

# **MISSION STUDIES**

**(A Mission Survey Course)**

BY J. C. CHOATE

***Thirteen Lessons To Acquaint the Lord's People  
With the Real Purpose of the Church***

*"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel  
to every creature . . ."*

Mark 16:15

*God so loved the world that he gave  
his only begotten Son . . ."*

John 3:16

## **D E D I C A T I O N**

*To the Elders, Deacons, Preacher, and members of the Central Church of Christ of Ada, Oklahoma, who are sponsoring our proposed work for Bombay, India, and to all other congregations and individuals who are having a part in our support. May God bless one and all.*

Price, \$1.00 a copy

10 copies or more, 75¢ each

Hard Back, \$2.00

**A J. C. Choate Publication**

**ROUTE 3, CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI**

## **Introduction**

**F**OR more than a score of years now I have been very much concerned about "getting the gospel into all the world." It has been my heart's desire to have a part in this great work, praying to God that even during my life time all of mankind could hear and know the truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

It has been my good fortune to be blessed with the opportunity to work in mission areas over the United States, both in located work and through evangelistic efforts. And Lord willing, my wife Betty, four month old daughter Sheila, and I, will be leaving for Bombay, India this coming June, 1961, to establish the Lord's work there.

Now I am especially happy to be able to present to the churches of Christ this workbook on MISSION WORK. We are pioneering with this material, inasmuch as to my knowledge, there is no other series of lessons like it in the entire brotherhood.

We do not claim that the subject has been exhausted, and the lessons may be longer than those you are accustomed to, but we send it forth as a pattern to follow, as a guide to greater things, as a theme for thought, and as a skeleton to put some meat on. It is suggestive, and therefore it will be up to the class to decide how much time will be spent on it.

Brethren, take these lessons and study them well. Put something into them and you will be amazed at the good it will do you at home, not to mention the good it will do for others elsewhere.

I wish we could get a million copies into circulation. We need to know more about the plan that Jesus has for the world. We need to teach more, inspire more, and to do more.

Beloved, my aim is to do all I can to get the gospel to the world. Won't you join me by getting your home congregation to begin an active mission program? And let's get busy *now* and do the job that we were put here to do.

I have a challenge for the Lord's church: I CHALLENGE THE CHURCH TO BEGIN NOW BY PUTTING AT LEAST ONE MISSIONARY IN EVERY NATION UNDER HEAVEN WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS. When we have done that our job won't be finished, but it will be a big improvement over the present situation.

May the Lord help us to wake up to what is going on and get back to solid ground. We need to get back to God, Christ, the scripture, faith, love, prayer, and all other divine things that can mean the difference between life and death for us.

I hope that this book will help you to see your responsibility and to be "man" enough to discharge it.

J. C. CHOATE

Winona, Mississippi  
February 3, 1961

## Contents

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1	God's Eternal Purpose .....	7
2	The Work of Christ .....	13
3	The Great Commission .....	19
4	The Story of First Century Christianity .....	25
5	The Need for Evangelizing the World Today ...	32
6	Why We Haven't Preached the Gospel to Every Creature .....	37
7	The Reasons Why We Are Able To Repeat the Job .....	44
8	What Is Being Done .....	50
9	The Textbook for Mission Work .....	57
10	The Field and the Methods .....	63
11	Who Will Go? .....	69
12	Who Will Send? .....	75
13	Review .....	81

### *Supplementary Material*

Great Missions .....	87
Paul's Mission Methods .....	87
A Contrast .....	88
Excuses for Not Doing Any Mission Work .....	88
A Survey of Eighty Churches .....	90
What Missionaries Are Saying .....	91
A Word to Supporting Individuals and Congregations .....	100
How Young People Can Help in Mission Work ..	102
Some Missionary Songs .....	102

First Printing, 2000

Printed in the United States of America

1961

## LESSON ONE

### **God's Eternal Purpose**

Eph. 3:8-12; 1:7-12

The entire creation was brought about in order that God might be glorified through his handiwork. For a time his purpose was fulfilled, but when man sinned and brought dishonor, he set the scheme of redemption in order. Throughout the days of the old law he preserved the nation of Israel to prepare the way for the Messiah, and through which he would come. His message during that time was not directed to the entire world, but all that he did was for the purpose of re-establishing, at the proper time, his relationship with his creation. This lesson shows the over-all picture of God's plan for bringing the people of the world to himself.

#### **OUTLINE**

- I. GOD IS THE CREATOR. (1 Pet. 4:19).
  - A. Of the world. (Isa. 40:28).
  - B. Of man. (Gen. 2:7).
  - C. Of all things. (Acts 17:24).
  - D. Of the plan for the ages. (Eph. 3:8-12).
  
- II. GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE. (Gen. 1:27).
  - A. Gave him a physical body. (1 Cor. 15:42-50).
  - B. Gave him a spiritual body. (Eccl. 12:7).

(If man had not sinned, the physical body would have been eternal, and the soul, as such, would not have been necessary, but God prepared man so that if and when he sinned and fell, he could

still have hope of eternal life through his spiritual body.)

III. GOD DEALT WITH PERFECT MAN. (1 Cor. 15:45).

- A. Gave man a home and work to do. (Gen. 2:15).
- B. Gave him a law. (Gen. 2:16,17).
  - 1. Satan offered temptation and a lie. (Gen. 3:1-5).
  - 2. Man believed and sinned. (Gen. 3:6).
- C. Man fell from perfect state. (Gen. 3:7).
- D. Was cast out to die, an enemy of God. (Gen. 3:8-24).

IV. GOD DEALT WITH SINFUL MAN. (1 Cor. 15:22).

- A. Offered promise of hope. (Gen. 3:15).
- B. Worked through individuals to accomplish his will.
  - 1. Noah.
    - a. Men thought evil continually. (Gen 6:5).
    - b. Noah and his family righteous. (Ezek. 14:20).
    - c. God warned them through Noah. (Heb. 11:7).
    - d. Noah and his family saved; rest of world destroyed. (2 Pet. 2:5).
  - 2. Abraham.
    - a. Was faithful to God. (Gal. 3:9).
    - b. Through him the seed was to come. (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16).
    - c. Was father of the chosen nation. (Josh. 24:2,3).
  - 3. Moses.
    - a. Led people out of bondage. (Ex. 3:10).
    - b. God gave law through Moses. (John 1:17).

- C. Worked through nation to accomplish his will.
  - 1. Gave Israel place as nation. (Gen. 17:7,8).
  - 2. Preserved them for 1500 years.
    - a. Judges. (Jud.).
    - b. Kings. (1 Sam. 10).
    - c. Divided kingdom. (1 Kings 12).
    - d. Captivity. (2 Chron. 36).
    - e. Return to Jerusalem. (Ezra).

V. GOD PREPARED A WAY TO SAVE MAN. (Matt. 22:4).

- A. Christ was born. (Lk. 2).
  - 1. Came to seek and save the lost. (Lk. 19:10).  
(Someone has said that it was necessary for Christ to come because man is a sinner and can neither forgive nor save himself.)
  - 2. Spent more than three years evangelizing Israel. (Lk. 3:23).
  - 3. Died for the world. (2 Cor. 5:14,15).
  - 4. Was resurrected and entered heaven as King. (Rom. 14:8,9; Mk. 16:19).
  - 5. Sent Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4).
- B. Established the church. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2).
  - 1. The saved become a part of the church. (Acts 2:47).
  - 2. Was planned to be the major tool in reaching man. (Acts 8:4).
  - 3. Awaits the return of Christ. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

VI. GOD AND CHRIST WANT ALL TO BE SAVED. (1 Tim. 2:4).

- A. Fulfilled his work on earth. (John 17:4; 19:30).
- B. Has instructed men to carry his message. (1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Cor. 4:7).



1. Commanded the gospel to be taken to all. (1 Tim. 2:1-7; Mk. 16:15).
2. Would not have any to perish. (2 Pet. 3:9).
3. Sent Christ to give hope to world. (Col. 1:4,5).

VII. THE END OF THE WORLD WILL COMPLETE GOD'S PLAN. (2 Pet. 3:9-14).

- A. World will be destroyed. (Rev. 21:1).
- B. Church will be judged. (1 Pet. 4:17,18).
  1. Righteous will be eternally saved. (Matt. 13:43).
  2. Evil will be eternally damned. (Matt. 13:41,43).
- C. Aliens and enemies of God will be damned. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- D. God to be glorified in all. (1 Pet. 4:11).

### QUESTIONS

1. Why did God create the world?
2. Give some reasons why man was created a dual being.
3. How did man become an enemy of God?
4. What was God's plan for bringing man back?
5. Why did God destroy the world with water?
6. How was God to bless the world through Abraham?
7. What was the wisdom of raising up a nation through which to work?
8. Give two ways God used to keep his people separate from the world. (Neh. 13:23-27; Mal. 2:11,12; Josh. 6:17-21).
9. Why was the law of Moses given? (Gal. 3:19-24).
10. Outline briefly the history of Israel, including names and places involved.

