

“The Essentials Of Our Faith”

Session XLII

September 4, 2011

“Missions: World Vision”

Part One: The Believer’s “Call” And “Commission”!

Introduction:

Riverwood Bible Church was founded upon three pillars of purpose or “calling” by the original leadership:

A. Accurate Bible Teaching: “To Rightly Divide the Word of Truth,” II Tim. 2:15.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

B. Missions: Local and Foreign Evangelism, Matthew 28:18-20.

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ ”

C. Prayer: Personal Trust in the Promises of God; Intercession for Others, John 15:16.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.”

Our focus of study in this session is that of “World Vision” or Riverwood’s calling to see the world as God sees it – according to His eternal purpose.”

What is the outreach mission or purpose of the Church? Many people would answer, “To win the world to Christ,” or, “To make the world a better place!” These answers sound very good and may represent a genuine concern on the part of many, but they actually are Biblically incorrect.

It is imperative that we understand God’s mission or purpose for the Church based on the revealed truth of His Word.

“ . . . in the present age, never is the individual Believer (much less the Church), appointed of God to a world-improvement program; but the Believer is called to be a witness in all the world to Christ and His saving grace, and through this ministry of Gospel-preaching the Spirit of God will accomplish the supreme divine purpose in the age.”

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

Note: If we think that God has commissioned “us” to win or change the world, **we will attempt to do it our way and in our ability!**

*“Another error . . . is the supposition that the divine purpose in this age is the conversion of the world. It is true that the world will be converted and there is yet to be a Kingdom of righteousness in the earth; but, according to the Bible, that day of a transformed earth, so far from being the result of Christian service, is said to follow rather than precede the return of Christ, and is said to be made possible only by His personal presence and immediate power. . . . When anticipating the peculiar features of this age (Matt. 13:1-50), the Lord made mention of three major characteristics . . . Of these three characteristics of the age, it is disclosed that the last, or the **gathering out** of the children of the kingdom, **constitutes the supreme purpose** of God in this age.”*

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

*“Likewise, the ‘mystery of iniquity’, or evil in the present age, is declared to continue, though restrained, until the Restrainer – the Spirit of God – is taken out of the way (II Thess. 2:7), and as the Spirit will depart only when He has **completed the calling out of the Church**, the immediate purpose of God is not the correction of evil in the world, but the **calling out** of all who will believe. . . . the present purpose of God . . . is the **completion of the Church**.”*

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

--God’s present plan for the world is to “**call out**” the Church, a “people for His own possession”, the Bride of Christ! He will do this through the faithful “**witness**” of those who already make up the Body of Christ.

--The world will be “won” only when Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom in His supernatural power!

I. “World Vision” in the Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ.

A. The Incarnation of Christ represented a “_____” for the world:

1. John 1:29

“The next day he saw Jesus coming to Him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.’”

2. John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

3. John 17:3-4

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

4. Matthew 16:18

“ . . . upon this rock I will build My Church . . . ”

B. The Followers of Christ were called to have the _____ “vision”!

1. John 4:3, 4, 7, 34-36

“He left Judea and went away again into Galilee. . . . And He had to pass through Samaria . . . There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ . . . At this point His disciples come, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, ‘What do You seek?’ or, ‘Why do You speak with her?’ . . . Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.’ Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal . . .”

2. John 15:15-16

“No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”

3. John 17:14-18

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

4. Matthew 28: 18-20

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ ”

Summary:

a. World Vision involves “_____”!

b. World Vision involves “_____”!

c. World Vision involves “_____”!

Observations:

a. Showing “_____” and “_____” is an essential _____ for effective evangelism.

b. Whether “_____” or “_____” the Gospel must be _____! (spoken or written “words”)