



Seeing What We
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures**, neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship**: for salvation is of the Jews.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

- (A) The Holy Scriptures.**
- (B) Dispensationalism.**
- (C) The Godhead.**
- (D) The Person and Work of Christ.**
- (E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
- (F) The Depravity of Man.**
- (G) Salvation.**
- (H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**
- (I) The Church**
- (J) Separation.**
- (K) The Second Coming of Christ.**
- (L) The Eternal State.**
- (M) The Personality of Satan.**
- (N) Creation.**

- (O) Civil Government.**
- (P) Human Sexuality**
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- (R) Divorce and remarriage.**
- (S) Abortion**
- (T) Euthanasia**
- (U) Love**
- (V) Lawsuits Between Believers**

Our doctrinal statement is as follows:

(W) Missions. We believe that God has given the church a great commission and the authority to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations for the primary purpose of establishing churches and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20). "Missions" will also be understood to be both home and foreign opportunities to establish churches.

Tonight, we continue to look at one of my favorite doctrinal positions – missions. As mentioned last week, a proper doctrinal position of Ecclesiology is needed in order to understand the spiritual significance of this this doctrine.

I. THE COMMISSION

We believe that God has given the church a great commission and the authority to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. To the Disciples

- The commission to the disciples was not an individual commission, but a corporate commission to them as the first church.
- Churches are commissioned to start churches:

As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations for the primary purpose of establishing churches and not wait for them to come to us.

The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch

- Churches are commissioned to start churches at home and foreign countries.

“Missions” will also be understood to be both home and foreign opportunities to establish churches.

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

B. To Make Disciples

- The mission of churches is make disciples.
- The commission's priority is focused upon three specific goals:
 1. To Evangelize – “19a **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...**”
 2. To Edify – “19b ...baptizing them in **the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”
 3. To Educate – “20 **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”
- The “Mission Commission” was emphasized FIVE TIMES!
- The Doctrine of Missions is most important to God and must be of the same importance to His churches!

II. THE CHALLENGE

A. The Challenge of the Perpetual Population Expansion

- The world population during the days of Jesus and the first church in Jerusalem is estimated to be between 200 and 300 million people.
- The USA has 4.3% of the world's population.
- The USA may have as many as 90% of all evangelical preachers.
- By 2050, world population will cross the 9 billion mark.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/4f661fde24ac1097e013deea/t/550f7d77e4b0907feba099b0/1427078519637/StatusGlobalChristianity2015_CSGC_IBMR.pdf

B. The Challenge for Power in Presenting Evangelism – Acts 1:8

In order to fulfill the “Commission” and face the “Challenge,” each church must have...

III. THE COMMITMENT

- Commitment – to bind or obligate oneself, as by pledge or assurance; devote or engage oneself to a person or thing:
<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/committing>

Deut. 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

Eccl. 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

- Commitment – Determination to implement a decision – “putting your money where your mouth is” – conviction with feet upon it – intention to follow through upon a promise.

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that **he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**

- This verse is an example of reciprocated commitment – Paul is committed to serving the Lord Jesus Christ as he has committed his eternal destiny to the safekeeping of Christ.
- “We do not owe the Lord something...we owe Him EVERYTHING.” Bill Richards

A. To Fellowship with the Savior and His Ambassadors

- To carry out the “Commission,” we must be committed to be in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 16:20 And **they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them***, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

1 Cor. 1:9 **God is faithful**, by whom ye were **called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord**.

- To carry out the commission “to all the world,” we must be committed to be in fellowship and partnership with missionaries.

Prov. 31:14 She is like the merchants' ships; **she bringeth her food from afar.**

2 Cor. 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, **he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you**: or our brethren *be enquired of*, **they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.**

- If I could clone myself a million times over, I would want the Lord to send me to a million places that have not heard the Gospel.
- The Lord must have had the same sentiment as He devised the “Great Commission” to plant churches, bodies of Christ, all around the world!

B. To Faithfulness in Support for His Approval

Phil. 1:9 And this I pray, that **your love may abound yet more and more** in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

10 **That ye may approve things that are excellent**; that ye may be sincere and without offence **till the day of Christ**;

11 **Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**

- Giving to missions, by faith, is pleasing to the Lord.

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- The Lord Jesus Christ, our example, lived His life by ALWAYS pleasing the Father.

Jn. 8:29 And **he that sent me is with me**: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**

- Believers are to have the proper perspective of commitment in pleasing the Lord:

2 Tim. 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; **that he may please him** who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

C. To Fruitfulness for the Savior on our Account

- The motive of giving to missions must be a commitment that fruit may abound to our account when we stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Phil. 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.**

16 For even in Thessalonica **ye sent once and again unto my necessity.**

17 **Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

- The testimony of a true disciple of Christ is a display of commitment to faithfulness and fruitfulness.

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.

Conclusion

2 Cor. 5:20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For **he hath made him *to be sin for us, who knew no sin***; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- “We do not owe the Lord something...we owe Him EVERYTHING.” Bill Richards