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. It was necessary for Christ to come because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Christ gave mankind \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Once God chose a \_\_\_\_\_ as his people; now  
his people make up the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. He would have \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved.
5. The mission of the church is to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### MATCH

- |                                    |                                         |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Both Jews and Gentiles<br>are   | A. will complete God's<br>eternal plan. |
| 2. The destruction of the<br>world | B. God's messenger to the<br>world.     |
| 3. The church is                   | C. to glorify God.                      |
| 4. Man will be judged              | D. made one in Christ.                  |
| 5. The purpose of the<br>world was | E. according to his words<br>and deeds. |

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ "God so loved America that he gave his only  
begotten Son."
2. \_\_\_\_\_ All must repent or perish.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Whether we preach to the world or not, we will  
be saved.

## PROJECTS

1. Report on God's goodness toward man.
2. Make a study of the word *all* with God and man in mind.
3. Give your own outline of God's dealings with man from the beginning to the present time.
4. List some methods of God's dealings with man through the ages.
5. Give some reasons why we should be interested in every soul.

## LESSON TWO

### ***The Work of Christ***

Matt. 1:21; Lk. 19:10; John 5:17; 9:4; 17:4; 20:30,31

Someone has said that God had but one son and he was a missionary: he left heaven and came to earth to save mankind. Christ's purpose in taking on the body of mortals was to bring the lost sheep back to the fold. Man had sinned and had been cast away from God; his only hope was in God's son. Jesus' works on earth—his travels, his preaching, his teaching, even his prayers—were those of a missionary. He sought to bring *all* men to the Father, and he taught his followers to be likewise concerned with every soul. If we fail to see that *all* that Jesus said and did was done in order that *all* men might be saved and that the whole world might be evangelized, we have not yet realized the real purpose of his coming. Surely we cannot be his true disciples until we open our eyes to this truth and look to the world, the harvest field.

#### OUTLINE

- I. JESUS' PRE-EXISTENCE IN HEAVEN REVEALED. (John 1:1-13).
  - A. His coming foretold. (Isa. 7:14).
  - B. Left heaven to be born of woman. (John 1:14; Lk. 1:30-33).
  - C. John the Baptist prepared his way. (Matt. 3:1-3).
  
- II. JESUS BECAME A MISSIONARY. (Isa. 53).
  - A. To bridge the gap between God and man. (1 Tim. 2:5).

- B. To take away the law of Moses. (Lk. 24:44; Col. 2:14).
- C. To give his better law. (Heb. 8:6-13).
- D. To unite all nations in him. (Gal. 3:26-29).
- E. To redeem man. (Tit. 2:13,14).
  - 1. Mankind lost. (Col. 2:13; Matt. 18:11).
  - 2. Unable to reach God alone. (Eph. 2:12).
  - 3. Damned in sin. (Gal. 3:21,22; Rom. 6:23).
  - 4. Dependent on God's sacrifice for salvation. (Rom. 5:8).

### III. JESUS LIVED AMONG MEN. (Heb. 2:16-18).

- A. His childhood days.
  - 1. Obeyed his parents. (Lk. 2:51).
  - 2. Grew in stature, favor, etc. (Lk. 2:52).
  - 3. Began doing Father's work. (Lk. 2:41-49).
- B. The beginning of his public ministry.
  - 1. Baptized of John. (Matt. 3:13-15).
  - 2. Overcame temptation. (Lk. 4:1-13).
  - 3. Performed miracles to make believers. (John 2:23).
    - a. Healed lepers, blind, lame, etc. (Lk. 7:22).
    - b. Raised dead. (Lk. 7:11-18).
    - c. Commanded nature. (Matt. 8:23-32).
  - 4. Taught his followers by parables, sermons, conversation.
    - a. Prodigal son. (Lk. 15).
    - b. Sermon on Mount. (Matt. 5-7).
    - c. Conversation with Nicodemus. (John 3:1-8).
  - 5. Lived an exemplary life. (1 Pet. 2:21-25).
- C. The Training of his followers.
  - 1. The apostles chosen. (Matt. 10:1-6).
  - 2. Vital lessons taught.
    - a. Humility. (John 13:5-15).

- b. Faith in Christ. (Matt. 8:26; John 6:29).
  - c. Steadfastness. (Lk. 9:62).
  - d. Importance of the soul. (Matt. 16:26).
  - e. Necessity of reaching others. (Matt. 4:19).
- D. Old practices contrasted with new law.
- 1. Physical—Spiritual. (Matt. 6:24-34).
  - 2. Outward appearances—From the heart. (Heb. 8:8-10).
  - 3. Eye for eye—Forgiveness. (Matt. 5:38-42).
  - 4. Divorce—One mate. (Matt. 5:31,32).
  - 5. Hypocrisy—Sincerity. (Matt. 6:5-8).
  - 6. Jewish nation—Church. (John 11:51,52; Heb. 12:22-24).
  - 7. Passover feast—Lord's Supper. (Matt. 26:1,2; 1 Cor. 11:23-29).
- E. Promises of Christ.
- 1. The comforter would come. (John 16:7).
  - 2. The church to be established. (Matt. 16:18,19).
  - 3. Christians would suffer. (John 15:18-21).
  - 4. He would be with them. (Matt. 28:20; Matt. 18:20).
  - 5. To come again. (John 14:1-3).
  - 6. Eternal reward. (John 6:40).

#### IV. JESUS DIED FOR ALL MEN. (Rom. 5).

- A. His blood was paid as man's ransom. (Matt. 26:28).
  - B. He became a prisoner of death. (1 Cor. 15:33).
  - C. The bonds were broken by the resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).
- 1. His power over death manifested. (Phil. 3:8-11).
  - 2. Man's assurance of a resurrection. (Rom. 6:4-9; 1 Cor. 15:12-20).
  - 3. Proved Christ to be God's Son. (Acts 2:29-36).

V. THE RESURRECTED CHRIST APPEARED BEFORE HIS FOLLOWERS. (Mk. 16:9-13).

- A. Assured them of his power over death. (John 20:26-29).
- B. Gave them a commission. (Mk. 16:15,16).
  - 1. "Go."
  - 2. "Into all the world."
  - 3. "Preach the gospel to every creature."
  - 4. d it sJw0
- C. The Lord to give the increase. (1 Cor. 3:6).
- D. Ascended to the Father. (Acts 1:9).

VI. THE WILL OF CHRIST IS REVEALED FOR MAN TODAY. (1 Cor. 13:9-13).

- A. He desires followers. (Matt. 11:28-30; Lk. 9:23).
- B. Covets their love and faithfulness. (Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:15; 15:14).
- C. Commands them to tell others of him. (2 Tim. 4:2).
- D. To reward the faithful. (Rev. 2:10).

VII. CHRIST IS MAN'S EXAMPLE. (John 13:15).

- A. He was in heaven—Man is at "home." (John 1:1).
- B. He left heaven for man—Man must leave home for others. (John 3:16; Matt. 10:37-39).
- C. He gave himself—Man must give himself, his time, his resources. (Gal. 2:20; Lk. 9:24).
- D. He lived according to God's will—Men must obey God. (Heb. 5:8,9).
- E. He overcame death—Man can overcome through Christ. (Phil. 4:13).

## QUESTIONS

1. Who was the greatest missionary?
2. What did he give up for man?
3. Why did he come to earth?
4. What is the significance of the Lord overcoming the Devil's temptations?
5. Who did he teach? When did he teach? How did he teach?
6. Why did Christ train a certain few?
7. What were some of the vital lessons he taught?
8. Name one of the greatest sermons of Christ's ministry.
9. Tell of the sufferings and triumph of Christ.
10. What was the significance of the empty tomb?

## WRITE A SCRIPTURAL STATEMENT USING THESE WORDS

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Hypocrisy.  | 4. Commission.   |
| 2. The church. | 5. Give.         |
| 3. Persecute.  | 6. Resurrection. |

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Christ was the fulfillment of God's promise to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. "My God, my God, why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?"
3. We have salvation through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.



4. We have hope through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
5. Man must give of his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to be pleasing to God.

### PROJECTS

1. Tell what the cross means to you.
2. Read to the class the Lord's prayer of John 17.
3. Check the number of parables that suggest and emphasize mission work.
4. Trace the Lord's travels during his public ministry.
5. Compare the methods of reaching the lost in Jesus' day and now.

## LESSON THREE

### ***The Great Commission***

Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15,16; Lk. 24:46-48

Commission is defined: "A formal warrant or authority, granting certain powers and authorizing the performance of certain duties." (Webster) The commission we shall study in this lesson is far above the ordinary: it is termed "the Great Commission" because of its scope and its effect on the entire world throughout the generations since it was issued.

