

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON ENGAGE AT WILL

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!" (Ps 97:1). "Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" (Ps 67:3-4).

But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. **You can't commend what you don't cherish.** Missionaries will never call out, "Let the nations be glad!" who cannot say from the heart, "I rejoice in the Lord...I will be glad and exult in thee, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High" (Ps 104:34, 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship."

-John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993/2003), 17.

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WARMING UP

1. Share briefly with one another your testimony on how you came to know the Lord.
2. What do you think motivated that someone to share the gospel with you?

INTO THE PASSAGES

This gospel - Read Matthew 24:1-14

3. And this gospel will be preached ..(verse 14). Share your understanding of the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. And this gospel will be preached ..(verse 14). How would you preach this gospel to one of your colleagues? One of your neighbours?

Paul's testimony on preaching the gospel - Read Galations 1:13-17

5. What did Paul say about his mission after he has been reconciled with Christ?

Our ministry - Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

6. What is meant by the old life is gone and the new life has begun?
7. Do you think this new life includes the ministry of reconciliation?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus died to reconcile men to God but many live their lives devoid of fellowship with God. Consequently, their lives are not transformed to becoming more like Christ.

Spiritual transformation is not possible with the transformation of the individual.

Determine with the Spirit's help to live purposefully and intentionally.

LIFE TOGETHER

The point was made that the Church is God's chosen people to preach His gospel. If the Church does not preach, God waits to persuade His people to accomplish His plan and purpose.

Pray for the mobilization of the church of God (including BCEC) to accomplish God's purpose.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

This gospel - Read Matthew 24:1-14

3. And this gospel will be preached ..(verse 14). Share your understanding of the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

My sinful nature (including my thinking, inclination) was bent resulting in behaviours that angered God. The appropriate response is judgement and death because I had broken His laws. By God's wonderful grace, He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to die on the cross. This was so that the wrath of God may be appeased. By my confession of faith, I was immediately justified and the Spirit of God birthed in me a new spirit. I am now a child of God and the Spirit of God lives in me. I live daily in God's presence, communing with God in prayer and listening to Him as He speaks to me through the bible. Although this physical body remains and I am still a husband, father, son and a scientist, my focus is now Christ. I seek to live a life pleasing to God through obedience, discipline and service. Temptations occur daily and hindrances (like procrastination, laziness, losing temper at my kids, etc..) refused to go away, the grace of God is there when I fall.

4. And this gospel will be preached ..(verse 14). How would you preach this gospel to one of your colleagues? One of your neighbours?

Paul's testimony on preaching the gospel - Read Galations 1:13-17

5. What did Paul say about his mission after he has been reconciled with Christ?

Paul's mission was primarily to testify about Christ. In his case, he was chosen to preach Christ to the Gentiles. Similarly, that we are called to testify about Christ is a given. It is a matter of who and where God has placed us to be salt and light.

Our ministry - Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

6. What is meant by the old life is gone and the new life has begun?

The old life of looking at things purely from the human perspective is gone - how can one get ahead in my career, how to ensure my children get the best possible start, financial stability. Yes, these things are important and we need to consider them but they are not the focus. Taken in context, the new life includes embracing the ministry of reconciliation that God has given us.

7. Do you think this new life includes the ministry of reconciliation?

Yes.