

Why Global Outreach? – Ps 96

We abbreviated our time of worship in order to extend it at the end of the service

After we work our way through the text, I think you'll see why (Ps 96)

This is the start of our Global Outreach Conference . . .

And I want to encourage you from the top, to take advantage of the opportunities to rub shoulders with the different speakers and partners that will be with us

Jim Bultema is the first, from Turkey, and you can hear him right across the hall during the 11 a.m. service, or catch him in the lobby right after the service

- That said, I want to talk to you about Global Outreach; Or more specifically, *why* global outreach? And why *global* outreach? (**Intro**)
And just to be clear as to what I'm talking about – when I say “Global Outreach” (GO), I mean the same thing as “missions”
But we've chosen to use GO instead of missions b/c missions is a *loaded* term in many parts of the world – illegal to practice in some countries, and offensive in others
Which, if we're not careful, could make things more difficult for our Global Partners
GO avoids much of that

Not only that, but missions has become a *nebulous* term

Often thought of so broadly, that many people couldn't put their finger on it if they tried
Or so narrowly, that they think of it only as preaching the gospel to people in grass roof huts, with skirts to match

GO on the other hand, is more descriptive, while still covering all the possibilities

And last, missions tends to be an *exclusive* term

Often thought of as a different animal altogether, than any other ministry of our church

And nothing could be further from the truth

Missions simply exists to do over *there*, exactly what we're doing *here* – which GO conveys just by its label

It's one of the *many* extensions of our church, just like local outreach, or church planting – with the same purpose of glorifying God by making disciples . . .

Who worship Christ, walk with Christ, and work for Christ in every area of life

And we feel GO conveys that better, w/out separating itself from the church

- And we're spending 3 weeks on it, in order to increase your awareness, stir your heart, and help you proceed; that's why we're doing this
To make you aware of what God *says* re GO, allow him to stir your heart to get *involved*, and then help you proceed to make it happen
Whether it's increasing your prayer for the nations, or actually pulling up roots and going there; That's why we're doing this

It's not to guilt you into something you don't want to do, or shouldn't do . . .

Or make you feel like a worm just b/c you don't feel the compulsion to go . . .

Or leave you frustrated for a lack of options; That's not the intent

- But all of this begs the question – why global outreach at all?
Why not just focus all our time and effort right here where God has placed *us*, and let the rest of the world reach their own?

To answer that, I want to look at Ps 96, which in some ways, could be considered the Great Commission of the OT (Ps 96)

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! 8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! 9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! 10 Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.” 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; 12 let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy 13 before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

The first answer to the question, “Why GO?” is that God has a global plan
We engage in GO . . .

Because God has a global plan (v1-6, 10, 13)

A *global* plan; Look at the verbiage

1b – *Sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

3 – *Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among the peoples!*

7 – *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples*; plural

9 – *Tremble before him, all the earth!*

10 – *Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!”*

10b – *He will judge the peoples with equity.”*

13 – *He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

If there was ever a doubt as to the global nature of God's plan, that should dispel it

Equally important, is the plan itself, which starts in v1 with praise

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name [or praise him for who he is]

That's the first part of God's global plan – praise him in worship

1. Praise God in worship

And it starts right here at home; Right here in your heart; With praise

Which keeps the rest of his plan from becoming stale and sterile, or just another method

Rather, praise, especially in song, becomes the fuel to carry it out

The fuel that stokes the fire to fulfill the plan

The second part of God's global plan here in Ps 96, is to . . .

2. Tell people about God's salvation

That's v2b – *tell of his salvation from day to day*

Tell of his work of redemption and offer of life, to anyone who will listen

And do so as you are going – from day to day

Not just every now and then, but every chance you get

3. Declare his glory among the nations

That's straight from v3a, to say – tell people how good he is, how awesome he is, how great he is
Elevate him in the eyes and hearts and minds of those who will listen
Not just here, but everywhere; Not just to *your* people, but to *all* people

4. Declare his works among the peoples

His marvelous works v3b says
Like those found in the Bible, when he released an entire nation from the bondage of slavery through a series of miracles
Or raised Jesus from the dead after 3 days in the tomb
Or established the church in the face of persecution and opposition

Declare *those* works; And don't forget his marvelous works in your *own* life
Like how he saved you, and changed you, and filled you up, and turned you around
Whatever the case, declare his works – all of them; and do so among the peoples

5. Proclaim his Lordship over the nations

That's v10 which says – *Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved*
The second part is proof of the first – that b/c God has established such a stable world, he reigns, he's Lord; there's no getting around it
And we need to proclaim it as part of God's global plan; And then last . . .

6. Warn of his judgment over the earth

You see that in v10b – *he will judge the peoples with equity*; with impartiality/fairness
And then again in v13 where it says – *he comes to judge the earth*
And will do so *in righteousness* – i.e. perfectly distinguishing between right/wrong . . .
With *faithfulness* to go along with it – i.e. a commitment to his promises; his promises to bless those who love him, and punish those who don't
He's going to judge w/ equity, righteousness, and faithfulness – and people need to be warned

- That's God's plan – to warn people of judgment, proclaim his lordship, declare his glory and works, tell of his salvation, and receive praise (**Summary**)
Not b/c he's egotistical and full of himself; But as v4 says, b/c he deserves it
For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.
5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary [the place of his presence].
Greatness, superiority, ability to create; Splendor, majesty, strength, beauty . . .
With qualities like that, he *deserves* to be declared and proclaimed by all the earth
It's a no-brainer
- But it doesn't happen by itself
Yes, God has said that he will make his name great among the nations (Mal 1:11)
Yes, he said that he would bless all the nations of the earth (Gen 12:2-3)
Yes, he said that he would gather his people together from the north and south (Is 43:7)
And yes, we know that in the end, people from every tribe, tongue, and nation will worship him together, forever (Rev 7:9); He has ordained those things

