World Missions & The Local Church

Lesson for Sunday, February 20, 2022

INTRODUCTION:

* Would God tell us to do something that could not be done? *Allow for discussion…*
* Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. said, “God always puts omnipotence behind His commands.”
* If this is true, why is it that over 2000 years Christ told His followers to take the Gospel to every creature, and yet today there are an estimated 3 billion people who are yet to be reached with even the message of the Gospel?
* It is not a matter of being able to do it, it is a matter of every believer being willing to do it. World evangelism is the job of every believer and local church.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Role of the Missionary
	1. Ask: What should missionaries do once on the field? What role do they have in world evangelism? *Allow for discussion…*
	2. Their primary task: Obeying the Great Commission. Read Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19-20. What do we see in these verses?
		1. Evangelism: Spreading the Gospel where it has not been (Rom. 15:20; 2 Cor. 10:16).
		2. Establishing churches: Solid centers of Christian life, from which the Gospel will spread to surrounding areas (1 Thess. 1:6-8).
		3. Equipping the churches: Training and teaching them to spiritually mature (1 Thess. 2:7-12; 2 Thess. 2:15; 1 Cor. 11:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:2, 3:14; Titus 1:9).
	3. Their secondary task: Support roles which sometimes precede or accompany the primary task. These often depend on the culture where they are ministering.
		1. Language and cultural studies (Jesus did this in Phil. 2:7-8).
		2. Bible translation; Bible schools; medical work; construction, etc.
	4. Their supreme task: Daily walk with God personally. No Christian (missionary or not) will go very far in their spiritual life apart from regular communion with God.
2. The Missionary’s Relationship with the Local Church
	1. Missionaries are called out of the local church (Acts 13:1-2). This is where missionaries come from.
		1. Paul & Barnabas were busy serving God in their church when called to do missionary work.
		2. The church recognized God’s call upon their lives (their qualifications).
		3. It seemed natural for them to be used by God in this way. “When the Holy Spirit reaches into a congregation and leads one of its members to another place of service, it should not come as a great shock!”
		4. They were some of the best workers.
	2. Missionaries are sent forth by the church (Acts 13:3). The only way a local church can physically take the Gospel to other lands is to go themselves or to send a representative. This is God’s plan!
		1. We have two sources from which missionaries come.
		2. First, our church. God calls one of our members (Skelton, Beard, Sally, Buxton, Allred, Keefe, Viola, Evans, Pepper).
		3. Second, other churches of like doctrine that we partner with to send out others.
	3. Missionaries are accountable to the church (Acts 14:27).
		1. They answer to the church for their actions.
		2. They remain under the authority of the church.
		3. They report to the church regularly what is being accomplished, to inform of prayer requests, and to account for money invested.
	4. Missionaries function as foreign extensions of supporting churches.
		1. Paul often used the term “co-laborers” to indicate the church and the missionaries working together.
		2. Members of the supporting churches receive heavenly rewards for the “foreign” efforts of missionaries (Phil. 4:17).
3. The Responsibilities of the Church to its Missionaries
	1. Provide a positive atmosphere in which missions is taught and emphasized. This might include: missions projects, frequent missionary reports, missionary speakers and mission trips.
	2. Willingly and cheerfully give of its membership to missionary service. There is no higher honor for a church than to send out from its own congregation people to the foreign field. FBT has been tremendously blessed in this area!
	3. Financially support those who God has called and set apart for missionary service (1 Cor. 8:1-4; Phil. 4:10) – not individually but as a church. Ten percent of what the church receives weekly in tithes and offerings goes directly to missions.
	4. Be willing to go yourself – if God should lead Paul & Barnabas were not in the youth department. They were dedicated laymen in the church. “God will not call every serious Christian to foreign missionary work, but every serious Christian should be willing to go if called.”
	5. Faithfully pray for missionaries.
		1. Pray for additional laborers who will go (Luke 10:2).
		2. Stay informed on world events that affect missions work.
		3. Correspond with missionaries.
		4. AT Pierson wrote: “Every step in the process of missions is directly traceable to prayer. It has been the preparation for every new triumph and the secret of every success.”

APPLICATION: Every believer has a responsibility to be involved in the Great Commission through His local church.

* Some are called to go, some are called to stay. Those who are called should be willing to go. Those who are to stay should serve locally and support missions in their prayers and giving.
* Why go?
	+ 90% of the unevangelized world lives outside the US.
	+ 90% of all Christian workers in the world minister inside the US, which only contains about 6% of the world population. That leaves abut 10% of the work force to cover 90% of the globe.
* Questions to consider:
	+ Where do you fit into God’s plan of world evangelism? What is the role that He wants you to fulfill through FBT?
	+ Are you willing to do your part as He shows you what He wants you to do?