

God's Purpose in Missions

(Revelation 5:1-14)

Introduction.

Today is World Missions Day across the Baptist Missionary Association of America. All across this continent, churches like us are emphasizing, praying, and celebrating what God is doing to reach the unreached through the collective work of our association of churches.

But why take a Sunday and dedicate it to World Missions? Don't we talk about and practice outreach and missions already? **Yes, but here's the tension.**

First, one of the core values of Celebration Baptist Church is "We value Life-Change." That means we place an emphasis upon and celebrate redemption in the lives of people both in our neighborhoods and across the oceans.

Local outreach or "living on mission with God" is essential to every local church. However, not every church practices that like Celebration. That is not to say, we are doing everything we could, only that, we are above average. In fact, one long-term Christian, from another church, told me this week that he is amazed that a church our size, does what we do!

But, we cannot limit our outreach to our city. The great commission was given to churches as our marching orders and it challenges us to go "into all the world." God told Celebration Baptist Church to go into all the world!

But how? By cooperating with other churches, we send men and women throughout the world to reach the unreached of the world.

We must have a balanced ministry of reaching our neighbors and yet maintaining a heart for the world.

Contextualize Revelation 5.

I. The Need For God's Plan for Missions

A) The silence of heaven testifies to man's sinfulness (v. 2-3)

B) The weeping of John testifies to man's condemnation (v. 4)

1) Man stands condemned by God

- 2) Man stands enslaved to sin
- 3) Man stands as the object of God's wrath
- 4) Man stands destined to hell

C) The proclamation of the elder identified man's only hope (v. 5-7)

- 1) What about the innocent man in Asia (Romans 1:18-20)
- 2) Every person has knowledge of God, but do not know the way to God. That's why we go!

II. God's Eternal Plan For Missions.

A) The Death of the Lamb (v. 9)

B) The purchase of a people (v. 9)

C) The creation of a kingdom and priests for God (v. 10)

(The purpose of Jesus' atoning death on the cross was to make disciples of all people groups that He might be glorified, [5:14]).

III. Your Part in God's Plan for Missions

A) Celebrate

- 1) Celebrate that you are a part of that group of disciples he is making of all people groups.
- 2) Celebrate that you have the privilege to be a part of that group of disciples that reaches the world.
- 3) Celebration that you are a part of an eternal plan of redemption!

B) Pray

- 1) Pray for God's direction.
- 2) Pray for God's protection.
- 3) Pray for God's redemption.

C) Give

D) Go

- 1) Across the room.

- 2) Across the street.
- 3) Across the ocean.

Conclusion