

Articles of Faith Lesson 19: “Missions”

XIX. Of Missions

The command to give the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Memory Verses/Scripture References—Select 3 or more of the following for memorization or scripture reference:

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Luke 24:47 – And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

John 20:21 - As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 13:47 – For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Acts 26:17-18 – Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee. ¹⁸To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance, among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Romans 10:13-15 - For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? ¹⁵And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 15:20 – Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation:

II Corinthians 10:14-16 – For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:
¹⁵Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men’s labors, but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,
¹⁶To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand.

Opening Questions

What happens to a person that dies who has never heard the gospel?

1. Missions

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a. The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

b. Why is sharing the gospel important?

i. Hell is real.

Revelation 20:15 – And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 – But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Luke 16:19-31 - There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰And there was a certain beggar

named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. ²⁷Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

ii. *Jesus commanded us to go.*

Matthew 28:18-20

John 20:21

Mark 16:15

Acts 1:6-8

Romans 10:13-15

Matthew 28:19

iii. *It was the most important thing Jesus came to do and gave us to carry out.*

Luke 19:10

I Timothy 1:15

iv. *Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.*

Acts 4:12

John 3:3

I John 5:11-12

John 3:36

John 14:6

c. *Whose responsibility is it to share the gospel?*

i. *It is our personal responsibility to share the Gospel.*

Ezek. 33:8

Acts 20:26-27

Matt. 28:18-20

Acts 1:6-8

Mark 16:15

- ii. Many Christians today do not feel a personal responsibility to share the Gospel; they view it as a responsibility for those in ministry to carry out, or for other believers who are more “spiritual” than themselves. For the Christian, there is no greater responsibility than to faithfully proclaim the message of salvation to a lost and dying world.

d. Who should the gospel be shared with?

- i. According to Matthew 28:18-20 it should be shared with the whole world.
- ii. In 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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*) Jesus told the disciples to be witnesses:
 1. In Jerusalem – The city - *locally*
 2. In Judaea & Samaria – The surrounding area - *nationally*
 3. The uttermost part of the earth – The whole world – *globally*
- iii. How does our church follow the pattern of Acts 1:8?
 1. The city – Chillicothe -*locally*
 2. The surrounding area- In Ohio new church plants, Xenia, Marysville, Circleville - *nationally*
 3. The uttermost part of the earth- Missionaries & Mission Trips – *globally*

e. The Biblical pattern of missions.

Acts 13:1-5 – *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. ³And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.*

God uses churches to start churches. Autonomous local churches that are self-supporting, who train and give to support others going.

- God calls those who are faithfully serving in a local church. **Acts 13:1-2**
- Through the church they are able to be taught, edified and mature in their sanctification under the care of shepherds (spiritual leaders) and alongside of sheep (fellow church members). This is the pattern of the New Testament to avoid unqualified, inexperienced novices to be sent out only to become shipwrecked.
- The Holy Spirit separates, and the local church affirms and sends them out with prayer and support.
- The missionaries (church planters) report back. **Acts 14:26-28:** *And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of*

God for the work which they fulfilled. ²⁷And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. ²⁸And there they abode long time with the disciples.

f. What happens to those who have never heard the gospel?

- i. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”*
- ii. **A person who has not heard the gospel is just as guilty as the person who hears the gospel and then turns away.** If all that was required for someone to be saved was to simply not hear the Gospel, why tell anyone??
- iii. **WHY? Romans 1:19** *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are **without excuse:**”*
- iv. **1 Corinthians 15:34** *“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to **your shame.**”*
- v. **The soul that sinneth it will die.**
Rom 3:12, 23,
Ezekiel 18:20,
Rom. 5:12
- vi. **Only through Jesus Christ is a person saved.**
John 3:3, 5, 7, 16, 36;
John 5:24
- vii. **John 14:6** *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”*
1 John 5:11-13

What about those who never hear the gospel?

Romans 1:20 – *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are **without excuse:**”*

No one is without excuse. Only one good person ever died and He volunteered.

Remember the world has the unwritten witness and the written witness. No one is without excuse. God has revealed Himself many various ways.

- Creation (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20)
- Canon of Scripture (Psalm 19:7-14; John 5:39)

- Conscience (Romans 1:19 – “manifest in them; for God hath showed in unto them.” Romans 2:15-16)
- Common Grace (goodness of God in sun, rain, food and harvest, etc. – Acts 14:15-17)
- Christians (Matthew 5:14-16; II Corinthians 5:17)
- Churches (Book of Acts; I Tim. 3:15; Rev. 1:20)

If not you, then who? If not there, then where? If not now, then when?

Remember, if we want to start with missions, it begins right where we are in our local church and community. Church visitation and outreach, serving God’s purposes in and through the local church. If we aren’t faithful and fruitful here, a new mission field is unlikely to change that.