

## MISSIONS, GOD'S PLAN

**Ephesians 3-13    John 1:14-18**

**Introduction:** "There's a mission envelope in the holder in the pew in front of you..." "Our youth are going on a mission trip this summer." "We are having a missionary as guest speaker next Sunday." "Missions" is a word often heard in church language. What is "missions?" Someone described missions as "the agency through which the people that walk in darkness come to see the great light and by which the light shines upon them that are dwelling in the land of deep darkness." In plain language "missions" is the effort to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard it yet.

### I. GOD'S INTENT AND MEANING OF MISSIONS

1. God intends for missions to carry out His plans and it's progress depends upon God's people.
2. Missions shows why God deals with man in the first place:
  - there is an innate desire to worship
  - as creator, there is none beside almighty God
  - God is interested in all people
  - people are to seek and find God
  - God meets man's ignorance of Him with missions.
3. Missions is the method to bring mankind to God's planned destiny, to be like Jesus Christ.
4. Missions is the message of God's love to and for man.
5. Missions is God's way of making a Kingdom for Jesus Christ to rule.

### II. THE MEANING OF MISSIONS TO JESUS CHRIST

1. Missions is the revealing of God the Father to the world. (*John 12:44-50*)
2. Missions is the glorifying of God, the Father by removing man's blasphemy and dishonor through his idol worship and such dishonorable acts.
3. Missions is the manner in which the Kingdom of God will come to earth.
4. Missions is the method by which Jesus is made known among people.
  - The Second coming is not known about by most nor was His first coming either.
5. Missions is the expression of Jesus' love for lost mankind.
  - *John 4:35; Matthew 9:36-10:5; John 12:46*

### **III. THE MEANING OF MISSIONS TO THE CHRISTIAN**

1. The Christian is one who comes to realize and recognize Jesus' promises:
  - unlimited answered prayer
  - the presence of Jesus every day
  - daily needs supplied
  - the power to do what Jesus wants via the Holy Spirit.
2. Missions is the means by which the Christian can do the most good for his/her fellow man.
3. Missions unites Christians together with God, doing the works of Jesus through their cooperative efforts, programs, etc.
4. Missions is the means by which Jesus is able to reveal His person, ideals, plans, truths, using His disciples, Christians.
5. Missions is the best possible investment of a Christian's life.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. In a world of Need, Christians are channels of needed supply.
2. In a world of Darkness, Christians are instruments of light of the Lord.
3. In a world of Death, Christians are agents of Life.
4. There is no choice! If one be in Jesus Christ, then one is a Missionary, a person SENT by God, the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, indwelt with the Holy Spirit.