

Why Should We Be Concerned With World Missions When The Needs Of Our Own Country Are So Great?

The Bible does not use the phrase “**world missions**,” but God is certainly missions-minded
Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the **WORLD**, He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

The salvation of all nations is a concern for every Christian, based on at least three factors presented in Scripture:

1. **World missions are important because God is the Creator of ALL people;**

- Matt.19:4 “He answered and said, Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?”

2. **God cares about ALL people equally;**

Acts 17:26 “He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.”

Acts 10:34-35 “Peter opened his mouth and said, Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.”

3. **God desires ALL people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth about Jesus Christ**

- 1 Timothy 2:2-5 “Pray for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity – the man Christ Jesus.”
- Because of God’s attitude toward the people of the whole world, we know that world missions—the evangelization of all the people of the world—is the goal.
- God sent His Son into the world to fulfill this prophecy: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned” (Isaiah 9:2).

World missions has its foundation in Jesus’ command to His disciples to GO into all the world and “make disciples of all nations”

Matthew 28:19 “Go & make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

This is what the disciples endeavored to do:

- Paul and Barnabas were “set apart” by Holy Spirit and called for a special work Acts 13:2 that work was to evangelize Cyprus and Asia Minor.

Paul’s missionary work took him to be a pioneer in world missions:

“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation” Romans 15:20.

- **U.P.G.’s Unreached People Groups**

Paul preached the gospel “from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum” v. 19; he had plans to go to Spain v. 24 and he eventually made it to Rome.

- **The book of Acts emphasizes the missionary fervor of the early church and emphasizes the necessity of world missions:**

The Bible says, without Christ, we are all in the same spiritual condition: all have fallen short of God’s glory and are under Adam’s curse.

- Everyone—every race, every person, every nationality—needs to hear the gospel. Everyone needs the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. “How . . . can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?” Romans 10:14–15.

We should pursue world missions because “God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

The offer of salvation is made to “whosoever will” Revelation 22:17.

Revelation describes the new, heavenly city of Jerusalem as a place where “all nations will walk in the light of the Lamb and where the glory of all nations will dwell.”

Revelation 21:22–27.

- God cares about all nations, and representatives of all nations will be present in heaven.

When we support world missions, we share the good news of the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, we glorify God, who says, “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation” (Isaiah 52:7).

The power of giving comes out of giving from your heart—not because you have a lot of money or time to give but because the cause is important to you

The greatest benefit of missions giving is that it teaches us to trust the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

It works in any geographical location, and it works in any economic situation. God's Word says, “Give and it shall be given unto you” Luke 6:38

Biblical Reasons to Give to Missions

Christians worldwide make trillions of dollars in annual income.

Mission’s organizations receive about \$45 billion in donations each year, which accounts for only 6.4% of all donations toward Christian ministries.

Organizations that focus on taking the gospel to unreached people groups receive only **1% of that \$45 billion = \$450,000,000 or 450 million**

More than **40%** of the world’s population is **unreached with the gospel**, yet **only 1% of mission funds** are designated for reaching the billions of unreached peoples.

There is a tremendous need for increasing contributions toward reaching those who have never heard the gospel = **U.P.G.’s Unreached People Groups**.

If believers today followed the biblical examples of the first century Church, more gospel work could take root in the least reached places on Earth.

Supporting Jesus’ Ministry

Jesus was raised in a working-class family, where He learned to be a carpenter.

- But during His ministry, He didn’t rely on a traditional income to live.
- He received support from those He encountered. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and others supported Jesus and the disciples “*out of their own means*” Luke 8:3.

• Jesus taught His disciples to receive support from those who were willing. “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave.” Matthew 10:9-11

This support not only allowed the disciples and Jesus to fully focus on ministry without the need for additional income, it offered a way for others to be partners in ministry.

Supporting the Spread of the Gospel

Paul and the other apostles relied on gifts from believers to spread the gospel:

- Paul wrote a heartfelt thanks to the Philippians for being the only church to support him at one point Philippians 4:15-19.
- 2Corinthians 8:1-5 he described how the Macedonian churches had such generosity that they gave beyond their ability:

“I want you to know, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they are not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped for, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.”

The support of first-century churches allowed the gospel to advance and take root beyond where Jesus had traveled. These examples set the model for how churches today should approach giving to God’s mission.

Give to the Mission

More than **3 billion unreached people** will not have access to the gospel unless believers use more of their resources to reach them.

I’m asking you to prayerfully consider how the Lord wants you to steward your financial resources, taking into account the great need to take the gospel to those who are still unreached.

Your **SACRIFICIAL GENEROUSITY** will be the key to reaching the world with the gospel.

Matt. 24:14 “The Good News about the Kingdom will be **preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and THEN THE END WILL COME.**”