



What is the mission of the church?

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Introduction: Will the real Jesus please stand up?

Colossians 1:24:2-7

1. The sufficiency of Paul's ministry... (1:24-29)

2. ...For all Christians to know Jesus fully (1:28-2:3)

- Full maturity (1:28)

- Full understanding (2:2-3)

Therefore:

- Don't be deceived (2:4)

- Don't change direction (vv.6-7)

What is the mission of the church?

Talk 1: The mission of Jesus

Introduction

1. Jesus undeniably cared about physical human suffering

(a) Healings

Luke 4:38-39; 5:12-14; 7:11-17

(b) Teaching

Luke 11:42

Luke 12:32-34

2. Jesus was unflinchingly focused on his mission of salvation

(a) Birth narratives

Luke 1:77 - Zechariah's prophesy: *"give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins."*

Luke 2:10-11 – Angel's declaration: *"And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:29-30 – Simeon's praise: *"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation."*

(b) Self-declaration

Luke 4:18-19

"Poor" – Isa 49:13; Ps 22:24; 34:6; 35:10; 86:1; 88:15

"Captives", "Oppressed" – Lk 1:77; 3:3; 24:47; 2:38; 5:31; 10:43; 13:38; 26:18

"Blind" – Isa 6:9-13; 42:6, 16

Luke 4:42-43: *“And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”*

Luke 5:24: *“the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”.*

Luke 5:31-32: *“And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*

Luke 19:10: *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

Luke 15:7: *“Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

Luke 15:10: *“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Luke 15:32: *“It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”*

(c) Great Commission

Luke 24:45-47

(d) Exception I? - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

(e) Exception II? – The sheep & goats (Matt 25:31-46)

“brothers” – Matt 5:22-24; 7:3-5; 12:49-50; 18:15, 21, 35; 23:1, 8-10; 28:10.

“least of these” - Matt 10:42; 18:6, 10, 14; 11:11.

Acts of kindness - Matt 10:40-42.

Summary & application

What is the mission of the church?

Talk 2: The mission of the early church

Introduction

1. The Church's mission is global evangelism (Luke 24:44-49)

2. The Church is spiritually empowered for global evangelism

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:8

Acts 2:1-13

Acts 4:8-12

Acts 4:31

Acts 6:10

Acts 8:4

Acts 11:22-24

Acts 13:9

3. The Church is single-minded in pursuing global evangelism (Acts 6:1-7 etc.)

Conclusion

What is the mission of the church?

Talk 3: Misunderstood texts in thinking about the mission of the church

Introduction

1. A surprising pastoral conclusion (1 Tim 5:3-16)

Criteria 1: True widows have no relatives to help them (v4, 8, 16)

Criteria 2: True widows are unable to help themselves (v9, 11-13)

Criteria 3: True widows are genuine Christian (v9-10)

2. Key misunderstood texts

(a) Micah 6:8 (see 6:1-8)

(b) Jer 29:7 (see Jer 28:1-29:10)

Summary & application

What is the mission of the church?

Talk 4: Staying on mission! (1 Cor 15:50-58)

Introduction

1. Our guaranteed transformation (v50-53)

2. Our great triumph (v54-57)

3. Our glorious task (v58)

Conclusion

Appendix 1

TGC-US Theological Vision for Ministry:

“The doing of justice and mercy.

God created both soul and body, and the resurrection of Jesus shows that he is going to redeem both the spiritual and the material. Therefore God is concerned not only for the salvation of souls but also for the relief of poverty, hunger, and injustice. The gospel opens our eyes to the fact that all our wealth (even wealth for which we worked hard) is ultimately an unmerited gift from God. Therefore the person who does not generously give away his or her wealth to others is not merely lacking in compassion, but is unjust. Christ wins our salvation through losing, achieves power through weakness and service, and comes to wealth through giving all away. Those who receive his salvation are not the strong and accomplished but those who admit they are weak and lost. We cannot look at the poor and the oppressed and callously call them to pull themselves out of their own difficulty. Jesus did not treat us that way. The gospel replaces superiority toward the poor with mercy and compassion. Christian churches must work for justice and peace in their neighbourhoods through service even as they call individuals to conversion and the new birth. We must work for the eternal and common good and show our neighbours we love them sacrificially whether they believe as we do or not. Indifference to the poor and disadvantaged means there has not been a true grasp of our salvation by sheer grace.”

TGC-Aus Theological Vision for Ministry:

“The doing of justice and mercy.

God created both body and soul, and the resurrection of Jesus shows that he is going to redeem both the spiritual and the material. God is concerned not only for the salvation of people, but also for the welfare of humanity, and so for the relief of poverty, hunger, and injustice. The gospel opens our eyes to the fact that all our wealth (even wealth for which we worked hard)

is ultimately an unmerited gift from God. Therefore the person who does not share his or her wealth with others lacks godly compassion. The gospel replaces superiority toward the poor with evangelism, mercy and compassion, and challenges the wealthy to see their spiritual poverty and their need to be converted. Christians must work for justice and peace within their neighbourhoods and the wider world, using the opportunities that God has given us to challenge abuses and injustices and promote the welfare of all, even as we call individuals to conversion and new birth. We must do good to all, and show our neighbours we love them sacrificially whether they believe as we do or not. We recognise that true justice will only be found when Christ returns and brings his reign of justice and mercy. We know that God's greatest act of mercy was to save us through Christ, so that being justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. So we must offer God's mercy in the atoning death and victorious resurrection of Christ to all. The greatest and universal need of all humans is to receive God's mercy in the atoning death of Christ."

The urgent task

(1)



(5)



(4)



(3)



(2)

(2)

The urgent task: who is to do it?

Titus 1:1-16
1 Timothy 3:1
James 3:1

(1) Skills

(2) Character

(3) Temperament

The urgent task: how we can do it

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

(1) 'The hope of eternal life' (1:1-3)

1 Timothy 1:1, 6:17-19

2 Timothy 1:1, 2:17-19

(2) 'The grace of God' (2:11-14)

(3) 'Rebirth and renewal' (3:3-7)

Christopher Ash, *Zeal without Burnout*
Don Carson, *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor*
Zack Eswine, *The Imperfect Pastor*

Kent Hughes, *Delivering Ministry from the Success Syndrome*

Worshipping Jesus

Introduction

Thesis

Principle

The 'worship' words

1. The failed attempt at worship

2. The finished work of worship

- God's mercy
- holy and acceptable
- living sacrifices

3. The necessary power for worship

- not conformed
- but transformed
- the renewal of the mind

Conclusion

'to bow down'

'priestly service'

'to reverence'

Proclaiming Jesus
