

IN THE BEGINNING

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:1,2.

1. ***"In the beginning"***, what a tremendous statement.
2. By this statement we can see that every thing had a beginning, except for God.
3. God has always existed, and always will.
4. It has been said that if you can believe Genesis 1:1, you can believe all of God's Word.
5. Because that is what it is. His story, or history viewed from God's perspective.
6. I believe that missions had a beginning as well as creation itself.
7. It began in the heart of God.
8. God is omniscient, that means He is all knowing
9. He has all knowledge and knows more about me than I do.
10. We see the first manifestation of God's heart for mission in Genesis 3:8-9
11. ***Gen. 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 ¶ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?***
12. The Lord God of knowing all things, created men and women with a will (choice, decision) of their own.
13. With this will they chose to commit the first sin, which was disobedience, and by this sin of disobedience, many were made sinners for all have sinned.
14. Tracing sin back to the beginning, we can determine that we were separated from God, by the sin of the first man, Adam and his wife Eve.

15. In **Genesis 3:9**, you will find a seeking Saviour.
16. Believing that missions manifested in the book of beginnings
17. Thank God we have the book of Genesis.
18. God does exist even when there is nothing but them.
19. God does not need man to be God.
20. God was doing a number of things before creation.
 - A. He was having fellowship with his Son. ***"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Jn. 17:5***
 - B. He was creating angels and stars. ***"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7.***
 - C. He was planning for a church. ***"Unto me, who am less than the least of all the saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all me see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages hath been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Eph. 3:8,9.***
 - D. He was preparing for a kingdom. ***"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34.***
 - E. God was planning for a Saviour. ***"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8.***

If we seriously study the Word of God, and look at all of the things God was planning for, you will find that missions was interwoven all through the planning process.

21. ***Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel***

22. If we look at the entire passage of Scripture very carefully, we find that the mission of reconciling man back to himself involved God himself.
23. Therefore we find that God, was the first Missionary.
24. This was something God did not have to do.
25. This would lead me to believe that God is very serious about missions.
26. God's business is the missionary work that is going on all around the world.
27. There are several passages of Scripture that shows the love of God reaching out to the entire world.
28. ***Genesis 9:9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you.***
29. Here in this passage of Scripture you find that God was establishing His covenant.
30. He established His covenant with Noah.
31. The story of Noah is within the context of what is going on in the whole world of that time.
32. So we see that God again was reaching out to the entire world.
33. Another verse which includes reaching an entire world is Genesis 12:3
34. ***Genesis 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."***
35. God giving the Abrahamic covenant.
36. God never expected Abraham to keep this covenant
37. But God will keep it through him.
38. That has always been the plan of God.
39. Again we find God confirming the covenant to Abraham's son Isaac.
40. ***"And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed."***
41. God again confirming His reaching out to a world needing His dear Son.

42. It was through this seed came a man named Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel.
43. God's plan was that the nation of Israel was to be His publisher to publish the gospel to the entire world.
44. If you read in the Old Testament very much, you find a nation that God had problems with.
45. That nation was Israel.
46. They refused to obey God and worship Him.
47. The gospel message is always hindered by people who refuse to obey God.
48. This would be true today, just as much or more as it was in the Old Testament.
49. I have heard this saying many times and I'm sure you have to; "Missions is the heart beat of God".
50. Believe it or not this statement is true.
51. ***2 Pet. 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***
52. But what is tragic, is that we refuse to tell that person nearest us the good news that God's Son, Jesus Christ has paid our sin debt.
53. We are just like the children of Israel in many ways.
54. We are looking more at the world than we are at a loving Saviour.

THE THOUGHT OF MISSIONS

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever thought about giving a part of yourself to save a person from destruction.
- B. God did, and His thought of missions is revealed in the wonderful grace and mercy of God.
- C. Let me remind you that in Genesis 3:16, a tragic thing happened.
- D. ***Gen. 3:6 "And when the women saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat."***
- E. God was even thinking about us in the fall of Adam and Eve.
- F. In His Holiness, God deals with the sin.

I. God Pronounces a Five-Fold Judgment.

A. Upon Man

- 1. ***Genesis 3:17 "Cursed is the ground for thy sake."***
- 2. God is careful never to put a curse on Adam.
- 3. He curses the serpent, Satan, and the soil, but not mankind.
- 4. The reason, of course, is that He desired to redeem man.
- 5. Therefore, he would not curse that which He planned to later save.
- 6. Even so, the unsaved man can expect nothing good in this life apart from Christ.

B. Upon the Woman

1. ***Genesis 3:16 "In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children."***
2. The suffering of childbirth is not so much a direct judgment from God.
3. But rather an indirect result of sin.
4. Sin always causes suffering, sickness, separation, and sorrow.