#### OUTLINE

#### I. THE GREAT COMMISSION IS STATED. (All four versions?)

##### A. By Matthew.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19,20).

##### B. By Mark.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:15,16).

##### C. By Luke.

"Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should

be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." (Lk. 24:46-48).

D. By John.

"As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you . . . Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." (John 20:21,23).

II. THERE WAS AUTHORITY BEHIND THE COMMISSION. (Matt. 7:29).

A. God.

1. All powerful creator. (Isa. 40:28).
2. Author of the plan of redemption from the beginning. (Job 19:25).
3. Sender of Christ. (1 John 4:9).

B. Christ.

1. All authority had been given him by the Father. (John 5:26,27).
2. He had given his life in order to be in position to issue the commission (Col. 1:21,22).
3. He had conquered death to prove the validity of the promises of the commission. (Acts 17:31).

III. THE MESSAGE TO BE PREACHED WAS ONE OF HOPE. (2 Tim. 1:10).

A. Man in general was in error. (1 John 1:10).

1. Worshipped images of stone or wood: worshipped sun, moon, fire, water, etc. (Acts 17:16).
2. Had no knowledge of the true God and his will. (Acts 17:23).
3. Had no hope of eternal life. (Rom. 6:23).

4. Was doomed to eternal torment. (Rev. 20: 11-15).
- B. Commission gave man a guide. (Lk. 1:76-79).
  1. Told him what to do.
    - a. Repent. (Acts 3:19).
    - b. Be baptized. (Acts 8:12).
  2. Told him how to perform his duty.
    - a. With believing heart. (Acts 8:37).
    - b. In sincerity. (2 Cor. 1:12).
- C. Promised rewards for obedience and disobedience.
  1. Salvation for the obedient. (Heb. 5:9).
  2. Damnation for disobedient. (Rom. 2:5-9).

#### IV. THE MESSAGE WAS DIRECTED TO TWO CLASSES OF PEOPLE. (Gal. 1:7-9; Rom. 1:16).

##### A. The saved. (Mk. 16:15).

1. "Go."
2. "Preach the gospel."

##### B. The lost. (Mk. 16:16).

1. "Believe."
2. "Obey."

(Failure to obey either command is rewarded with destruction to the guilty persons. May God help us to realize that we must go and *preach* to be saved.)

#### V. THE COMMISSION WAS THE BASIS FOR ALL MISSION WORK. (Acts 1:8).

- A. God had previously been interested in all nations. (Isa. 43:6-9).
- B. His plan was to reach all nations in due time. (1 Tim. 2:5,6).
- C. But through the Jews he worked to preserve that nation only. (Rom. 3:1,2).

- D. Commission opened door to new age. (2 Cor. 5:20).
1. New message—the story of God's Son. (Acts 17:18).
  2. New command—God; reach *all* men with the word. (Matt. 28:19).
  3. New plan for obeying God—spiritual obedience emphasized over physical. (Rom. 8:1,2).
  4. New rules for life—obey from heart; not by “observing letter of the law.” (Rom. 7:6).
  5. New promise—sins washed away. (Heb. 8:6; Rev. 1:5).

VI. IN THE COMMISSION WAS CULMINATED GOD'S MISSION PLAN OF THE AGES. (2 Cor. 5:18,19).

- A. The entire work of God lay behind this command. (Tit. 1:1-3).
- B. His intentions for all men were revealed in this message. (John 12:32; Gal. 3:22; 3:28,29).
- C. His basis for the judgment of world will be the Great Commission. (John 12:48,49).

VII. THE SOULS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD DEPEND ON THE PREACHING OF THE COMMISSION. (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

- A. Believers will be lost if they fail to inform mankind of God's will. (1 Cor. 9:16).
- B. Souls in darkness will be lost if they fail to hear and obey God's will. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- C. It is imperative that the commission be our guide through life. (1 John 2:4,5).

## QUESTIONS

1. Define "commission," "Great commission."
2. Quote the accounts of the commission.
3. Whose authority lay behind this command?
4. God is the author of what plan?
5. What price did Jesus pay in order to be in position to make the command?
6. He conquered death to prove what?
7. What was the message to be preached?
8. To what two parties was the commission directed?
9. In what condition was the world at the time the command was given?
10. What are the results of obedience?

## PROBLEM

All of God's unending power to save throughout the ages was directed toward the sacrifice of his son and the proclaiming of the news of that sacrifice to the peoples of the earth—in essence, the great commission. Our Lord's entire life and sufferings are bound up in the preaching of the great commission. We see now that God has done his part and Christ has done his part—has man done his part of the work? If not, what will be his end when he has spent his life as an hindrance to the carrying out of God's plan for the ages? How can this be avoided?

## MATCH

- |                                           |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The Great Commission is the basis for  | A. to go and reach all men with the word.         |
| 2. The message of the commission is       | B. over physical acts.                            |
| 3. The command of the commission is       | C. revealed in the Great Commission.              |
| 4. The command to the unbelieving is      | D. they fail to inform mankind of God's will.     |
| 5. Spiritual obedience is emphasized      | E. all mission work.                              |
| 6. Obedience from the heart commanded     | F. of the judgment for the entire world.          |
| 7. The intentions for all men were        | G. the story of our Christ.                       |
| 8. The Great Commission will be the basis | H. they fail to hear and obey God's will.         |
| 9. Believers will be lost if              | I. to believe and be baptized.                    |
| 10. Souls in darkness will be lost if     | J. rather than "observing the letter of the law." |

## PROJECTS

1. If God's mission plan—mission work—were taken out of the Bible, discuss the parts that would remain.
2. Discuss the effect the Great Commission has had on the world since it was first uttered.
3. Discuss the power connected with the commission, then and now.

## LESSON FOUR

### ***The Story of First Century Christianity***

Acts 1:8; 2; 8:4; Col. 1:23

From the time of the fall of man, God planned the work of bringing his creation back into covenant relationship with himself. With the fulness of time came, he sent his only son as his ambassador, or missionary, to humanity. In turn, Christ sent the twelve on a mission, to tell others of the redemptive power of their Master, that they might in turn tell others. In this we see the church at work: a body of men and women gathered together as an army marching under the direction of God's son, going forth to be the hands, mouth, and feet of God in reaching man. Father must tell son, wife must convince husband, sister must warn brother—mankind's welfare depended upon each one doing his part to reach another. This was their motivating power in life, and by the help of God they succeeded in reaching every man with the good news of the gospel.

#### OUTLINE

- I. THE COMMISSION WAS GIVEN. (Rom. 16:26, 27).
  
- II. CHRIST OUTLINED HIS PLAN FOR EVANGELIZING THE WORLD. (Acts 1:8).
  - A. Jerusalem.
  - B. Throughout Judea.
  - C. Samaria.
  - D. Uttermost part of the earth.



### III. THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED. (Acts 2).

- A. God sent Holy Spirit to apostles. (Acts 2:1-4).
  - 1. Guided them in their preaching, etc. (John 16:17).
  - 2. Gave them power to confirm their words by signs and miracles. (Mk. 16:17-20).
- B. The apostles preached. (Acts 2:14).
  - 1. The story of Christ uttered for the first time in fact. (Acts 2:22-36).
  - 2. The commands of the gospel issued by Christ's authority. (Acts 2:38).
- C. The people pricked in their hearts. (Acts 2:37).
  - 1. Realized their sin in crucifying their saviour. (Acts 2:22,23).
  - 2. Cried out, asking what to do. (Acts 2:37).
  - 3. Obeyed the words of Peter, being baptized. (Acts 2:41).
  - 4. Became a part of the group of believers destined to preach to the world of Jesus. (Acts 2:47).
- D. The church grew. (Acts 2:41; 5:14; 6:7).
  - 1. Began with the leader, Christ. (Eph. 5:23).
  - 2. Twelve men followed him as its first members. (1 Cor. 12:8).
  - 3. On Day of Pentecost, 3000 more were added. (Acts 2:41).
  - 4. Few days later, 5000 were added. (Acts 4:4).
- E. Christians grew in spirit. (Acts 2:42).
  - 1. Continued in apostle's doctrine.
  - 2. Breaking of bread.
  - 3. Fellowship.
  - 4. Prayers.
  - 5. Began to teach others. (Acts 5:42; 6:9; 8:5).

