

## **GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES**

**Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8**

**Introduction:** "Long Range Planning" is a term used by hospitals, schools, businesses, governments, Churches and even families. Plans are made far in advance for the actual happening and occurrence of what has been planned. Before anybody ever walked on this earth, God formed a plan. It was His idea, He is the author, Jesus Christ is the founder and Christians are the "agents."

We hear about "missions" and are always asked to give and to support missions and the idea is that somebody else (others), special called ones are missionaries. What is "missions?" "Missions" is the agency through which the people that walk in darkness come to see the "great light" and by which the "light" shines on them that are dwelling in the land of deep darkness."

"Missions is the extensive realization of God's redemptive purpose in Jesus Christ by means of HUMAN MESSENGERS."

### **I. WHAT MISSIONS MEANS TO GOD (THE AUTHOR)**

1. *Ephesians 3:1-13* - It is the method by which God is carrying forward His plan of the ages.
  - The progress of God's plan of the ages depends upon the spreading of the Gospel.
  
2. Missions show why God deals with all people's innate desire:
  - A common interest in all mankind is to worship.
  - God does not want to be worshipped materially.
  - God wants all mankind to seek and find Him.
  - God is patient and waits for all to come to Him.
  
3. Missions is the method of bringing humanity to its highest degree with Jesus as the example.
  
4. Missions is God's message of love to mankind.
  - It is not what God's love means to mankind, but what mankind means to God's love.
  - Only in Christianity is this type of love found.
  
5. Missions is God's only way of fulfilling His eternal promises to His Son.

### **II. WHAT MISSIONS MEAN TO JESUS CHRIST (FOUNDER)**

1. *John 1:14, 18* - Missions is the revealing of God the Father to all the world.
  
2. Missions removes blasphemous dishonor of God's name by revealing the foolishness and absurdness of idolatry, of heathenism and hypocrisy.
  
3. Missions is the method the Kingdom of God will be brought to the world.
  
4. Missions was used by Jesus to make Himself known among men and how His second coming will be made known.
  - Millions don't know of His first coming yet much less of His promised second coming.

5. Missions is the utmost expression of Jesus Christ's love and sympathy for a lost world.
  - He was moved to compassion and said that the harvest was plenteous, but the labors were few, that the fields were white unto harvest and that He was the light of the world.
  - Jesus loved individuals, He loved the crowds, He wept over the city of Jerusalem, He had compassionate prayer for His disciples.

### **III. WHAT MISSIONS MEAN TO THE CHRISTIAN (THE AGENT)**

1. Through Missions comes to the Christian, the promises of Jesus Christ.
  - Unlimited answered prayers made in the Name of Jesus.
  - Jesus' presence in the Christian's life, promised in the "great commission."
  - Every need to be supplied.
  - The gift of the Holy Spirit.
2. Missions is the Christian's means of carrying to his/her fellow person the highest possible good.
  - There is much good that can be done to/for others, but the supreme good is to bring Jesus to them.
3. Missions unites Christians together with God in doing the work of Jesus Christ, bringing all into one accord.
4. Through Missions, Christians allow Jesus to carry through the ages His personality, His ideas, God's Plan of the Ages.
5. Missions is the best possible investment for the Christian's life. No other thing or act in life can bring such reimbursements. Saved souls.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. All of God's Children are Missionaries. If you are a Christian, YOU have as much responsibility as those serving in foreign countries and in our own country.
  - YOU are a local missionary.
  - God is no respecter of persons concerning sin and God is no respecter of persons when it comes to His plan.
2. Christian, YOU are responsible!! YOU must support our Home and Foreign missionaries, but you are responsible for HERE! Where you live!
3. God's plan of the ages is MISSIONS!