C. Upon Nature

1. ***Gen. 3:18, "Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth."***
2. From this point on, mans paradise becomes a wilderness.
3. It has been said that the scientific principle called the second law of thermodynamics came into being.
4. It states that when energy is being transformed from one state to another.
5. Some of it is turned into heat energy which cannot be converted back into useful form.
6. It is like a wind up clock slowly running down.

D. Upon the Serpent

1. ***Genesis 3:14, "And...God said unto the serpent...upon thy belly shalt thou go."***
2. The serpent is not offered a chance to explain its actions.
3. God allowed Adam and Eve to do some explanation.
4. Judgment is passed out immediately to the Serpent.
5. For lending its body to Satan, the serpent was cursed to crawl in the dust from that point on.

E. Upon the Devil

1. ***Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."***

2. This of course is the first prophecy of the Cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

II. The Three-fold Grace of God

1. Dealing with the thought of missions, it was not just the judgment of God that took place but the grace of God as well.
2. First, The grace of God is seen when God is seeking Adam out.
3. Adam didn't take the first step to God, but it was God taking the first step to Adam.
4. ***"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10.***
5. Second act of grace, God promised them a Saviour.
6. ***Genesis 3:15*** He as well clothed them.
7. Some innocent animal had to die so that Adam and his wife could be clothed.
8. Think about this the innocent dying for the guilty.
9. The third act of grace was God driving Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.
10. Which was an act of mercy from God.
11. ***Genesis 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.***
12. This was a well thought out process by God, and because of sin, and separation, man must be reconciled back to God.
13. You say in this thought process, there must be a cost, there was a tremendous cost.
14. Payment was made on the cross of Calvary for you and me.
15. Have you ever thought about missions the way God has thought about missions?

BIBLICAL MISSIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**I. Biblical Missions are Going, Giving, and Groaning.**

1. If you cannot go, send someone in your place.
2. One must give their self to understand the giving or going part of the Great Commission.
3. ***2 Cor 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.***
4. ***Isa 6:8-9 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.***

II. Biblical relation in Missions are Praying, Preaching, Planting.

1. Prayer is the key that opens or closes the door of opportunity.
2. This is the reason many doors are closing (Lack of Prayer).
3. The Preaching of the Gospel to the unconverted everywhere is a command of Christ.

4. The Planting or establishing of Strong, spiritual, self supporting (indigenous) church in every country and with every race of people.

III. Missions - comes from the Latin Mitto - I send or "sent one"

1. Every believer has been charged by Christ to be a witness.
2. But a Missionary is a
 - a. God converted
 - b. God called
 - c. God chosen
 - d. God charged
 - e. God sent
3. The Local Church - and members must understand the doctrine of the great commission.
 - a. Preaching - proclaiming the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Everyone)
 - b. Teaching - discipleship training to new converts.
 - c. Baptizing - Mark of identification with Christ.
 - d. Teaching them to observe all things- Teaching them so that they can teach others.
4. Missions is not just the program of the church.
5. It is the whole purpose of the Scriptural New Testament Church.

IV. Friendship with Christ *John 15:14-27*

1. The bond of Friendship relates the goal for obedience through missions.
2. Path of Missions **vs. 14**
3. Privilege of Missions **vs. 15**
4. Program of Missions **vs. 16**
5. Partnership of Missions **vs. 17**
6. People of Missions **vs. 18**
7. Power of Missions **vs. 24-27**

OBLIGATIONS TO BIBLICAL MISSIONS**Introduction**

- A. ***John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.***
- B. Each person that knows Christ as their personal Saviour must see their obligation of getting the Gospel out to the unreached regions.
- C. Mission is God's work.
- D. God's work is the total redemptive purpose of God
- E. The work of Christ is His work on the cross.
- F. Missions is the way God wants His message be carried out.
- G. God's plan is to establish His local church.
- H. Missions is the work of the Church.
- I. The purpose is for souls to be saved, His plan is for redemption.
- J. God did not call angels to do it, but chose men - ***Rom. 10:13-15.***
- K. ***Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How 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? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 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!***
- L. The church is sent by God to do a work where unto He has called them.
- M. It is not their work, but the Lord's work.

I. Missions Guide

1. The Word of God is the only instruction guide we have.
2. The Bible guides the believer into their responsibility to witness, and sow the seed.
3. None of God's children are excused from this responsibility!
4. The Spirit of God and by His word of God a witness can be effective.
5. ***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

II. Missions Operation

1. Mission must be operated by the will of God.
2. Outreach calls for effective, activity, going beyond the boundaries, and borders of self.
3. The believer is charged to go the second mile and beyond.
4. Local churches responsibility to inform the membership as to the need in the regions beyond.
5. ***Matt 5:41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.***
6. Missionary (God's worker) meaning, without them there is no mission work.
7. God's plan is to communicate to people through people.
8. ***Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.***

III. Mission Field

1. ***Matt. 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had***

appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. The great commission demands believers to go into all nations and teach all people.
3. Every soul upon the whole earth, that has ever been and that will ever be, is to be given the Gospel.