IV. PERSECUTION CAME ON CHRISTIANS. (Acts 8:1).

- A. Some apostles stayed in Jerusalem. (Acts 8:14).
- B. Christians went every where preaching. (Acts 8:4).
- C. Each one felt need of convincing others. (Acts 10:42).
  - 1. Philip. (Acts 6:5).
    - a. Preached in Samaria and converted many. (Acts 8:5-12).
    - b. Taught Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:26-40).
  - 2. Peter.
    - a. Taught in Jerusalem. (Acts 5:29,41,42).
    - b. Converted Cornelius and household. (Acts 10:44,48).
  - 3. Paul.
    - a. Made three missionary journeys, teaching people through Asia and Europe. (Acts 13:2,3; 15:36; 18:23).
    - b. Converted jailer. (Acts 16:25-34).
    - c. Lydia and household. (Acts 16:13-15).
    - d. Taught all he came in contact with. (Acts 20:20).
  - 4. Work by others.
    - a. Established church in Rome. (Rom. 1:7).
    - b. Faith of Christians in Rome was talked about throughout the world. (Rom. 1:8).
    - c. Christians of Thessalonica were examples to the world. (1 Thess. 1:8).

V. THE LOVE AND MESSAGE OF CHRIST WAS MADE KNOWN TO ALL. (Col. 1:23,28).

- A. History tells of the preaching in various countries. (Fox's Book of Martyrs).

1. Thomas—India.
2. Matthew—Britain.
3. Simon—Asia.
4. Andrew—Africa.

B. Paul declared that all men had heard the word.  
(Col. 1:3-6).

## VI. FAITH AND ENDURANCE CHANGED THE PICTURE. (2 Thess. 1:4).

A. From twelve men to all men. (Acts 1:26; Col. 1:23).

B. From a world of darkness to one filtered by light of truth. (Col. 1:13,14).

C. From decaying world to one preserved by salt of earth. (Matt. 5:14-16).

("In the days of Christ the only way to preserve meat was by salt. Christ began with the recognition that human civilization is always in danger of decay. He calmly asserted that the tiny group of disciples on the mountain side were the ones to preserve the world . . . most of the things on which men depended did actually decay. The Roman Empire came to an end; Plato's Academy finally closed; the great library in Alexandria was burned; the legions were scattered; the schools of the Stoics and the Epicureans faded out. But the little "called out," redemptive fellowship continued. It entrenched itself in the Greco-Roman world; it penetrated Caesar's household; it turned the world upside-down.") Ray F. Chester, "The Powerful Gospel," 1959 Abilene Christian Bible Lectures.

VII. IN APPROXIMATELY 35 YEARS CHRISTIANITY HAD SPREAD OVER THE EARTH. (Acts 4:17; 17:6).

A. "Impossible" task accomplished in "impossible" length of time. (Matt. 19:26).

B. No known generation since has done such a thing.

VIII. THERE WERE MANY OBSTACLES INVOLVED. (2 Cor. 11:23-33; Rom. 15:26).

A. Small number of workers. (Began with 12—we have over 2,000,000).

B. Almost no resources. (1 Cor. 16:1-3).

C. Poor communication. (Letters, messengers, etc.). (2 Tim. 4:13).

D. Crude transportation. (Donkey, foot, ship). (Acts 20:38).

E. Persecution. (People were scattered and endangered). (2 Cor. 4:8-12).

IX. THERE WERE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR THEIR SUCCESS. (2 Cor. 5:7).

A. The preaching of the word was God's will and in his plan. (Matt. 24:14).

B. The Christians were convinced of their obligation to tell others. (1 John 5:2,3).

C. God provided, and will provide, the power to carry through. (Ps. 68:35).

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The order in which the world was to be taught was

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,

and \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. The word was confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There were \_\_\_\_\_ members of the church first.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ people were added in the first few days.
5. A great \_\_\_\_\_ came on the church.
6. Christians went everywhere \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Philip converted the \_\_\_\_\_ and taught the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Peter preached on the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Paul made \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journeys.
10. Paul taught in Rome in a hired house for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

### MATCH

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Andrew  | A. Africa  |
| 2. Matthew | B. Spain   |
| 3. Thomas  | C. Britain |
| 4. Simon   | D. India   |

### QUESTIONS

1. The church brought what to the world?
2. How many years did it take to teach all men?

3. How many generations have done this thing, that we know of?
4. What were the three reasons for the success?
5. Compare the modern church with the early church.

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ We can't make the progress they did because the Lord is not working through signs, miracles, and wonders as he did then.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ God is inactive in the course of our lives today.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ If we are really trying to obey God, he'll see us through to success.

### PROJECTS

1. Write a paragraph on "the salt of the earth."
2. Explain "providence" and show by examples how God uses it in our lives today.
3. Make a large map of the Bible world and trace Paul's journeys.
4. Make a study of the conversions of Acts and report to the class what they did or did not accomplish.

## LESSON FIVE

### ***The Need for Evangelizing the World Today***

Rom. 3:23; 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:9

A fact that Christians seldom realize is that Christianity and its influence are the steadying forces in our present world. No one thing since the fall of man has left such a lasting effect on both physical and spiritual matters as has Christianity. All of mankind looked with anxious hearts toward the coming of the Messiah—the one they could follow unhesitatingly, and whose name they could wear with joy. Christ came, and his coming changed the very world about him. Men began to pattern themselves after the anointed one—to become rays of brightness in the darkened world. Their lives, their pleasures, their loves, their goals, their feelings toward other men, changed to become a strong stable force in the tide of time. In this present world, no other thing is as important to humanity as is the spread of Christianity. It will promote freedom, peace, happiness, and good will toward all men, and will finally result in the eternal salvation of its adherents.

#### OUTLINE

- I. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS NEED FOR EVANGELIZING THE WORLD. (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30).
  - A. In so doing, we complete our obedience to God. (2 Tim. 2:1,2).
  - B. The situation of the world will be improved. (Tit. 2:11,12).
  - C. Precious souls will be saved. (1 Tim. 4:16; James 5:20).

## II. EVANGELISM CAN DO MUCH IN TWO REALMS. (Acts 10:34-36; Rom. 14:17).

### A. The physical realm.

1. No better people on earth than Christians. (2 Tim. 2:22).

a. None more tolerant. (2 Pet. 1:6).

b. None more peace-loving. (John 3:17,18; 1 Cor. 7:15).

c. None more willing to help those in need. (Acts 4:34).

2. Idolatry and false religions bring ignorance and superstition. (Acts 25:14-21; Eph. 4:18; 1 Cor. 12:2).

("The hardest thing I have ever tried to do is to convey to others the total blackness or darkness that is to be found in an heathen heart.")  
George S. Benson, President, Harding College.

a. Christianity breeds love and confidence in Creator—not superstition. (1 John 4:15-19).

b. Christians always self-respecting people. (1 Pet. 2:17).

(1) Will do right toward fellow man. (Tit. 3:1,2).

(2) Honest. (1 Tim. 2:2).

(3) Anxious to move ahead in education and look toward life, etc.

3. Christianity can bring real freedom. (Gal. 5:1).

a. No need to fear communism where Christianity has gone.

(When the Communists took over Tibet, they sought to destroy the Tibetan religion. In Lowell Thomas' article "Terror in Tibet"



in The Reader's Digest (Dec. 1960), this story is related: "At the Trasang monastery the monks who refused to work were imprisoned in a room without food for four days—and told by Communists that their God would provide. At Malung, when Phuntsog Vorbu, a hermit lama, died after five days without food and water, the Chinese summoned the people, forced them to look at the corpse, told them that God had had done nothing for the lama, so they had better give up their religion."

- b. People influenced by true Christianity are not easily swept away by Communistic doctrines. (Eph. 4:14,15).
- c. Catholicism, another enemy of freedom, is slow to spread where true Christianity has been accepted. (2 Tim. 2:18-21).
- d. Christians strive to do right to all, but fear no man—their Master is Christ. (Matt. 23:8).

B. The Spiritual Realm.

- 1. The world must be evangelized if people are to learn of Christianity. (Rom. 10:14-18).
- 2. Only the doctrine of Christ is acceptable with God. (2 John 9).
- 3. False religions will not save. (Mk. 7:7,8).

III. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR EVANGELIZING THE WORLD. (Rom. 11:15).

- A. Mankind, if allowed to live in sin, is lost. (Isa. 59:1,2).
- B. Christ died to give us the gospel. (Rom. 5:8-11).
  - 1. Without his death we would have no message to preach. (2 Cor. 4:11-14).

2. If we fail to preach, his death is made void. (2 Cor. 4:3,4).
- C. Evangelism opens the eyes of the world to:
1. An ever-present Father. (Eph. 4:6; Acts 17:28).
  2. A loving mediator. (1 John 2:1).
  3. An all-powerful truth. (Heb. 4:12).
- D. No soul can be saved without evangelism. (Acts 13:38,39).
1. Christ has commanded it. (Acts 10:40-45).
  2. The entire Bible is book of evangelism. (Eph. 4:15).
  3. People in error cannot hear unless Christians "go." (Rom. 10:14).

### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The real meaning of being lost.
2. The tragic effect of Communism, Catholicism, on the world.
3. The enlightening effect of Christianity.

### QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus able to die for the sinner?
2. Why did he die for the lost?
3. Define "Good news."
4. How would the gospel change the world picture?
5. How can God be revealed to humanity?
6. What will defeat Communism and Catholicism?

7. Will Christian people drop bombs on a nation or burn someone at the stake?
8. Why is Communism threatening the world today?
9. Why does Catholicism hold its spell over millions?
10. What is the Lord's will concerning the evangelization of the world?

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Without the death of Christ, we would have \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. If we fail to preach, his \_\_\_\_\_ made  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Evangelism opens the eyes of the world to \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The entire Bible is a book of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. People in error \_\_\_\_\_ unless  
\_\_\_\_\_ go.

### PROJECTS

1. Give a report on the advancement of Christianity in contrast to the gains of Communism.
2. Make a study of the value and promises of Communism in contrast to Christianity.
3. On a map, point out the countries that are counted as Catholic and Communist, showing those that have at least one Christian.
4. Compare what the early church had to work with and the assets the church today has to work with.

## LESSON SIX

### ***Why We Haven't Preached the Gospel To Every Creature***

James 4:17; Heb. 3:12

Since it is evident that it is our duty to reach every person with the truth, and since it is even more evident that we haven't, the question that should come to every Christian's mind is "Why?" If we are honest with ourselves we will admit that not only is the hearer's salvation dependent on the preaching of the word, but ours is also. Why then do we continue to fail to perform such an all important task?

#### OUTLINE

#### I. WE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF CONVERSION. (Lk. 22:32).

- A. People sometimes not wholly won to truth. (Acts 8:13-24).
- B. Bring worldly ways into Church. (1 Cor. 5:1-5).
- C. Not real followers of Christ. (John 12:26).

#### II. WE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF EDUCATION. (Acts 18:24-28).

- A. Not enough sermons of the real work of the church.
- B. Not enough study classes on mission work.
- C. No knowledge of what is being done to spread Christianity.
  - 1. Many do not know of mission points in U.S.  
(One elder from Texas traveled through South Dakota. On Sunday morning he left his motel

about an hour earlier than time for Bible study, thinking he would drive a little while until he happened to see a meeting place of the church, or a sign. He drove all day and into the evening before he came to a city that had a congregation, realizing by then that not all the states are as well populated with Christians as is Texas. Many members of the church have not been taught of the mission areas that exist even here at "home.")

2. Have no knowledge of the nations without the gospel in contrast with the few that have at least one congregation.

D. Many do not have enough basic knowledge of Bible to know importance of mission work. (2 Tim. 2:15).

### III. WE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INTEREST. (Rev. 3:15,16).

A. Have no feeling for people we don't love personally.

1. Love parents—we want to see them saved.

2. Love family—we want to see them saved.

3. Love friends—we want to see them saved.

4. Don't care for people we don't know.

B. Fail to realize vividly that there are souls living somewhere besides at home.

C. Don't comprehend what hell will mean for us or others. (Lk. 16:22-31).

### IV. WE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE OF PLACING THE EMPHASIS ON THE WRONG THINGS. (Matt. 6:33).

A. Busy building meeting houses at home.

(Many congregations can spend \$150,000 on an elaborate meeting house, but refuse to give a dime to help carry the gospel to a foreign country.)

1. Two preachers employed.
2. Fine, up-to-date equipment, including carpets, air-conditioning, etc.
3. Have money for janitor, flowers, colorful bulletins, pictorial directories, kitchens, etcetera, but not for the souls of men.

B. Must have fine home for preacher.

(A man in Alabama said that the church with which he worshipped could not help support a missionary because they had borrowed seven thousand dollars to build a preacher's home. But there are many cities with millions of people that do not even have a preacher. Christ said that one soul is worth more than all the world, but we complacently leave them to the devil, in exchange for the little, unimportant things.)

C. Rob God because of concern for material possessions for self. (Mal. 3:8,9).

1. Must have a good car, or two.
2. Own home.
3. Have fine furniture.
4. More food than is eaten.
5. Fine clothes.
6. Money for extras (cokes, coffee, gum, cigarettes, candy, etc.).
7. Luxuries.

(Meeting houses, preacher's homes, material possessions not wrong—only become evil when we put them before God and the preaching of the gospel.)

V. WE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF VISION. (Prov. 29:18).

- A. We see ourselves as being too small. (Phil. 4:13).  
("Furthermore, many congregations are robbing themselves of untold blessings because of a feeling of littleness or inferiority. Since they feel too weak and small, they are content to sit idly by and do nothing. This is a grave hindrance. I once heard a prayer that has meant so very much to me. The brother, while praying said, 'Lord, forgive us of our littleness.'" How wonderfully put and how descriptive of the jealousy that fastens a death grip on brethren and causes them to actually fight God.") "Preaching At Home and Afar," H. I. Taylor, 1959 Abilene Christian College Lectures.
- B. Have become selfish.
1. Fail to give to God as we have prospered. (2 Cor. 9:7).
  2. Forget that he has promised to bless in return. (2 Cor. 9:6).
  3. More blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35).
- C. Say we are too poor.
1. Barely meet budget at home.
  2. No money for mission work.
  3. Only an excuse to do nothing.  
(It has been said that mission work doesn't cost—it pays.)
- D. Feel that we should preach the gospel at home first.
1. Not the way the Great Commission is stated. (Mk. 16:15).

2. Such attitudes mean stagnation of gospel.  
(If the Christians at Jerusalem had had such an attitude the world might not have the truth today—there are no Christians in Jerusalem and two American preachers (Ralph Henley and Ernest Stewart) are working to establish the church there now. What would have happened if the church had not gone out into the world, eventually to America, so that there would be someone to evangelize Jerusalem today?)

E. Have become satisfied with our past accomplishments. (Phil. 3:13,14).

F. We cannot see that the greatest blessing to us would come in obeying the words of the commission.

## QUESTIONS

1. On what do members of the church place their emphasis?
2. Give five basic reasons for our failure in evangelizing the world?
3. How may we improve our spiritual education?
4. How have we expressed selfishness?
5. Is the average Christian poor physically?
6. Toward whom do we pretend poverty?
7. When is it wrong to build "bigger barns"?
8. Why is it necessary to remember the value of the soul?



9. What have we done in this modern age to make us feel that we can now relax?
10. To what can we point with pride?
11. Can we afford to become satisfied? Why?
12. Are we doing the Lord's will when we keep the truth in one part of the world?
13. Why is evangelization a good precautionary measure to insure the safety of the souls of our own future generations?
14. Why is zeal so important?
15. What does it mean to walk by faith?
16. Define "Christian courage."
17. How will converted people act?
18. What will happen to those who have no vision?
19. Is there any room in the Lord's kingdom for laziness?
20. List some of your own reasons why we haven't preached the gospel to every creature.

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Many only preach to those they love.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ We lose when we pour money into foreign mission work.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ "You don't have to get your feet wet to preach the gospel."
4. \_\_\_\_\_ At the rate we are going it will be generations before we can say that we have evangelized the whole world.

## PROJECTS

1. Make a survey of the money spent among members of your home congregation on "extras."
2. Make a list of the number of meeting houses and preacher's homes in your county. Estimate the total cost.
3. Discuss the mission of the church in contrast to our present ideas.
4. If every member where you worship gave one dollar a month to mission work, how much would it come to? Do you think the members could afford it? Do you think they would miss it?
5. Is a preacher asking too much when he desires a reasonable salary, a work fund, money for transportation, and the necessary cash for a meeting house? For four years this would not come to more than \$75,000 or \$80,000. Many congregations in this country put two or three times more into a building only. And this does not include money for the preacher and all the other expenses. There is quite a contrast, don't you think?

## LESSON SEVEN

### ***The Reasons Why We Are Able To Repeat the Job***

Matt. 28:20; Matt. 18:20

If it were impossible for Christians today to perform the feat that the early church accomplished, God would excuse us from any such responsibility. But, since he hasn't excused us, it is evident that we can and must fulfill the same obligations toward humanity that they did. In many instances, we have convinced ourselves that we *can't* do more, or give more, or convert more, than we are now doing. But there are several reasons that should convince us that nothing is impossible with God and his people.

#### OUTLINE

- I. GOD IS A LIVING GOD. (1 Tim. 4:10).
  - A. Was able to care for Israel. (Dan. 6:26,27; Isa. 43:1-5).
  - B. Had power to care for early church. (Acts 12).
  - C. Still loves his people. (1 Pet. 5:6,7).
    - 1. Has promised to help us.
    - 2. Has as much power now as ever. (Rom. 13:1,2).
  
- II. MAN IS STILL IN NEED. (Rom. 10:16).
  - A. Cannot exist without God. (James 1:17).
  - B. Cannot please God without his guidance. (Jer. 10:23; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; Heb. 13:20,21).

