

6-8 October 2017
Missions Conference
Westminster Presbyterian Church



FROM JERUSALEM TO ALAMOGORDO ... TO YOU

A brief history of the church and missions

Actos 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

In the light of what Christ has done for me: (all verses from the ESV)

I. I have been commissioned to continue what began in the stars. (help change the world)

Genesis 12: 1-4 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 15:5-6 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

You were seen in those stars that night

Matthew 28: 19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

"nations" is ta ethne in greek and means "all peoples"

God is a missionary Father

Jesus is a missionary Savior

The Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit

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Matthew 9: 36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

John 15: 16 ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

II. I have a message to make known

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3: 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

1. Hinduism...we are all part of the god Brahman, as water drops in the sea are part of the oceans. Jesus is only a teacher and is son of God as we all are. Salvation is by liberating ourselves from the cycle of re-incarnation through yoga and meditation.
If your conduct has been good, then when you die you become re-incarnated to a higher level, but if not, then you go down to the level of a rat, a cockroach, etc. Not much hope here!
2. Buddhism...founded in 525 BC, a branch of Hinduism.
The majority of Buddhists do not believe in God. They are atheists. The purpose of life is Nirvana, ...eliminating all personal desires to escape suffering. Its everyone for himself. You have no soul or spirit. You die and your desires may be re-incarnated in another person.
3. Islam...founded by Mohammed in 610 AC
Allah is a severe judge, unloving. According to Islam, Allah revealed the Koran to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel. Jesus is only one of 124,000 prophets sent to different cultures. Jesus is not divine and was not crucified for our sins.
Humans are basically good but need direction. A balance between good deeds and bad deeds determines your eternal destiny, be it paradise or hell. This is a most demonic religion of death.

III. I have been given the power to live and share this message

...but you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

The word for "power" in greek is "dunamis"

- the Word: The written Word, sung, read and preached, has power.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- the Holy Spirit:

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Acts 20:24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

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- the _____

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EX: There are 17,500 ethnic groups in the world. These are people that are united by tribe, language, religion or social class. For example: In Indonesia there is a tribe that is called the Jarawa that consist in 5,000 people, and only they speak their language. They live very primitive lives and have never heard the Gospel.

The city of Guadalajara has a population of 6,000,000 or more, yet only 1 % are believers. Perhaps 60'000 believers. The large Roman Catholic majority has never heard the Gospel. That's why we are there. That's why we need your help. That's why we need you to partner with us.

¿Is it right that we hear the Gospel week after week, Sunday after Sunday, and they not even once? No it does not seem right.

¿Are any of you or your children or grandchildren willing to go and live there, live among them, learn their language, speak of Christ?

When I think of how Christ died for me on a cross, to forgive me, and make my adoption possible, and guarantee my eternal life...¿you know what? I owe him. Big time. Just as someone spoke to me about Christ, I must speak to others.

So, in the light of what Christ did for me, ¿what does He ask of me?

PRAYER

A. The book of Acts records the beginning of missions and it was an exciting and dangerous time. Thousand gave their lives to Christ. Many of the priests who condemned Jesus believed in Him and and now even Jesus own half -brothers trusted in Him for their salvation.

B. Then right before Jesus is raised to heaven, he gives his disciples final instructions:

2

Actos 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

C. And the Gospel was taken into all the world. Its impressive how far it has gone.

PP...google earth from Jerusalem all the way to
Alamogordo and to you!

D. There are 7 billion people in the world and easily 3 billion have not heard of the love of God and salvation in Christ. ¿who will speak to these people? Until Jesus returns...its has to be us. But missions began way before Jesus came.

1. I have been commissioned to continue what began in the stars. (help change the world)

Genesis 12: 1-4 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

a. God called Abraham and made a covenant with him, promising to make him a great nation and that by one of his descendants, ...Christ, all the families who trusted in this Christ would be blessed.

3

b. Ab is 75 and his wife is 65...and she is steril. There is no human hope for a child...but God has given Ab the faith to believe. Ten years later in Gen chapt 15, Ab's patience has worn thin and he asks God about this son...¿who will be my heir?

c. That night God answers and in Gen 15: 5-6 he says:
Genesis 15:5-6 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

3

d. Ab gazes into the skies and sees that dome of stars...¿such will be my descendants?...thousands, millions...Ab did not understand, but he believed.

6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

e. ¿What did Ab see when he saw the stars? He saw you and you, and you. You were in those stars. Ab saw stars from Jerus to Judea to Samaria and all the way to Alamogordo, and from Alamogordo to the end of the earth.

You were seen in those stars that night.

f. Then, 1,500 yrs pass, and before ascending to heaven, Js says to his disciples:

3

Matthew 28: 19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“nations” is ta ethne in greek and means “all peoples”

g. Christ expects the Word of God to get to all the peoples. There must be a church for all peoples.

4

EX: Evo Morales is the president of Bolivia. He is indian, a Quechua, and is a communist and populist. Before getting into politics he grew and harvested drugs. But I read in the newspaper that he named a woman as the Minister of Justice. She is also Quechua. When she was 13 she began as a domestic servant in someone’s home.

At night she studied school...junior high, high school, and then anthropology in the university. She became the secretary of the Union of Domestic Servants in Bolivia and then all of South America.

