

APPENDIX D: Ideas for Teaching and Preaching on God's Mission in the World

1) **God Himself: The Trinity and Missions** (outline credit to TV Thomas)

God in Genesis – **A Missionary God**: “Adam, where are you?”; Old Testament – How many ways does God reveal himself to be one who longs for presence (Moses, the people and the tabernacle; David, and the temple), for restoration of relationship (the prophets; *Isaiah 43, Ezekiel 34:16, 31; 11;18-20; Psalm 46* ‘dwelling, with, midst’)?

The Father – New Testament - *II Corinthians 5:18-20* – This is God who was reconciling the world to himself”; *1 Peter 1:17-21* – Since you call on a Father ... “He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake... through him you believe...”

The Son – “**A Missionary Christ**” *John 4* – the Samaritan woman – ‘he is the Saviour of the world’; As the Father has sent me, so I send you. *Colossians 1* – the plan of God was to reconcile the world through Christ. *Luke 19:10*.

The Holy Spirit – “**A Missionary Spirit**” – the Empowerment of God's people, *Acts 1:8, Acts 2 and Joel 2:21* “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” context, the nations and languages represented. Boldness of the church, *Acts 4:31*.

Ephesians 1-2; 1 Peter 2:1-10 – The Triune God (all are in action in these passages) have created and are building a temple, a holy nation, a royal priesthood – this is who you are – on display for the world to see and glorify God. A missionary presence in the world.

2) **The Narrative: God's heart for the nations through scripture from Abraham to Revelation:**

Trace God's perspective on the ‘Nations’ through scripture. It is a powerful word study! From Abram/Abraham's repeated promise to Revelations. Some examples of what you'll find: *Genesis 12:3; Psalm 67; Luke 2:32 Mark 11:17; Acts 17:26; Revelation 22:2*. God's plan was for the whole world, through Abraham's family, through Christ, through the church.

3) **The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts:**

What Jesus came to do (*Luke 19:10*), He is continuing to do now *through His church (Acts 1:8)* until He returns. Note themes: a) People are ‘lost to God’ (*Luke 15*), b) and salvation being only in Christ (*Acts 2:38-39; 12; 26:15-18*). c) Read the way the disciples-apostles look back at the Old Testament to understand God's people were always intended for this purpose of God's glory among the nations (for example, *Acts 13:46-48; Isaiah 49:6*.)

4) **His Return is on the Calendar: The Meaning of the Times We are in:**

“...the meaning and the purpose of this present time, between Christ's coming and His coming again, is that in it the Church is to prosecute its apostolic mission of witness to the world. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The answer to their questions about times and seasons, about the limits of this world's history, is a commission.

What has been done for the whole world must be made known to the whole world, so that the whole world may be brought under obedience to the Gospel, and may be healed in the salvation which God has wrought for it...IT IS FOR THIS THAT THE END IS HELD BACK...that is the meaning of the time still given to us. It is time for bringing all men and all nations to the obedience of faith. It is for no other purpose that the end is delayed. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come *Matthew 24:14.*" (From: *The Household of God*, by Leslie Newbigin).

5) Holiness it is not only for our good, it is for His glory, it is for His mission –The Display Factor: we reveal Christ as he transforms us, for others to know Him. There is a direct tie between Christ transforming us and missions in scripture.

- *Ephesians 2:6* " ...in order that in the coming ages he *might show* the comparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."; *2:21* "in him the whole building is joined to together and rises to become *a holy temple* in the Lord."; *3:10* "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be *made known...*"
- *I Timothy 2:15* "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the very worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me...Christ Jesus *might display* his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life."
- *II Corinthians 3:18* "And we...are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit."
- *Luke 19:1* "A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus...he wanted to see who Jesus was..."
- *John 12:20* "There were some Greeks. They came to Philip... "Sir, we would like to see Jesus".

6) The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20; An explicit mandate to make disciples of all nations. (cf. *Mark 16; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:21* "As the Father sent me, I am sending you"; *21:1-11* Image of fish harvest; *Acts 1:8*)