III. THE GOSPEL IS STILL POWERFUL. (Eph. 3:20,21).

- A. The power unto salvation. (Eph. 1:13).
- B. The needed balm for the wounds of the world. (John 6:51).

IV. THE CHURCH CAN DO ANYTHING IT WANTS TO DO. (2 Cor. 6:1-10; 1 Cor. 3:22).

- A. God's people can find a way of their desires are right.
- B. The church was organized in a way to be sufficient to the task before it.
- C. Ample directions given to perform duties.
  - 1. No decision of importance left to man's wisdom. (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
  - 2. Word not so binding on church as to hinder it. (If God had directed us in the methods of travel, etc., the Bible would have become outdated with time. The same rule applies in the field of caring for the poor, the widows, orphans, etc., in building buildings, preacher's homes, spreading the word, and many other things. God has told us that we must care for needy, preach the word, go into all the world, meet to worship him, and that the workman is worthy of his hire, but he has left the incidentals in the carrying out of those deeds to the wisdom of Christians in each changing generation.)

V. CHRIST WILL BE WITH US. (Heb. 2:17,18; 1 Cor. 10:12,13).

- A. Has promised not to leave us. (Matt. 18:20).

B. Will strengthen us in the fight for him. (Col. 1:10,11).

C. Will plead with God on our behalf. (1 John 2:1).

## VI. WE HAVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

A. During first century followers of Christianity were in danger of death. (1 Thess. 3:4; Acts 7; 12).

(Felicitatis, an illustrious Roman lady, of a considerable family, and the most shining virtues, was a devout Christian. She had seven sons, whom she had educated with the most exemplary piety. Januarius, the eldest, was scourged, and pressed to death with weights; Felix and Philip, the two next had their brains dashed out with clubs; Silvanus, the fourth, was murdered by being thrown from a precipice; and the three younger sons, Alexander, Vitalis, and Martial, were beheaded. The mother was beheaded with the same sword as the three latter.") Fox's Book of Martyrs

B. In Dark Ages, Catholicism was compulsory.

C. In many countries today Christians suffer persecution.

D. We are free in America to teach God's word.

E. Most countries welcome Christians to teach their people.

## VII. THE WORLD IS AT PEACE AS A WHOLE.

A. During the first century the world was united in Roman Empire.

B. Not all of world is united today.

- C. Peace exists; makes it easier to "go" into all the world.

#### VIII. THERE ARE MANY OPEN DOORS.

- A. Modern day improvements.
  - 1. Communication. (Phone, TV, Radio, Printed Page).
  - 2. Transportation. (Phone, Ship, Train, Bus, Car.)
  - 3. Resources. (Money, property, equipment, number of members).
- B. The armed services take Christians to other lands and people.  
(Responsible for many foreign congregations.)
- C. Language.
  - 1. English spoken in all parts of world.
  - 2. Educational facilities available for learning needed languages.
- D. Travel.
  - 1. People think nothing of traveling long distances.
  - 2. Many families are scattered and travel from place to place.
  - 3. Vacations take Christians to all parts of world.
    - a. Opens eyes to need.
    - b. Presents opportunities to teach in mission points.

#### IX. WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

- A. Has provided the time—now. (2 Cor. 6:2).
- B. Has provided the place—world. (Matt. 13:24-30; 24:38).
- C. Has provided the people—us. (2 Cor. 4:7).

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the world situation today?
2. Define "open doors."
3. List some "open doors."
4. Give some examples of modern day communication.
5. Name some modern day resources.
6. How has the armed services helped to spread the gospel?
7. What language is found around the world?
8. Give two advantages of traveling.
9. How is the church to operate?
10. Prove that God still lives. Give some evidence of this fact in your life.

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ If all Christians of today were faithful there would probably be congregations springing up in every nation.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Tomorrow is the time to evangelize the world.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Man has outgrown his need for the gospel.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ As Christians, we face a more dangerous world than has any previous generation.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ God has made laws governing all important things concerning the church.

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the time of salvation. (2 Cor. 6:2).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the field white unto harvest.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are harvesters.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is with us always.
5. With \_\_\_\_\_ all things are \_\_\_\_\_.

## PROJECTS

1. Compare our transportation with that of the first century.
2. Read several chapters of "Fox's Book of Martyrs" and report on your reading to the class.
3. Do you personally believe that we can evangelize the world today? Give your reasons to the class.
4. Would you like to be a foreign missionary? Tell why you would like to be, or would not like to be one. Who should go?



## LESSON EIGHT

### ***What Is Being Done***

Gal. 6:7,8; Heb. 2:1-3

"As World War II ended in the 1940's there were perhaps fifteen countries which had churches of Christ, and only a few of these had active evangelists. In the past 10 or 15 years giant steps have been taken. (But in no way is the job nearly done.)" (American Missionary Work, 1960, Donald Bone.) In the following outline a brief picture will be given of the situation as it exists today. Our prayer is that greater gains will be made in the immediate future, but only YOU, YOU, and YOU can determine the extent of the gain that shall be made. Ponder, pray, and do something about it.

### OUTLINE

#### I. CHRISTIANITY IS BEGINNING TO SPREAD.

- A. More than 1,400 churches of Christ in 70 foreign countries and political areas. (16,000 here)
- B. 60,000 Christians in world, excluding U.S.A. (over 2,000,000 here)
- C. 198 male missionaries in 40 countries (135 nations all together)
- D. 1020 nationals preaching in native lands.
- E. 7000 baptisms outside of U.S. in 1960.

## II. EXCLUDING THE ORIGINAL 48 STATES, NORTH AMERICA HAS THESE GROUPS:

- A. Alaska.
  - 1. Eleven groups.
  - 2. 456 members.
  - 3. Eight preachers.
- B. Canada.
  - 1. 102 congregations.
  - 2. 3300 Christians.
  - 3. 22 American preachers; 43 Canadians.
  - 4. Canadian missionaries in Europe, Africa, Far East, U.S.
- C. Greenland.
  - 1. Service personnel at Thule Air Base.
  - 2. 10 members.
- D. Hawaii.
  - 1. 5 churches of Christ.
  - 2. 402 members.
  - 3. 5 missionaries.

## III. LATIN AMERICA.

- A. Argentina.
  - 1. 3 congregations.
  - 2. 23 Christians.
  - 3. 2 American preachers.
- B. Bermuda.
  - 1. 1 congregation.
  - 2. 60 members.
  - 3. 1 missionary.
- C. Brazil.
  - 1. 2 congregations.
  - 2. 22 members.
  - 3. 2 American preachers.
- D. Canal Zone & Panama.
  - 1. 3 churches of Christ.
  - 2. Membership—101.
  - 3. 2 missionaries.
- E. Chile.
  - 1. 1 church.
  - 2. 23 Christians.
  - 3. 1 missionary.
- F. Guatemala.
  - 1. 3 congregations.
  - 2. 25 Christians.
  - 3. 4 preachers from U.S.
- G. Netherland Antilles.
  - 1. 1 group.
  - 2. 21 members.
  - 3. 1 missionary.
- H. Puerto Rico.
  - 1. 9 congregations.
  - 2. 200 in membership.
  - 3. 2 American evangelists.

#### IV. EUROPE.

- A. Austria.  
1. 2 congregations.  
2. 80 Christians.  
3. 3 workers.
- B. Belgium.  
1. 7 groups.  
2. 120 members.  
3. 5 missionaries.
- C. Denmark.  
1. 3 congregations.  
2. 40 members.  
3. 6 American evangelists.
- D. France.  
1. 18 groups.  
2. Membership—275.  
3. 10 missionaries.
- E. Finland.  
1. 1 congregation.  
2. 10 members.  
3. 4 preachers.
- F. Germany.  
1. 57 churches of Christ.  
2. 1850 Christians.  
3. 8 missionaries.
- G. Italy.  
1. 48 congregations.  
2. 969 members.  
3. 14 missionary families.
- H. The Netherlands.  
1. 3 groups.  
2. 70 Christians.  
3. 3 American evangelists.
- I. Norway.  
1. 2 congregations.  
2. 30 members.  
3. 3 American families.
- J. Scotland.  
1. 18 churches of Christ.  
2. 420 members.  
3. 3 missionaries.
- K. Sweden.  
1. 1 group.  
2. 30 members.  
3. 3 missionaries.
- L. Switzerland.  
1. 2 congregations.  
2. 31 Christians.  
3. 5 American evangelists.

#### V. AFRICA.

- A. Libya.  
1. 1 group.  
2. 60 Christians.  
3. 1 missionary.
- B. Morocco.  
1. 3 churches of Christ.  
2. 6 members.  
3. 1 British preacher.