OPPRESSION OF BIBLICAL MISSIONS

- A. When you think of oppressions to missions, your mind goes to the Devil, his demons and unreasonable men.
- B. The devil is definitely against God's.
- C. But oppression does not only come from the devil and unreasonable men.
- D. One can fool himself into thinking that every believer is for missions and missionaries.
- E. No all churches are for God's Plan, Program, Personnel, Place of Worship, and the Preaching of the Gospel.
- F. It is said that many of God's people have never obeyed God's command to reach the lost souls of humanity.
- G. Common excuse of churches, Why support missionaries when there is such a great need in this place!
- H. This has been a prevailing thought every place in the world.
- I. Pride hinders from going and coming!
- J. There are many Christians who do not understand God working through them to reach the world.
- K. They oppress the very thought of Giving and Going.
- L. An obedient Christian, will seek a way to GO, GIVE and show forth the GLORY.
- M.** Oppressions may come, but promises are much greater!
 - 1. His presence - **Matt. 28:16-20**
 - 2. His protection - **Mark 16:15-18**
 - 3. His program - **Luke 24:46-48**
 - 4. His peace - **John 14:27-31**
 - 5. His power - **Acts 1:8**
- N. Do not let human objectives, satanic oppressions, or emotion depression stop you from obeying God!

BIBLICAL MISSIONS GIVING

Introduction:

- A. God does not support His ministry through bake sales, car boot sales (garage sales), auctions, or the government.
- B. God supports His Work His way, through Tithes, offerings and Faith Promise giving...

I. Tithing

1. ***Malachi 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***
2. Tithing is the basis of obedience.
3. The tithe is the Lord's and the storehouse is the church.
Lev. 27:30, I Cor. 16:2, Matt. 23:23, Acts 4:37.

II. Offerings

1. ***Malachi 3:8b.***
2. Offerings are above and beyond the tithe.
3. It is sacrificial giving to sustain the local church operations.
4. The best way to support Biblical missions is through the Faith promise Method of Offering
5. Faith promise is giving beyond your power!
6. **Forgetting All Impossibilities and Trust Him!**
7. Christ gave His all - ***II Cor. 8:9***, (How much have you given Him. ***2 Cor. 5:7; 8:10-12; 9:5-7; 10:15,16.***
8. Faith Promise is by Faith Not Feelings
9. Not given by the funds that you have, but it is by faith in God...
10. Drawing on the bank of Heaven!

THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH PROMISE MISSIONS GIVING

Text: 2 Corinthians 8, 9

Faith Promise Giving

I. Passes our ability 2 Cor. 8:1-3

- A. Grace of God bestowed vs. 1**
- B. Great trials and deep poverty vs. 2**
- C. Gave beyond their power (resources) vs. 3**

II. Proves our Love 2 Cor. 8:4-9

- A. Praying with much in treaty vs. 4**
- B. Personally they gave themselves first vs. 5**
- C. Personnel involvement vs. 6**
- D. Progression in Grace vs. 7**
- E. Prove their sincerity and love vs. 8**
- F. Provide a giving example vs. 9**

III. Performs our Promise 2 Cor. 8:10-15

- A. Promise made a year ago vs. 10**
- B. Perform the doing of it vs. 11a**
- C. Performance made of a willing mind vs. 11b-12**
- D. Produces an equality in Giving vs. 13-15**

IV. Purposeful Giving 2 Cor. 9:1-17

- A. Purpose based in the heart not in head vs. 7a**
- B. Purpose birthed in the heart, as a Christian we are to have a new birth. Not a heart of getting but Giving**
- C. Purpose built in the Heart - (purpose established, performed by giving)**

V. Planned Giving

- A. Planned from a willing heart vs. 7. God's plan for sinners, *II Peter 3:9*
- B. Planned from a working Heart, by asking God how much you can trust Him for.

VI. Pleasure Giving

- A. Pleasure giving effects the givers gift vs. 7c; *Jn. 3:16*. You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.
- B. Pleasure giving effects the giver's God. God has been moved many times in the Bible. Jonah in reference to Nineveh

Closing:

Seven blessings that Faith Promise Missions accomplishes

1. Strengthens our Burden for the Lost! *John 4:35*
2. Allows us to support missionaries in fields of service we cannot go. *Luke 6:19-21*
3. Strengthens our faith *Hebrews 10:38; 11:6*
4. It increases the tithe and offerings. *Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*
5. It increases our vision. *Proverbs 29:18*
6. Allows us to be obedient to God's Great Commission *Matthew 28:18-19*
7. Giving demonstrates our Love not Law *John 3:16*