

~ God's Method for Carrying Out Missions Work ~

Text: Mathew 28:18-20

Theme: The local church is foundational to the work of local and global missions work.

Intro:

1. This morning, we looked at God's method for supporting missions work.
 - a. We considered the giving of tithes as being God's method for supporting the local church and broader missions work.
 - b. We considered Faith Promise Giving as something that falls into the category of further offerings made by God's people to support the work of God.
2. This evening, we will be looking at the biblical way for the work of missions to be carried out. We will take the following two headings for our study.
 - I. Local Missions (Acts 1:8)
 - II. Global Missions (Acts 8:4)

Main:

- I. **Local Missions** (Acts 1:8)
 - A. The Command for Missions Work (Mat 28:18-20)
 1. The Lord Jesus commanded his disciples to carry on the work of preaching his message of salvation to the nations.
 - a. We often refer to this command as the Great Commission.
 - i. Unfortunately, today this has become more of a Great Omission in most churches. Due to the seeming "lack of results" they have given up on going out with the faithful Word and have resorted to hyping up the church in the hopes of drawing people in.
 - ii. It is important to remember that, while the 12 apostles were present, this command was not given solely to them but to all the disciples of the Lord Jesus.
 - This event was just prior to the Lord's ascension and many commentators will point out that the nucleus of the church was present at the giving of this command which means that the Lord's command to evangelise the world was given to the church, not to individual disciples.
 2. The missions work at Northside is done in obedience to this command, in an effort to fulfill the Great Commission.

- a. There are a few specific actions we have been commanded to carry out.
 - i. Go ye therefore
 - The most fundamental aspect to the fulfillment of the Great Commission is that the people of God must go out to reach the lost.
 - Today, the average Christian has never left their own home with the specific purpose of sharing the gospel with a lost soul. The average church member has never walked out the doors of the church with the intention of speaking to someone about the Saviour.
 - ii. Teach all nations
 - If we are going out, we must go with the purpose of teaching all nations. You might well ask, "what are we to teach them?" I'm glad you asked that, because Mathew 28:20 gives us the answer, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."
 - We are to go out and teach people what Jesus said, and the very heart of the Lord's message was this, "Ye must be born again." Start with the gospel, baptise those who believe and are converted, and teach them to observe all the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii. Baptize believers
 - Baptism comes after salvation and is a public step of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and a picture of our identification with him in his death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Baptism is one of the two ordinances given to the local church and it is to be carried out in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost.
- B. The Method for Local Missions Work (Acts 5:42)
- 1. Preaching and teaching in the local church
 - a. The most common way we proclaim the gospel message today is through the preaching of the Word from the pulpit in the local church.
 - i. Since the local church is at the centre of God's work of reaching the lost with the gospel it is only logical that the gospel should be proclaimed from the pulpit there.
 - ii. Not every service is going to have a gospel focus, but the gospel should not be absent from the preaching.
 - 2. Public teaching of the gospel

The public teaching of the gospel can be done in many ways.

- a. Gospel tract distribution
 - i. We have already been utilizing this method of getting the gospel out through out letter-boxing campaign which we have called “Operation Launch Out.” We take gospel tracts to peoples home and leave it in their letterbox with the goal of giving them the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ. In fact, our main gospel tract is titled “You Need the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. You can also distribute gospel tracts in your daily life, if you go to the shopping centre of the local park you can find people to give a gospel tract to.
- b. Street preaching
 - i. This is another way in which we can proclaim the gospel, although it has become more difficult to do so in recent years as many public places have rules in place that forbid you for preaching without a permit and they simply won’t give a permit to street preachers because they consider you a trouble maker who is upsetting people by telling them they are sinners on their way to the Lake of Fire.
 - ii. Gospel tracts can also be distributed in conjunction with street preaching. We used to go into the city, in Adelaide, and stand outside the train station and hand out gospel tracts while one of the men would preach the gospel.
- c. Door-knocking
 - i. This is a very practical and scriptural way to share the gospel by going from house to house and seeking those people whose hearts have been prepared by God.
 - **Acts 16:14** “*And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose **heart the Lord opened***”
 - **Acts 5:42** “And daily in the temple, **and in every house**, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”
- d. Radio ministry
 - i. Radio ministries are much harder to maintain and there are a lot of complications involved with such a ministry, however, there are still some such ministries around the world.

- ii. I know there is a radio ministry which uses some of Pastor Simeon Westerns sermons as part of their broadcast.
- 3. Personal testimonies of the gospel
 - a. Family
 - i. You family should be your top priority for witnessing. They are the people who you likely know the best and are also the ones you are most likely to be quick to show genuine compassion to.
 - ii. You may be given opportunities with them that nobody else, include me, would ever get, simply because you are their family and I am not.
 - b. Work colleagues
 - i. This is an area that I have found to be particularly good for opportunities to share the gospel. You will often spend hours a day with the same people and be able to build a good rapport with them across a lengthy period of time.
 - ii. Don't squander the opportunities God gives you to share the gospel with lost work colleagues. I can think right now of three different work colleagues whom God gave me the opportunity to give a clear gospel presentation to, one of them I have plans to catch up with while we are back in Adelaide in next week.
 - c. Social contacts
 - i. Social contacts are those other people who you come into contact with while going about your daily life. Whether it be a staff member at JB HiFi or the farrier that comes to reshoe your horse.
 - ii. We need to share Christ with the lost as God give us opportunity, inviting them to accept the Saviour.