Pero there is a small phrase at the end of the article...that she is a member of a Methodist church. This means that she has heard the Gospel in a church established for the Quechuas and she is in a position of authority.

h. There are 20 million Quechuas in the Andean mountains of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. They were never conquered or assimilated by the Spanish. Thanks to the efforts of many missionaries in the last 100 years, thousands upon thousands of them have come to Christ.

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4

i. Jesus said in Matthew 9: 36-38 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

j. If we have a sense of compassion for the multitudes, we must ask ourselves... ¿Is it just that we receive so much and others so little or nothing? Especially when we consider that we deserve nothing. We were not only chosen for salvation, but also chosen to make known the Gospel of JC, to be laborers.

5

John 15: 16 ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

k. We here at Westminster have the wonderful privilege to continue what began with Abraham, and go and bear much fruit...and I am so happy to do it with you.

II. I have been given a message to make known.

a. Even though the message we carry is simple, it is the most passionate in the history of humanity. And no other religion has a message so simple and positive.

5

b. The best known verse in the Bible summarizes that message:

Read together with me:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in should not perish but have eternal life.

c. This is the essence of our message. God loves. God gives.
¿Why? Because we are lost, condemned and unable to save ourselves. That's why John says the following...

6

John 3: 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God does not have to condemn anyone...everyone is already condemned.

d. ¿Did you know that all the religions of the world depend on good works for salvation...and in the end none save...they are all false?

6

1. Hinduism...we are all part of the god Brahman, as water drops in the sea are part of the oceans. Jesus is only a teacher and is son of God as we all are. Salvation is by liberating ourselves from the cycle of re-incarnation through yoga and meditation.

If your conduct has been good, then when you die you become re-incarnated to a higher level, but if not, then you go down to the level of a rat, a cockroach, etc.

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Allah is a severe judge, unloving. According to Islam, Allah revealed the Koran to Mohammed through the angel Gabriel.

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Humans are basically good but need direction. A balance between good deeds and bad deeds determines your eternal destiny, be it paradise or hell. Islam is the most diabolical religion...it kills.

e. No other faith in the world guarantees the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and hope for the future. For those religions all is a coin toss...it just depends on whether you did more good works than bad works.

That's why John 3:16 is so wonderful...only the Gospel of JC offers this. John 3: 16 again...

7

III. I have been given the power to live and share this message.

...but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

- a. Js told the disciples to wait in Jerus until the coming of the Holy Spirit, and it would give them the power to live and speak.
- b. We see this when Peter preached his message on Pentecost...3,000 people gave their lives to Christ. What power!
- c. The original word for power in Greek is dunamis, from where we get our work dynamite.
- d. God has given us two powerful methods to live and share the message. We are doing this in Guada.

° the Word This is written, sung, recited, and preached.

Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

7

° the Holy Spirit: who dwells in the heart of every believer

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

a. The Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of every believer and its purpose is to apply the Word of God in our lives and change our way of thinking to change our way of living. The HS is Js in us.

8

b. The Word and the Spirit: They worked in your lives to bring you to Christ. Each of you has a story of redemption...never forget it. I hope to hear your story some day.

EX: Mine is that I grew up in a Christian home...my parents were missionaries to Mexico. I am a covenant child. Every night my father would pray with me before going to sleep.

One night, when I was about 12, the Holy Spirit prompted me to ask my father to pray with me that I might be sure of my salvation. My father reminded me that Christ died for me and so we prayed. Then I had the assurance that Christ was living in me.

c. ¿someone want to share their story?

Two examples I want to give about the Word and the Spirit.

8

BIB John chapt 3 is the story of Nicodemus

A good man, a religious man, a devout believer. But there was an emptiness in the good Nicodemus. He had heard Js say things that gave him hope.

He made an apt with Js. And as you know, Js tells him that even though he is a good man, he must be born again. Nicodemus does not understand. Jesus challenges him:

BIB John 3: 12-15 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No

one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

9

Notice that Js used the Scriptures...talked about Moses and then about himself and during the conversation the Spirit worked in Nicodemus life. He asks questions....there is hunger.

Later Nicodemus puts his faith and trust in Christ as his Savior. All this started over a cup of coffee. You can do this with your friends. Do it before inviting them to Westminster. Do it for the sake of Christ.

BIB John chapt 4...the Samaritan woman.

You know this great story. Its noon and Js has sent his disciples into town to get some food. He is alone. This is planned. He is waiting for someone. He has a divine apt....like the one with Nicodemus.

9

A woman comes to draw water, at noon, in the heat of the day..when no one is around...except today Js is there. She wasn't expecting him. And then He asks her for water...a petition that cannot be denied. Then he starts a conversation...he a jew, she a Samaritan, he a man and she a woman. Everything goes against custom.

Then he offers her water...but the living kind.

Bib vers 13-15

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Js offers her living water, the H.S. works in her life and she asks for this water. Then Js reveals himself to her. Her life is changed.

What a testimony this woman had later. Each of us has a testimony...no one can argue with your story. Tell your story and just point people to Christ.

Paul declares at the end of his life.

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Acts 20:24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Yes...may this be true for our lives. Amen!