

BASIC BIBLE COURSE

Lesson 12 - Missions

Missions is a word we use to describe the New Testament church practice of sending men beyond their local borders to preach the gospel and establish churches. We call the men that are sent, *missionaries*.

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20 has become known as *The Great Commission*. After His resurrection and before His ascension back into heaven, Jesus gave these instructions to His church. He told them first to *teach all nations*. The word *teach* used here means to *make disciples*. So, disciples should be made in all nations of the earth. Then He said that the disciples should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Then, the disciples should be taught to observe Jesus' commandments. Similar instructions are given in Mark, Luke, John and Acts. Missions is not a sideline of the church. Missions is the work of the church.

The commission in Mark.

Mark 16:15:

And he said unto them, _____ ye into _____ the _____, and _____ the _____ to _____ creature.

The commission in Luke.

Luke 24:47:

And that _____ and _____ of _____ should be _____ in his _____ among all _____, beginning at Jerusalem.

The commission in John.

John 20:21:

Then said _____ to them again, _____ be unto you: _____ my _____ hath _____ me, even so _____ I _____.

The commission in Acts.

Acts 1:8:

But ye shall receive _____, after that the _____ is come upon you: and ye shall be _____ unto me both in _____, and in all _____, and in _____, and unto the _____ part of the _____.

Assignment: Read Matthew 28:16-20 and answer these questions.

1. Where did the eleven disciples go? v.16 _____
2. Where were they when Jesus appeared to them? v.16 _____
3. What did some do when they saw Jesus? v.17 _____
4. What is given to Jesus? v.18 _____
5. Where were they told to go and teach? v.19 _____
6. In what name were they to baptize? v.19 _____
7. How long did Jesus say He would be with them? v.20 _____

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How Do Churches Send Missionaries?

Since the churches in the New Testament were independent of each other and there was no governing body, each church sent its own missionaries. In Acts chapter 13 the Holy Spirit laid it on the heart of the church at Antioch to send Paul and Barnabas as missionaries and laid it on the hearts of Paul and Barnabas to go. Such is still the case. The Holy Spirit lays it upon the heart of a church to send a man to a mission field and also lays it upon the heart of a man to go. The church then sends that man, watches over him and sees that his needs are met.

The church was involved.

Acts 13:1:

Now there were in the _____ that was at _____ certain _____ and _____: as _____ and _____ that was called Niger, and _____ of Cyrene, and _____ which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and _____.

The Holy Spirit called the men.

Acts 13:2:

As they _____ to the Lord, and _____, the _____ said, Separate me _____ and _____ for the _____ whereunto I have _____ them.

The men were ordained by the church.

Acts 13:3:

And when they had _____ and _____, and _____ their _____ on them, they _____ them away.

The men left for the foreign fields.

Acts 13:4:

So they, being _____ forth by the _____, departed unto _____; and from thence they sailed to _____.

Assignment: Read Romans 10:9-15 and answer these questions.

1. Where do we believe? v.9 _____
2. With what does a man believe? v.10 _____
3. Who shall not be ashamed? v.11 _____
4. Who shall be saved? v.13 _____
5. How shall a person hear? v.14 _____
6. How shall a preacher go? v.15 _____
7. Who has beautiful feet? v.15 _____

Missions Causes Churches To Multiply

The end result of missions is to establish new churches so that they in turn can also do mission work. From the church at Jerusalem came the church at Antioch. From the church at Antioch Paul went as a missionary and many other churches were begun. From them still other missionaries went out and more churches were started. This is the New Testament plan.

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From the work of the Jerusalem church came the Antioch church.

Acts 11:22:

Then _____ of these things came unto the _____ of the _____ which was in _____: and they _____ forth _____, that he should go as far as _____.

Paul visited the churches he had started in Syria and Cilicia.

Acts 15:41:

And he went through _____ and _____, confirming the _____.

Paul visited other churches he began.

Acts 16:5:

And so were the _____ established in the _____, and _____ in _____ daily.

Assignment: Read Acts chapter 8 and answer these questions.

1. Where did the people from the Jerusalem church go when the great persecution came? v.1

2. What did they do as they went? v.4 _____

3. Where did Philip go? v.5 _____

4. Who did the apostles at Jerusalem send to Samaria? v.14 _____

5. Philip was sent to preach to a man from what country? vs.26-27 _____

6. Philip continued preaching in the cities until he came to what city? v.40 _____

Associated Missions

While churches are independent, they are also interdependent, that is, they depend on each other. One church sends out a missionary and other churches may help to support him. This is churches working together toward a common goal and is often called associated mission work. This is the way the work was carried on in the New Testament. Paul was sent out by the church at Antioch and the churches in the country of Macedonia helped to support him.

The church at Philippi supported Paul.

Philippians 4:15-16:

Now ye _____ know also, that in the beginning of the _____, when I _____ from _____, no _____ communicated with me as concerning _____ and _____ but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye _____ once and again unto my _____.

Others paid so that Paul might serve the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 11:8-9:

I robbed other _____, taking _____ of them, to do you _____. And when I was _____ with you, and _____, I was _____ to no man: for that which was _____ to me the _____ which came from _____ supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being _____ unto you, and so will I _____ myself.

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Assignment: Read Philippians 4:10-19 and answer these questions.

1. What had Paul learned to be in any condition? v.11 _____
2. What could Paul do through Christ? v.13 _____
3. Did Paul desire a gift from them? v.17 _____
4. What will God supply? v.19 _____

Witnessing

We think of missions as being to people in distant lands. However, the instructions the Lord left say we are to get the gospel to every creature. That would include our friends and neighbors. Every Christian should be a witness to those around him. Others should be told how Christ died for them and that they can be saved through faith in Him. Witnessing is telling others what Christ has done for you.

A blessing promised for those who win others.

Daniel 12:3:

And they that be _____ shall _____ as the _____ of the Firmament; and they that _____ many to righteousness as the _____ for _____ and _____.

Winning friends pulls them out of the fire.

Jude 23:

And _____ save with _____, _____ them out of the _____; hating even the garment _____ by the _____.

We should do whatever it takes to win men to Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:22:

To the _____ became I as _____ that I might _____ the _____; I am made _____ things to _____ men, that I might by _____ means save _____.

Assignment: Read John 4:34-38 and answer these questions.

1. What was meat (food) to Jesus? v.34 _____
2. What were the fields? v.35 _____
3. What does he that reaps receive? v.36 _____
4. What will the one who sows and the one who reaps do together? v.36 _____

DO THE TEST OF LESSON 12