 26:2-4 – Isaac gets the same promise passed on to him.

Gen 28:12-14 – Jacob gets the same promise passed on to him. Our story breaks with Joseph in Egypt and the Israelites growing in number as the slaves.

Gal 3:7-9– Paul called “the gospel” Abraham’s call to bless the nations; we need to know we are sons of Abraham by faith.

Ex 6:1-5 – God reminds Moses of the covenant and says that he is going to free Israel from slavery because of it.

Ex 12:37-38 – “Other people” went with the Israelites when they left Egypt.

Dt 2:25 – God would make all the nations under heaven hear about and fear Israel. Why? So that all worship Yahweh.

Dt 4:5-8 – God gives Israel the ten commandments and other righteous laws so that the nations would see their wisdom, understanding, and know that Israel’s God is near them (personal) and hears their prayers .

Joshua – Rahab helps Israel because she has heard about their God.

1 Sam 17:45-46– David defeats the Philistines so that the whole world would know that there is a God in Israel.

1 Chr 14:17– The Lord makes all nations fear David. Why? He was a man after God's own heart.

1 Chr 16:8, 24, 28, 31 -David begins announcing that all the nations should worship God.

2 Chr 9:22-23 – King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all kings on earth; people from all nations listened.

Neh 6:15-16– All the nations were in awe when the wall was rebuilt in 52 days.

Ps 67 – David understood God's heart for the nations – (v. 7) God blesses us so that the ends of the earth may fear him.

Ps 46:10– Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations in all the earth.

Ps. 86:9 – We will see this actually happen when we get to the end in Revelation

Is 26:17-18 – Israel understood that its task was to be God's messenger of salvation to the nations and had not done its job.

Eze 5:5-7 – This is Jerusalem which I have set in the center of all the nations, but she has rebelled against my laws; look at Israel's central geographic location in the world and see how God was being strategic in using it as a blessing to all nations.

Dan 6:25-26 - Gentile king, Darius, tells all peoples, nations, and languages to fear and revere the God of Daniel; sometimes God let his chosen instruments be

taken into slavery or into exile in order to be a blessing to all nations.

[Dan 7:13-14](#) – Son of Man given dominion, power, and the kingdom where all nations and peoples serve him.

[Mal 1:11](#) – God’s name will be great among all the nations.

The word “nations” is used over 500 times in the OT.!

[Mk 11:17](#) – Jesus understood God’s desire for all nations; “my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations”.

[Mt 24:14](#)– This gospel will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.

[Mt 28:19-20](#) – Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing and teaching them to obey Christ.

[Lk 24:45-49](#)– Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures (Old Testament); Christ will suffer and rise on the third day (bless us) and then repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations (to bless others).

[Mk 16:15](#)

[Jn 20:21](#)

[Acts 1:8](#) – The Holy Spirit will give you power; be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea, and the ends of the earth.

[Acts 2:6](#) – The disciples were from Galilee not Jerusalem (7), Jesus said to stay in Jerusalem because it was a strategic center not because that is where they were from and familiar.

[Acts 2:4, 6, 8-11](#) – Jesus talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit as the highlight of the New Testament; the disciples were to wait for Him to come before ministering; it's the day the first century church started; 3000 people got saved; the Holy Spirit begins his ministry and sets the tone of the rest of the N.T. by having people from every nation under earth hearing the gospel in their own language.

[2 Pe 3:9](#)^L; [1 Tim 2:1-4](#)^L; [Rom 10:13-15](#)^L ([Is 52:6-10](#)^L); [Rom 15:18-21](#)^L

Conclusion

[Rev 5:9-14](#) – people were redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation

[Rev 7:9-10](#) – people from all nations, tongues and people groups worshipping the Lamb!

DO you see the parallels here between these two passages of Scripture? We're told here that the group of people gathered around the throne of God is going to include people from "every tribe, and language and people and nation". It says that in both places.

Someday, in heaven, there will be saints at God's throne who are representative of every kind of people and every nation who have ever lived on this earth. And what will we be doing? In chapter 5 it says we will be "singing". In chapter 7 it says we will be "crying out to God". Verse 11 uses a word to describe what we'll be doing – worshipping.

We'll be worshipping God together. What we are witnessing here in these passages is the end of God's story.

Fellowship, when you understand that the main character in the Bible is God and you begin to read HIS STORY from a "Top Down" perspective – a godly perspective...

And when you understand that God's heart beats for the nations that He created way back at the Tower of Babel in Genesis and that He is working in us and in every people and tribe and nation on planet earth to bring glory to Himself...

And when you realize that the end of HIS STORY is seeing the diversity of peoples from planet earth worshiping him around His throne...

And when you and I understand that when you were saved and became a follower of Christ, God invited you into His story to declare His glory among the nations, to make His name great in all the earth...

And to recruit worshipers from all the nations of the world by sharing the gospel with them and discipling them so they can be among those who will be worshiping Him around His great throne in heaven...

Now we're beginning to understand what it means to be a World Christian. And God is inviting you and me into HIS mission.

So we have to ask ourselves, what part does He want us to play? What's our role? We'll talk more about that next Sunday, but for now let me make 2 suggestions...

(BACK OF NOTES)

3. Get a copy of the Xplore Study our Growth Groups are using and work through the lessons on your own. (At THE TOWER in the LOBBY)
4. Take the 7 Day Challenge: Take the next week and read a sampling of Scriptures that reveal God's heart for the world as well as the biblical basis for living as a World Christian.