

FOR THE EMPEROR!

—STRONGER TOGETHER: FULFILLING MISSION 1—

I. GOD HAS _____ WITH _____

- To _____ of All Nations (Matt 28:18-20)
- To Establish a Church _____ (See Rev 7:9)

II. VARIOUS _____ FOR US TO _____

- _____ to God's _____ (see 1 Cor 9:16)
- _____ for the _____ (See Mark 6:34)
- _____ for _____ (1 Cor 9:24-27)

III. BUT OUR _____ BE THE _____, _____, and _____ OF GOD

Romans 15:8-9

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

Matthew 19:29

²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 6:9 (NET)

So pray this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored...

Acts 9:15-16

"Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Romans 1:5

...we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...

John Piper on the Goal of Christian Missions

(*Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions* [2nd ed], 17-18)

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists 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 people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! 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 you, I will sing praise to your name, O Most High" (Ps. 104:34; 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship.

If the pursuit of God's glory is not ordered above the pursuit of man's good in the affections of the heart and the priorities of the church, man will not be well served, and God will not be duly honored. I am not pleading for a diminishing of missions but for a magnifying of God. When the flame of worship burns with the heat of God's true worth, the light of missions will shine to the darkest peoples on earth. And I long for that day to come!

Where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak. Churches that are not centered in the exaltation of the majesty and beauty of God will scarcely kindle a fervent desire to "declare his glory among the nations" (Ps. 96:3). Even outsiders feel the disparity between the boldness of our claim upon the nations and the blandness of our engagement with God.

THE BOTTOM LINE

_____ the _____ the Gospel _____
for the _____ God Among _____

...by _____ as a _____ every day here in Minnesota

...by making yourself available for _____ or _____
_____ ministry.

...by _____ those _____.