But in his sovereignty, he has also ordained that the key to making it happen is *us*
Through the Psalmist here, God is telling *us* to do these things – to carry out his plan
It's the very thing Paul expands on in **Rom 10:13-14**, where after saying . . .
For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” . . .
He says – *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?* [they won't]
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? [they can't]
And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [again, they won't] *****
So why GO? B/c God has a global plan, and it involves us

• The question is – **Are you following it?**

Are you praising him in worship, telling of his salvation, declaring his glory, recounting his works, proclaiming his lordship, and warning of his judgment – right and now?
B/c this part of his globe you know

And are you such an integral part of our church as we follow God's global plan *together*, that you can confidently say you're following God's plan yourself?
B/c God may or may not call you to go, but he's definitely calling you to play your part as we follow his plan together
The question is, *are* you?

That's the 1st answer as to why we engage in GO – b/c God has a global plan; 2nd is . . .
Because God expects global worship (v7-9, 11-12)

The Psalmist touched on it in v1-2 with praise, gave us the basis for it in v4-6, that he deserves it – and then basically says in v7-9, do it!

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Ascribe as in, believe that something belongs to or characterizes a person or entity
In this case, of all the people and powers in the world, we should assign the greatest magnificence and highest wonder to God, and God alone; as well as strength/power
Our worship s/b an expression of attributing those characteristics to him

But that's not all; In v8 he says – *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name*
That is, give credit where credit is due for who he is, as conveyed by his name
And then, *bring an offering, and come into his courts!*
An expression of worship describing a conscious and intentional entering in to the presence of God; Do *that* the Psalmist says

And then in v9, just in case we weren't tracking w/ the first 3 ways of telling us to worship, he says it explicitly
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

God not only deserves our worship, but *expects* it
Ascribe, bring, worship, and tremble are *all* commands, that he expects *all* of us to follow; the whole earth
The best part of which is, he rewards it

- That's the idea of v11-12 – he rewards our worship with joy
11 *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; 12 let the field exult* [rejoice in triumph], *and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy 13 before the Lord*

Remember that the Psalms are often written poetically and meant to be sung, in order to stir our hearts and touch our emotions; And this one is no different
Which is why he uses all of these metaphors from creation, to describe the reward of joy, if we offer worship to God
He's like, hey – this is the level, and depth, and extent of joy that *you* can expect, if you offer the worship that *God* expects
He deserves it, he expects it, and he rewards it

- All of which spurs us on to keep *investing* in GO
In fact, we're allocating almost 12% of our budget this year to it
And that doesn't include the *salaries* of those who are involved in it

What it does include – is support of our global partners like Jim Bultema, and subsidizing short-term teams like the one going to Romania in a few months . . .
As well as planting churches in places like TN, and financially supporting our fellowship to do so all over the world
Like in Nepal, where we've recently partnered with a small network of churches – to support them, and plant more (**HBFB Nepal Video**)

- Why GO? B/c worship is lacking in places like that; Our GO ministry exists, b/c worship doesn't – worship that God deserves and expects and rewards
The question is – **Are you participating in it?**
Are you participating in GO by worshipping God yourself, and then urging others to do the same?
Are you partnering with our church as we partner with others? Or just watching from the sidelines?
B/c God expects global worship; And right now it's lacking

Which means there's a global need; We engage in GO . . .

Because God knows there's a global need

Shortly after Jesus said that the harvest was plentiful – there was about 1 believer for every 360 people on the earth
That would be about 2 people in this entire room if we accurately represented the world

Now, according to the US Center For World Mission – there's 1 believer for every 9 people on the earth
That would mean about 80 people in this room are believers – which is good; we're making progress
But that still leaves about 640 who aren't believers

And what's worse, while the number of *believers* has increased, and the *ratio* improved, so has the overall population
So the need, in terms of raw numbers, is even greater

- In fact, almost 2 billion of the 6.5b people in this world, haven't even *heard* about the God who expects their worship – let alone been urged or given the chance to offer it
They have yet to even hear that Jesus came the *1st* time, let alone that he's coming a 2nd
And half of them, 1 billion people, don't even have the *opportunity* to hear – there's no witness for Jesus Christ in their language/culture, there's no church, and no Bible
Why GO? God knows there's a global need

- The question is – **Are you meeting it?**
Are you praying *earnestly to the Lord of the harvest*, like Jesus said, *to send out laborers into the harvest?* (Mt 9:38)
Are you tithing so that together we can meet the need?
Are you supporting one of our Global Partners with emails, care packages, and prayer – as *they* meet the need?
Are you giving over and above your tithe to missionaries God has laid on your heart?
Are you responding to God's call to meet the need *yourself*?

I hope you are; B/c God knows, there's a global need for global worship . . .
And he's given us a global plan to meet it

Pray – God, find us faithful in that; Find us faithful to declare your glory, and tell of your salvation day after day – here, there, and everywhere
Grip us with the need in our world, and find us obedient to meet it
Until one day, the whole earth joins us in songs of praise and adoration, offering you the worship you deserve and expect
You reign God, and we worship; For your glory, and our joy

Worship – Stand (Day After Day; Your Name)

Close – Pastors from HTC; Next week – Brooks & Nina Buser from PNG