

Missions Conference  
March 15, 2009

Introduction of who I am

Intro: When you hear the word Missions what comes to mind? Does overseas in a far remote place/jungle come to mind? Where the only way that you can communicate is by hand jesters and pointing come to mind? What passages of the Bible come to mind? Maybe Matthew 28: 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,...” or maybe Acts 1:8 “you shall be my witness both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotes part of the earth.” I would agree in the these verse as well as others are great for missions. They guide and direct us in the direction in which we should be going. Not only are they good but they are direct commands for us to obey. If we solely focus on missions we will have a weak foundation, in which the direction that we go will be flimsy and unstable.

What is missions then? What should we be basing it off of? Missions is the means in which one exercises to bring to Gospel of Jesus Christ to a culture or individual who does not believe in Him. The unspoken part of Missions is that it will not be around for all eternity. There will be a day after judgement and restoration that all who exist will be praising the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible makes it clear when it states “...so that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee will bow, of those who are in

heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:10,11. Should we be going over seas to complete missions? By definition we can do missions right here in North America.

Did you Know.... (facts about North America)

- 1. 3500 Churches a year close their doors**
- 2. only 2,00 Churches open**
- 3. 6 out of 10 that open die within the first year**
- 4. population is Growing in addition to the death of churches**
- 5. Somewhere around 300 Million people in the US**
- 6. Around 43,000 Southern Baptist Churches**
- 7. Average church attendance is 65 (Southern Baptist Church) (just under 3 million in attendance this number is declining)**
- 8. Religion: Protestant 51.3%, Roman Catholic 23.9%, Mormon 1.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Jewish 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, Muslim 0.6%, other or unspecified 2.5%, unaffiliated 12.1%, none 4%**
- 9. white 79.96%, black 12.85%, Asian 4.43%, Amerindian and Alaska native 0.97%,**

**native Hawaiian and other Pacific islander  
0.18%, two or more races 1.61%**

In Deuteronomy 13:1-4 we can see that the Nation of Israel faced similar situations as to what we are facing here in North America.

Here is the passage:  
Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (Verse 4)

“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign and wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, “Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,” you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep

His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

Outline:

**Introduction:** Verse 1-3 are making a statement in regards to what might be taking place around them. If someone was to come to the nation of Israel and state that they should leave the one true God and follow a different God and they “proved” it by a miracle or a performance of some sort, they shall not leave the one and only God to worship a false God, but rather they should all the more grow closer to the LORD our God. This is exactly what is happening in North America. Christians are being bombarded with false teachings and they are saying just simply let your feelings guide you or even yet you cannot trust the Bible and here is why. They then proceed to take the Bible and “prove” that you cannot trust it. But it does not stop there, they then proceed to beckon you to worship something other than the God of the Bible. Verse four is exactly what we need to in this day of age in which we embark to reach North America with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Summary Statement: **In Deuteronomy 13:4 we can see six actions that are essential foundation for Missions.**

*All the Following are Active Imperfect: This means that they start at some point, but continue on through the present and into the future.*

## Six basics for a foundation for Missions

- I. **FOLLOW HIM** -- Some translations say “Walk after Him...” The Idea is placing one’s self behind something, in the New Testament it carries the idea of allowing something to regulate ones life after. *Colossians 2:6* “Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”

Statement: Following/Walking after the LORD God, is allowing the Lord Jesus to regulate your life. It is stating that you are a sinner and that Jesus Christ did what was needed to pay for our sins. The starting point for following after or walking after is salvation.

- II. **FEAR HIM** -- Proverbs states that the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge is also states in *Proverbs 3:7* “Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn from evil.” There should be a constant reminder that God is God when it comes to our walks. The truth that God hates sin should be constantly before us when we are faced with evil, and recall all the accounts when in the Bible of how God dealt with evil.

Statement: Fearing Him, should be the constant reminder that God is a God who hates evil and delights in those who follow after him. How often do you then remind yourself of this truth.

- III. **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS** -- In *James 1:22* says “But prove yourselves doers of the Word...” James then continues on to state how when we receive God’s Word we need to be not only hearers of the word but doers of the Word of God. When we learn something new about God’s Word it should change our actions, it should cause us to change according to what God’s Word says not what we want it to say.

Statement: Basic number three for missions is keeping His commandments, that is to say doing what God’s Word says to do.

- IV. **LISTEN TO HIS VOICE** -- This carries the idea of obedience. In the New Testament it states in *Ephesians 5:18* that “We should not be drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.” This is stating that the Spirit of God should be guiding our thoughts, words, and deeds.

Statement: Listen to His voice is when we search out what God wants not what we want. It is allowing God to direct and to

determine what course of actions one will take.

V. **SERVE HIM** -- *Philippians 1:27 states* “**Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ,...**” When We serve God we are concerned with that which he is concerned with. This is important for laying a foundation for missions because it helps determine what you are going to be about. **God is about the the Gospel of Jesus Christ and if we are going to serve Him by following, fearing, keeping, and listening to all that He says and does then we will in turn be about living in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Statement: Serving God is conducting ourselves worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

VI. **CLING TO HIM** -- Lastly, holding dear to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul states it this way in *Philippians 3:7* “**But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.**” Paul saw having a relationship with Jesus Christ as the most valuable thing that one can have, he clung to Christ. **Are you clinging to the relationship that you have with Jesus Christ?**

**Statement: When we view our relationship with Jesus Christ as the most valuable thing in this world then we have just begun to Cling to God.**

Example of someone who lived this out: Annie Armstrong.

Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the annual offering for North American missions named after her. As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of mission efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong led women to unite in mission endeavors that ultimately led to the formation of Woman's Missionary Union, for which she served as the first corresponding secretary.

Annie believed in Christ with all her heart, but it was her hands that expressed that belief in tangible ways. She spent a great amount of time typing and handwriting letters in support of missions. Many of these letters were quite lengthy and all were filled with conviction that more could and should be done in our mission efforts. In 1893 alone, she wrote almost 18,000 letters! Annie also never hesitated to use her hands to reach out to hug a child or distribute food and clothing and the Word of God to those in need. Her hands held her own Bible as she studied to know how best to share Gods love with others. And, most important, Annie was a woman of prayer, folding her hands in prayer to intercede for the missionaries and for those they were helping discover Christ.

Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more, and do more for reaching people for Christ.