- C. Nigeria.
  1. 357 congregations.
  2. 25,000 Christians.
  3. 5 missionaries.
- D. Northern Rhodesia.
  1. 55 churches of Christ.
  2. 450 Christians.
  3. 12 American evangelists.
- E. Nyasaland.
  1. 57 groups.
  2. 1600 in membership.
  3. 3 missionaries.
- F. Southern Rhodesia.
  1. 62 congregations.
  2. 2,770 members.
  3. 7 American families.
- G. Tanganyika.
  1. 40 groups.
  2. 400 members.
  3. 3 American evangelists.
- H. Union of South Africa.
  1. 77 congregations.
  2. 2,000 Christians.
  3. 10 missionaries.

## VI. FAR EAST.

- A. Australia.
  1. 22 congregations.
  2. Membership of 317.
  3. 5 American evangelists.
- B. Formosa.
  1. 9 congregations.
  2. 200 Christians.
  3. 2 missionary families.
- C. Guam.
  1. 1 group.
  2. 8 members.
  3. 1 missionary.
- D. Hong Kong.
  1. 3 churches of Christ.
  2. 30 Christians.
  3. 2 American workers.
- E. Israel.
  1. 1 congregation.
  2. 6 members.
  3. 2 preachers.
- F. Japan.
  1. 79 groups.
  2. 1400 Christians.
  3. 14 missionaries.
- G. Korea.
  1. 21 congregations.
  2. 1100 workers.
  3. 2 missionaries.
- H. New Zealand.
  1. 6 congregations.
  2. 85 Christians.
  3. 5 American families.

- |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>I. Philippines.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 136 groups.</li> <li>2. 5000 membership.</li> <li>3. 3 American evangelists.</li> </ol>       | <p>K. Thailand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2 churches of Christ.</li> <li>2. 50 Christians.</li> <li>3. 42 baptisms in 1960.</li> <li>4. 2 missionaries.</li> </ol> |
| <p>J. Singapore &amp; Malaya.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5 congregations.</li> <li>2. 184 Christians.</li> <li>3. 2 evangelists.</li> </ol> | <p>L. Turkey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 congregation.</li> <li>2. 5 members.</li> <li>3. 1 preacher.</li> </ol>                                                  |

NOTE: Due to changes, growth, etc., this list will have to be revised from time to time. However, this does give you some idea of what is being done throughout the world at the present time.

## QUESTIONS

1. How many countries have missionaries?
2. How many do we lack?
3. Are any of these countries fully "evangelized?"
4. How many members of the church are there in the U.S.?
5. How many elsewhere?
6. How many congregations are there in the U.S.?
7. How many elsewhere?
8. Name the six groupings under which the countries are listed.
9. How many missionaries do we have abroad?
10. How many baptisms were there in the rest of the world in 1960?

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_ churches in Hawaii.
2. We have \_\_\_\_\_ preachers in Brazil.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ congregations in Italy?
4. In \_\_\_\_\_ there are 47 groups.
5. Sweden has \_\_\_\_\_ missionaries.
6. Libya has \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.
7. There are \_\_\_\_\_ evangelists in Tanganyika.
8. Union of South Africa has \_\_\_\_\_ Christians.
9. In \_\_\_\_\_ there are 9 congregations.
10. Korea has \_\_\_\_\_ missionaries.
11. Hong Kong has \_\_\_\_\_ churches.
12. There are \_\_\_\_\_ families in New Zealand.
13. Singapore & Malaya have \_\_\_\_\_ preachers.
14. Thailand has \_\_\_\_\_ churches.

## PROJECTS

1. Make a study of the progress of denominational groups in foreign fields.
2. Make a list of the various nations that have the gospel and keep up with the number of congregations, number of Christians there, and the number of preachers they have.
3. Choose a nation without the gospel, and promise God now that you will do all within your power to see it evangelized during your life time.
4. Correspond with some of the missionaries concerning

their work and read the letters to the class.

5. Brethren like A. M. Burton of Nashville, Tenn. and J. D. House of Sledge, Miss. have given a great deal to mission work. There are scores of men and women over the country that have done likewise. Do you personally know of any?
6. Congregations that have taken the lead in mission work have done so because of their vision and their love for lost souls. Among these are Broadway, Lubbock, Texas, the church in Brownfield, Texas, Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., Hampton Place, Dallas, Texas, and scores of others. Could you list some that are not given here?
7. Name the countries with which these missionaries have been associated: Otis Gatewood, Cline Paden, Gerald Paden, Maurice Hall, A. R. Holton, Ralph Brashears, Don Gardner, Owen Aiken, Haskell Chesshir, Durward Lee, Bob Hare, S. F. Timmerman, Hilton Terry, Howard Bybee, Joe Gibbs, Dow Evans, Richard Cruise, Carl Mitchell, Joe Betts, Lawrence Taylor, Logan Fox, Bert Perry, C. M. Rhodes, Bill Richardson, Rees Bryant, Jim Massey, J. C. Shewmaker, Carrel Anderson, Harlan Overton, Guy Caskey, Dale Buckley, Dan Billingsly, Eldred Echols, Parker Henderson, Bill McCown, Evert Pickartz, Ralph Henley, Alan Foster, Claude Brown, E. Paul Matthews, John Maples, Melvin Harbison, and Richard Baggett.

## LESSON NINE

### ***The Textbook for Mission Work***

2 Tim. 2:2; 2:15; 3:16,17; James 1:25; 1 Pet. 4:11

Think for a moment of mission work, leaving the Bible completely out of your thoughts. What is left as a basis for any such work? Nothing! This shows how truly it can be said that the Bible is the textbook that inspires and directs missionaries in their labors. Through the ages God has revealed his plan for reaching his creation in his word. That plan still applies today and is as effective as it ever was. If his followers will simply study to learn what he desires and then strive to be obedient, believing that God is able to reward their efforts with success, the world would again see the word of truth preached throughout its borders.

### OUTLINE

#### I. IN GOD LIES THE ORIGIN OF MISSION WORK.

(Eph. 1:4-6).

- A. ("The origin of missions is ultimately to be found in the heart of God. His are the redemptive purpose and plan. No thought of God is true to his revelation of Himself that does not rest on the fact that He 'so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son' that by believing in Him 'the world should be saved through him.' John 3:16,17.") Missions in the Plan of the Ages, William Owen Carver.
- B. God recognized the need for reaching all men. (Matt. 6:8; Rom. 3:23).



- C. In his mind the plan was born. (Col. 1:25-27).
  - 1. Mission work is God's work. (Gal. 1:3-5).
  - 2. No man was capable of working out the mission plan. (Tit. 3:5).
  - 3. When we obey, God and Christ are glorified, not us. (2 Thess. 1:12).

II. THE BIBLE IS THE COMPLETE GUIDE. (Rev. 22:18,19).

- A. The Old Testament shows that God committed his work to his people. (Lk. 24:44).
  - 1. Abraham's journey from his home land was the work of God. (Gen. 12:1-5).
  - 2. His plan was God's plan so it worked. (Josh. 1:2).
  - 3. Abraham became the father of the chosen nation. (Gen. 15).
- B. The New Testament deepens the revelation of God's work through man. (1 Cor. 13:9-13).
  - 1. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Law; the beginning of the new. (Matt. 5:17,18; John 19:30).

("The fundamental idea in the coming of Jesus was that He was a man and at the same time he was the Son of God, and that he was sent from God into this world. He associated with men in their poverty and in their sorrow. He had part in their tears and joys of the human heart. He was tired. He was weary. His life was cut short after a very brief period on the earth, but within these few years came an accomplishment that only proves again that this is God's thinking. According to his own illustration, he was but planting a seed which would bring forth a bountiful harvest, a har-

vest which pleases God; a harvest that is to go on until the end of time. Jesus was on a mission from God to this earth.”) That None Should Perish, A. R. Holton, Abilene Christian College Lectures, 1959

2. Jesus committed his work to his followers. (John 17:4:8:18).
3. His disciples carried the truth around the world. (1 Thess. 1:8).

### III. WHEN WE FOLLOW THE BIBLE WE WILL BE MISSIONARY IN WORD AND IN DEED. (Col. 3:17).

#### A. We will teach.

1. Our families. (John 1:40-42).
2. Our neighbors. (Acts 10:24).
3. Our state. (Lk. 14:15-24).
4. Our country. (Rom. 15:19-21).
5. The world. (Mk. 16:15).

#### B. The plan for evangelizing the world will be executed.

### IV. WHEN WE FAIL TO FOLLOW THE BIBLE PLAN WE BECOME UNSCRIPTURAL. (Heb. 3:11-19).

#### A. We neglect to evangelize. (Matt. 25:31-46).

1. Thus, we become too small for our purpose.
2. We devour ourselves because of idle minds and hands.
3. Become hobby riders, and anti to every good work.
4. Become worldly and good for nothing.
5. Become formal in religion.

