

## Our Mission [Missions 101]

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Matthew 28:16-20

David Livingstone, missionary to Africa, said, “Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone.” Christ has done everything He could do to save the world—He lived a sinless life... Died a vicious death... Arose from the dead... providing a way for the world to be saved. Salvation is only possible through Him alone! But, Christ has commissioned us to take the Gospel message of salvation to the world. That is our **mandate**... our **mission**... our **marching orders**.

We hear about churches that are “missions-minded.” Bible Baptist Church does *not* have a “mission’s program”—We ARE the mission’s program. Missions is our purpose for being here. We have no right to exist apart from getting the Gospel to the lost.

Christ’s commission to His disciples is stated five times in the New Testament—Each time with a different emphasis. In this message we will look at each of those commissions:

**I. The PLAN of our mission** (Mt. 28:19-20).

- A. The **MANDATE** - Go
- B. The **MANNER** - Evangelize — make disciples
- C. The **MULTIPLICATION** - Teaching them to do likewise.

**II. The PREACHING of our mission** (Mk. 16:15).

- A. Our **MISSION** is global.

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Coco-Cola seems to be everywhere. How does it get there? This motto is posted on the wall at its company’s headquarters: “THINK GLOBALLY, AND ACT LOCALLY.” What this slogan is to Coke, the great commission is to the church.

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- B. Our **METHOD** is preaching (1 Cor. 1:21— *“It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*). Some form of the word “preach” is found 38 times in the book of Acts.
- C. Our **MESSAGE** is the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation.

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Two strangely connected events occurred in 1865 that still impact our lives today. General William Booth founded the Salvation Army that still reaches souls today. His cousin, John Wilkes Booth, assassinated President Abraham Lincoln that same year and became one of the most despised men in American history. One cousin blessed our nation, the other cursed it. What made the difference in these two cousins? THE GOSPEL!

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### III. **The PROMISE of our mission** (Luke 24:46-49). POWER

- A. No one can say, “I can’t.” God gives you the POWER. Whom God calls He enables. You go in His strength, not your own.
- B. The word translated “power” is from the Greek word, “dynamos” (dynamite). Dynamite is explosive.
- C. Christ has promised us His PRESENCE, His POWER and PROVISION. There is no excuse for not being involved.

### IV. **The PROPELLING to our mission** (John 20:19-23). SENT by Christ!

- A. The word “*apostle*” is a transliterated word from the Greek word *apostolos* which means “sent one” (see first mention- Mt. 10:2-5). In his book, *God Who Sends*, Dr. Francis M. Dubose, a one time head of department of Missions at the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, said, “Missions means sending.”
- B. Jesus is called “*the Apostle*” in Heb. 3:1. Why? Because He was sent by the Father to earth to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10). That is what everyone of us are sent to do!
- C. The church at Antioch established the pattern (Acts 13:1-4).

### V. **The PROGRAM for our mission** (Acts 1:8). Jesus last word for a lost world.

- ➡ Begin where you are and move out (Family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, distant relatives, etc.)
- ➡ Their world...
- A. The **UNWILLING** – Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37— *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are*

*sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!)*.

- B. The **UNPROFITABLE / UNSUITABLE** - Judaea - barren wilderness, wasteland, waterless desert, lonely (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*).

➡ Where David hid from Saul.

- C. The **UNWANTED** - Samaria - crossing racial barriers and prejudices.

*"I must needs go through Samaria!"* John 4

- D. The **UNREACHED** - uttermost part of the earth.

2 Cor. 10:16— *To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you,*

**SUMMATION:** The gospel is only good news if it reaches the lost in time!

After years of missionary work in South Africa, the famous missionary Robert Moffat returned to Scotland to recruit more helpers. When he arrived at the church, he was disappointed that only a small group of women had come out to hear him. Although he was grateful for their interest, he was hoping to challenge men. His text was Proverbs 8:4, "*Unto you, O men I call.*" In his disappointment he almost failed to notice a small boy in the loft pumping the bellows of the organ.

Although no one volunteered in that service, that young boy assisting the organist was deeply moved by Moffat's challenge. He promised God he would follow in the footsteps of this pioneer missionary. When he grew up, he kept his vow and went as a missionary to the unreached tribes of Africa. His name was David Livingstone!

What will you do for missions this year? Will you GO? Will you GIVE? Will you PRAY?

It is not a question of either/or. We must do all three!