II. Global Missions (Rom 10:13-15)

A. Missionaries sent from local church's

- 1. Missionaries set apart by God (Acts 13:1-5)
 - a. Saul and Barnabas were set apart by God.
 - i. The setting apart of men for the ministry, and by extension for the mission field, is a work of God.
 - The Holy Spirit said, "*Separate me Barnabas and Saul.*"
 - To be separated is to be set apart from the rest. The Holy Spirit chose these men for a specific work which the rest of the church was not sent to do.

- ii. They were set apart “for the work whereunto I have called them.”
 - There was a specific work of missions that these men were set apart for.
 - God is the one who chooses the man and the mission, the family and the mission field.
 - b. Paul and Barnabas were active in their local church.
 - i. It is important to note that the men who were set apart by God for a special work of missions were men who were already actively serving God in their local church.
 - If you aren’t actively serving God in the church where he has placed you, you can hardly expect God to entrust you with an even greater work.
 - **Luke 16:10** “*He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.*”
2. Missionaries sent by the church (Rom 10:13-15)
- a. The Holy Spirit led the local church to set Barnabas and Saul apart for the work of the gospel.
 - i. How are people going to hear the gospel if men of God aren’t hearing and responding to the call to preach? We need people who are ready and willing to be called of God.
 - “*How shall they hear without a preacher?*”
 - ii. Furthermore, how are those who are called of God going to go out and be able to continue in the work of the ministry if the local church doesn’t recognise their calling, commission them to go, and support them in the work they are doing?
 - “*How shall they preach, except they be sent?*”
 - b. When the Holy Spirit sets an individual apart for the work of the ministry it is the role of the local church to do the following.
 - i. Test the calling and make sure it is of God. There are those who have claimed to have had a calling from God but the local church soon recognised that the individual had personal ambitions rather than a Spirit led calling.
 - ii. Train the individual. The local church is ground zero for the training of missionaries. Now, bible colleges that are under the oversight of a local church can certainly play their part in things, but the local church you were called in is the church that ought to be most invested in your training for the work of the ministry.
 - iii. Send out those who have been trained and whose calling has been examined and approved. When all else has

been done, the final step is to allow God to show the individual his place of service and then send that individual on their way with the support and blessing of the local church.

B. Missionaries supported by local church's (Phil 4:15-17)

1. The local church is the support base for the missionary.
 - a. In Philippians 4:15-17 we find that Paul was extremely thankful to the church at Philippi for contacting him to find out what he needed in terms of support.
 - i. The Apostle Paul, probably the greatest missionary since the time of Christ, saw value in the monetary support of the local churches to whom he ministered.
 - Now there were times when Paul didn't take money from the church he was ministering to, but the reason behind that was not because it would have been inappropriate. (1 Cor 9:14-18)
 - Paul preached the gospel without demanding the church reimburse him for his time because he was concerned about those who would claim that he was using his preaching and teaching ministry to get rich. (This is the opposite approach to the prosperity gospel teachers, by the way.)
 - b. Paul desired the churches to support the work of the gospel ministry as seen in Philippians 4:16 when he commended the church at Philippi saying, "Even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity."
 - i. Paul clearly appreciated the financial support of the church at Philippi because their support met his physical needs so that he could continue to minister to the spiritual needs of the other churches.
 - ii. In 2 Corinthians, Paul explains that he accepted money from other churches in order to keep ministering to the Corinthians without being a financial burden to them.
 - **2 Corinthians 11:7-8** *"Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely? I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service."*
2. Those that preach the gospel should live of the gospel
 - a. It is God's plan that the ones he has set aside to preach the gospel should be supported by the local churches who are the product of the preaching of the gospel.

- i. As a local church that is a product of the true preaching of the gospel, we ought to support others who are also true preachers of the gospel as the Lord gives us opportunity.
 - **1 Corinthians 9:14** *“Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.”*
- ii. Let me put it this way, there are brothers in Christ who have taken their immediate family and left the comforts of their home church to go and minister to complete strangers in a foreign place, they have given up well paying jobs, they have left the support of their extended family behind them, they have pulled their children out of their friend groups, and so much more while we sit tight at home and do very little in the way of serving God.
 - Would it really be so hard for you to help financially support that brother who is out on the mission field, giving up all for the work of God, so that souls might be won to the Saviour? Is that really such a poor investment?
 - Many of us are more than happy to spend hundreds or even thousands on dollars on a nice holiday for ourselves but we won't give anything extra to missions work because we don't personally get to enjoy the results right now.
 - The thing about missions work is that, while we become partners with the missionaries we support and we become joint recipients of the fruits of their labours, the reward for us is something we won't see and enjoy until we reach heaven and we're too short sighted to see the eternal value in that.
- b. So what about this Faith Promise Giving?
 - i. Faith Promise Giving is a practical way in which we commit ourselves to the financial support of the work of missions around the world. The money received through Faith Promise giving will not be used in any way by this local church. Every dollar will be sent to our missionaries to support the preaching of the gospel.
 - ii. Would you take time this week to pray about what God would have you to give toward the work of missions on a monthly basis.
 - iii. Next week we plan to renew our faith promise commitments but, just so you understand, the idea is that I will ask the Lord to show me what he would have me to

give above and beyond my tithe. I will then make a commitment to give a certain amount each month through Faith Promise giving, and I will trust the Lord to meet my needs as I faithfully give to the work of the gospel.

Conclusion:

1. The church is the starting point and the foundation for the work of missions. The church trains men for the work, the Lord separates men unto the work, the church sends men out to do the work, and then the church financially supports the men in the work, as needed.