

- o The theme of “World Missions” sounds too grand and too general.
- For our purpose, regard “World Missions” as “the execution of the Great Commission, as taught in Matthew 28:18-20 and related passages, by God’s people.”
- It involves winning souls to Christ and the planting of churches. Need to consider methods of winning souls, the type of churches we want to plant. Interact with the views and methods adopted by others who differ from us.
- Five talks all together:
  - : Talk 1: The Biblical Basis For World Missions.
  - : Talk 2: The Biblical Imperatives Of World Missions.
  - : Talk 3: The State Of World Missions Today.
  - : Talk 4: The Objective and Scope Of World Missions.
  - : Talk 5: The Methodology and Methods Of World Missions.
- = In this talk, consider the biblical basis for world missions. Why do we carry it out? Three points, like big tree — roots that grow deep into the ground, trunk firmly planted in the ground, and branches spreading out from the trunk.

**I. World Missions is rooted in the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 1:3-14).**

1. The covenant of redemption, or the eternal covenant.
  - What is a covenant? A solemn agreement made between two or more parties.
  - : God deals with His people by covenant. But begin with covenant of redemption.
  - Three persons of the Trinity made agreement in eternity past (John 10:26-30).
  - : The Father chose certain individuals to be His people. The Son agreed to come to redeem them. The Spirit agreed to apply the saving benefits of Christ’s death to the chosen people.
2. The covenant of redemption unfolds in history as the covenant of grace.
  - Revealed gradually in history, marked by clear steps of progression, together known as the Old C.
  - : Two basic ways of salvation, viz. by works or grace. After fall of Adam, works can no longer save. Grace revealed in pro-evangel (Gen. 3:15).
  - Old C. *revealed* to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, then the new covenant which is c. of *grace fulfilled*.
  - : Consisted of temporal aspect, meant to be types of NT realities, & spiritual aspect which is promise of salvation by grace through Seed. Jews make mistake of treating temporal elements as works. Temporal aspect in Mosaic C. revealed at Sinai (Exod. 20, Sinaitic C.) & at Moab (Deut 29-30, Evangelical C.).
  - There is only one way of salvation through the ages, viz. by grace, through faith, in Christ alone.
  - : Formula of the c. o. g. “I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
  - : OT elect saved by faith prospectively, we retrospectively, in Christ.
3. The covenant of grace leads to the covenant of the church.
  - The parties concerned must respond to the terms & conditions, e.g. marriage.
  - : In covenant of grace, God initiates the covenant, sets the terms & conditions.
  - : Israel had to solemnly respond during a worship service (Exod. 24:3, 4, 7).
  - No explicit mention of God’s people covenanting together in NT. But indications given.
  - : Continuity between OT & NT gives rise to the form of the church (2 Cor. 6:16; 8:1, 5; 7:3).
  - : Discontinuity determines the matter/members of the church (Heb. 8:10-11).
  - Put together, the local church is gathered out of this world to covenant together.
  - : Explicit membership taught (1 Cor. 5:12-13; 4:21, 22).

## **II. World Missions is grounded in the atoning death of Christ (John 12:24).**

1. God's people are atoned for their sin by Christ. Atonement a OT word, Tyndall coined it.
  - Involves "redemption", i.e. paying a ransom (Matt. 20:28). Also "propitiation" (1 John 2:2). Then, "reconciliation" (Rom. 5:10).
  - : John 12:24 referring to Christ who died for His people.
  - Produces much grain, i.e. saves many.
  - : Born again of Spirit, converted, genuine disciples (vv 25, 26 cf. Luke 9:23).
2. After Christ's death & resurrection, the unfolding of another stage in God's plan of salvation.
  - Holy Spirit came down upon the first disciples on Pentecost (Acts 2).
  - : Dawn of new age, of the new covenant — often called the NT age or the gospel age.
  - : Only believes are to be added to the membership. Explicit membership taught (Heb. 8:10-11).
  - Dawn of new age shown by Acts 2:17-21. Signs among God's people (17-18), signs in heavenly realm (19-20), the period in between when GC to be carried out (21).
  - : Jerusalem became the mother of all NT churches.

## **III. World Missions is demanded by the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).**

1. A command to the local church. Not individuals, not para-church organisations.
  - Any command given to the apostles is a command to the local churches unless it is unique to the apostles or to the circumstances of the time.
  - : Examples Matt. 18:15-17, churches did not exist at that time, but claimed instinctively by churches today. Similarly 1 Cor. 11:23ff on the Lord's Supper.
  - : The GC was given to the apostles, therefore to local churches in NT age. "All the nations", "LLo, I will be with you..."
2. A command to plant churches. Not just make disciples, baptism, or teaching only, but all these.
  - Paul based in church at Antioch, sent out from church (Acts 13:1-3). Four missionary journeys.
  - : Planted churches (Acts 14:21-23), reported back to church at Antioch (Acts 14:26-28).
  - Acts 9:31 many churches planted, from Pentecost & persecution (Acts 8:4).
  - : Peter & others were travelling about, in systematic way, to plant churches (1 Cor. 9:5).
  - The churches planted were similarly engaged in church planting.
  - : Rev. 1-2, seven churches in Asia. Actually more, starting from the one in Ephesus.
  - : 1 Cor. 1:2 cf. 2 Cor. 1:1 & Col. 4:16.

= Nothing redounds to God's glory more than to carry out the GC. 1 Cor. 2:6-9.