- B. Want to form "missionary societies." (Eph. 3:21; Phil. 3:18).
  - 1. Take work of church.
  - 2. Leave church with no reason for existence.
  - 3. Become enemies of the cross.
- C. Collect money for missionaries in wrong ways.
  - 1. Dun people. (2 Cor. 9:7).  
(One family attended a denominational church service once and the next month they received a statement showing that they owed the church \$8.00.)
  - 2. Have pie suppers, cake walks, etc., to collect money. (1 Cor. 16:2).
- D. Teach false doctrines to heathen minds. (2 Tim. 4:3,4).
  - 1. Cause loss of countless souls. (Gal. 1:6-8).
  - 2. Encourage confusion because of many doctrines taught in name of Christ. (Rom. 16:17, 18).

V. THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR ALL MISSION WORKERS IS HEAVEN. (2 Tim. 4:7,8).

- A. The Bible assures reward for obedient workers. (Matt. 20:1-9).
- B. Teachers can assure hearers of their reward. (Heb. 6:9-11).
- C. Heaven will complete all mission work. (Heb. 4:9-11).
  - 1. Man's destiny will be decided. (Rev. 20:12, 13).
  - 2. No more frontiers to evangelize.
  - 3. The eternal rest. (Heb. 4:11).

## MATCH

- |                                                 |                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The text book for all mission work is        | A. we will be mission minded in word and deed. |
| 2. When we follow the Bible                     | B. the revelation of God's work through men.   |
| 3. If we fail to abide by its teachings         | C. too small for our purpose.                  |
| 4. The Old Testament shows that                 | D. idle minds and idle hands.                  |
| 5. The New Testament deepens                    | E. the Bible.                                  |
| 6. When we fail to evangelize we become         | F. with no reasons for existence.              |
| 7. Some congregations devour themselves because | G. is heaven.                                  |
| 8. Missionary societies would leave the church  | H. all mission work.                           |
| 9. The ultimate goal for all missionary workers | I. we become unscriptural.                     |
| 10. Heaven will complete                        | J. God committed his work to his people.       |

## QUESTIONS

1. What plan did the Lord give Christians in the first century?
2. What would be the results today if we were truly following the Bible?
3. Give proofs that the Bible is inspired.

4. How powerful is the Bible?
5. What does it reveal?
6. When did God's mission plan begin?
7. Why is the Bible a perfect guide?
8. Why are there so many hobby riders today?

### **UNDERLINE THE CORRECT PHRASE**

1. God wants (all, a select group, one nation) to be saved.
2. Every word of the Bible is (inspired, uninspired).
3. (Indifference, love, obedience) will send us to hell.
4. The goal of a mission worker is (a trip, to win fame, heaven).
5. God (still lives, is dead, is powerless) today.

### **PROJECTS**

1. Make a list of verses that teach the idea of taking the gospel into all the world.
2. Give some Biblical examples of evangelism.
3. What is your opinion of methods of New Testament evangelism and modern day methods?

## LESSON TEN

### ***The Field and the Methods***

Matt. 13:38; 1 John 5:19; John 16:8; 1 John 3:8; Matt. 24:14

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? behold, I say to you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already unto harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.” (John 4:35,36).

#### OUTLINE

- I. THE WORLD IS THE FIELD. (Matt. 13:38).
  - A. Wherever man has gone must go the gospel. (Ps. 22:27,28; Acts 13:47).
  - B. Even the heathen heart is filled with a religious desire to worship. (Ps. 115:1-8).  
(When Paul and Barnabas performed the miracle at Lystra, the native people, through their desire to worship a more powerful being than themselves began to make preparations to offer sacrifice to those men of God. They could hardly restrain them from doing such a deed, but in answer to their need for a higher one, they told them of the almighty creator and the Father of all. (Acts 14:8-18).
  - C. Through his word, God has shown that he recognizes this religious desire and the eternal groping of man for light. (1 Cor. 4:6).
  - D. He has sent his messengers of light into the world to relieve the darkness. (John 17:18; Matt. 5:16).

## II. WE MUST BEGIN AT HOME.

- A. Many stop here.
- B. God has said that Christianity is to be spread. (Acts 1:8).
- C. We cannot be acceptable unless we start at home, and reach the world.

## III. THE MESSAGE TO BE CONVEYED IS GREAT.

- A. Some know God but worship in error. (Matt. 22:29).

- 1. Denominations. (Matt. 7:21).
- 2. Jews. (Rom. 10:1,2).
- 3. Mohammedans.

(“One of the significant features of heathen religions is their failure to conceive of the love of their gods. Apart from the Gospel this is also largely true of the religions of Jehovah, Judaism and Mohammedanism. They serve with the bondage of the letter, not with the freedom of the spirit. Jesus revealed the heart of the Father and told, in many a parable, of a love that goes to seek and to save that which was lost.”) Missions in the Plan of the Ages, William Owen Carver

- B. Multitudes do not know of the great sacrifice offered for them. (Rom. 10:3).

- 1. We would be selfish to keep the news of his atoning blood from the lost.
- 2. His love would help to heal the disagreements of men. (Rom. 14:19).
- 3. His way would offer peace to those who accept it. (Phil. 4:7).

- C. Man needs to know of the narrow way. (Matt. 7:13,14).

1. Must learn of the church. (Acts 16:17; Acts 2:47).
2. Needs God's guidance. (Jer. 10:23).

#### IV. SOME FIELDS ARE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS THAN OTHERS.

- A. Apostles established the church in heavily populated areas. (Acts 8:5; 12; 17:15; 18:1; 28:30,31).
  1. The cities became radiating centers. (Rom. 15:19; 1 Thess. 1:6-8).
  2. Christians scattered from those points to all parts of world. (Acts 8:4).
- B. We should follow their example.
  1. Establish church in all major cities.
  2. Teach members to be strong. (Eph. 6:10,11).
  3. Grow, as the ripples of water after a pebble drops.
  4. Should not be easily discouraged. (1 Cor. 15:58).

(Many fields that would seem to be easily won sometimes are slow to see the way, and vice versa. There have been times when it took years to see the church firmly established in a given location, but today those places are strong enough to send out workers to other areas. Patience is a necessary Christian virtue.)

#### V. THERE ARE MANY EFFECTIVE METHODS OF REACHING THE LOST AT HOME AND ABROAD.

- A. The preaching of the word. (Acts 14:7).
  1. Sermons at worship services.
  2. Gospel meetings.



- B. Bible Study. (Acts 17:11,12).
  - 1. Congregational study.
  - 2. Individual study.
- C. Personal work. (1 Tim. 4:10,11).  
 (That the Lord approves the evangelizing of the masses by all his people is proven by the fact that he permitted persecution to scatter the disciples who were in Jerusalem.) Personal Work, Alvin Jennings, Abilene Christian College Lectures, 1959
- D. Cottage meetings. (Acts 20:20).
- E. The press.
  - 1. The church needs to be advertised.
  - 2. The truth can be presented for meditation.
- F. Radio and television.
  - 1. Many will be reached by these means that would never hear, otherwise.
  - 2. Masses taught with small effort.
- G. Training schools.
  - 1. The church suffers today because of untrained leadership.
  - 2. Strong Christians formed.
  - 3. Students inspired to teach others.
  - 4. Discussion aids spiritual growth.
- H. Practicing pure New Testament Christianity.
  - 1. A good conversation.
  - 2. Love for one another.
  - 3. Helping those in need.
  - 4. Attending the assemblies of worship.  
 ("Actions speak louder than words.")

### TRUE OR FALSE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Only those who know of God have a desire to worship.

- 2.\_\_\_\_\_ The Mohammedan's Allah is Jehovah.
- 3.\_\_\_\_\_ Intelligent people need no help in guiding their lives.
- 4.\_\_\_\_\_ The Israelites knew as much of God's love as we do.
- 5.\_\_\_\_\_ The apostles used a definite system in establishing congregations in the first century.
- 6.\_\_\_\_\_ If the growth of a congregation doesn't boom from the first, it would be better to move on.
- 7.\_\_\_\_\_ The persecution of the church during the first century proved to be a blessing.
- 8.\_\_\_\_\_ God recognizes the religious desire in man.
- 9.\_\_\_\_\_ Those who sow and those who reap will rejoice together.
- 10.\_\_\_\_\_ There are few ways to reach the lost.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. How did Christ describe the world, the field?
2. What should be our goal?
3. List some methods of reaching the world.
4. Should we devote all of our time to one locality?
5. What is the wisdom of taking the gospel to every nation?
6. Did Jesus command us to convert all people?
7. How can we saturate the world with the message of God?

8. List some methods of reaching the lost.
9. What hinders the church today more than anything else?
10. Where does our work begin? Where does it end?

### **PROJECTS**

1. Make a study of the history of a growing, working church near you.
2. List the congregations in the New Testament that became centers in radiating New Testament Christianity.
3. Suggest some additional methods of reaching men.
4. List some ways that young people can help to spread the gospel.