

WHAT MISSIONS WILL DO FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

Introduction:

We have already considered the Biblical Basis for the Missionary's work.

We looked at five different passages:

Matt.28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8

Those five Scriptures give us a solid foundation, for home and world mission work.

In this study we are going to think about what missions will do for the local church.

Let's turn to two Scriptures:

Galatians 6:7-9

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

I. Possibility – (v.7)-to be deceived

II. Principle- (vv.7-8)-what sow will reap

III. Plea-(v.9a) -not to be weary in well doing

IV. Promise (v.9b)- reap if we don't faint

2 Corinthians 9:6

"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

It is very evident from the Scriptures that the Great Commission was given to the local Church.

In the Acts chapter 13 and 14, the first missionaries were called out of the local Church.

Many church members today have the wrong concept of missionaries. They see missionaries as *"strangers who come to their Church, to get their money, and then go their way, and do their own thing."* They see missionaries as people who are *"using"* their church.

Instead the church is using the missionary as an arm of the church to reach out. We should see the Missionary as a vehicle by which the local church transports its ministry to another part of the world.

God likens our giving to missions to sowing and reaping. The only difference between the natural law of sowing and reaping and the spiritual law of sowing and reaping is, there can be a crop failure in the natural realm because of weather, etc., but in the spiritual realm there will never be a crop failure.

In the law of the harvest there are these four basic principles.

1. _____ Galatians 6:7-8
2. _____ Galatians 6:9
3. _____
4. _____

2 Corinthians 9:6

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

The first half is true. If we sow to the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption. I believe that. I preach that. I teach that.

Now look at the last half. This part teaches us we do not have to sow to the flesh. There is another seed. There is another sowing. There is another substance. What this verse teaches is we can sow to the Spirit and someone else will be saved and we will reap the reward for sowing to the Spirit.

With these thoughts in mind, we now move forward to look at the benefits a Bible based mission program will bring to a local church. Though there are many that could be mentioned, we will look at seven of them now.

I. Missions will build the Faith of the local church.

One of the great benefits of a Missions Program that is sound Scripturally is it will build the Faith of the membership of the local church.

There are three things that God will use to build their faith:

A. First He will use the Expounding of the Scriptures.

B. The second thing the Holy Spirit will use to build the faith of the church is the Experiences that are Shared

C. The third thing that builds the faith of the local church is the Expressions of Satisfaction

This is displayed by the missionaries and those who are really involved in the work of missions. We are told in II Corinthians 9:11 that God enriches the life of those who participate in carrying out the Great Commission.

2 Corinthians 9:11

“Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.”

II. Missions will build the Fire in the local Church.

Though it may not seem logical at first, real revival fires begin to burn in a church that has the right attitudes toward missions. In missions the church is getting close to the heart of God.

When you love missions, you love what God loves. When you think missions, you are thinking what God thinks, and when you are involved in missions you are involved in the very heartbeat of God.

Some would ask the question, how could missions start a revival fire in the local church? I answer with these three thoughts.

A. When we think of missions, we become conscious of Souls that are Lost.

B. Second, as we think of missions we become conscious of the Saviour that loves them.

C. Thirdly, as we get involved in missions we become conscious of the Spirit that Leads.

As we become conscious of the souls that are lost, the Saviour that loves, and the Spirit that leads, we will once again feel the fire rekindling a burden for the lost in our own hearts. When the saints get this kind of burden, revival fires will burn again in our churches.

III. Missions will build the Fellowship in the local Church.

This is a fact that has been proven again and again, a Scriptural Mission Program can be a great unifying factor to a local church. When a church loses their vision

of a world going to hell and their responsibility to carry out the Great Commission, then division comes in that church.

One Pastor said; *"If you have a sick church, put it on a missions diet"*

A Scripturally sound missionary program will help build a genuine Christian fellowship in the local church.

A. Destroy a Selfish Spirit.

It is impossible for a person with any understanding of the Biblical teaching on missions to have a selfish spirit.

B. Develop a Sharing Spirit.

Missions help people to realize that they or their family cannot do the job by themselves. They need others to help them. No family can have a church by themselves.

The same thing is true concerning the Mission Program of your church. No one family can support all the missionary projects that the church should support, but with every family sharing together the missionary program can be one which is pleasing to God.

C. Develop a Steadfast Spirit.

Church members must realize that the lost world is depending upon the missionaries. The missionaries are depending upon the churches. The churches are depending upon their members, and, the Lord is depending upon each of us to do our part. Then the church members will become steadfast in all areas of Christian service.

IV. Missions will build the _____ in the local Church.

This seems like a rather foolish statement to the world, but missions giving will increase the finances in the local church.

The Kingdom of God is not the local church, but the reaching of the lost on a worldwide basis. It was after the church at Philippi had sent an offering to help meet the needs of Paul and his team that Paul said to them in Philippians 4:19, ***"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."***

As both individuals and churches give to missions, they discover that God's smallest spoon is larger than our largest shovel. God can and will give more back to us than we give to Him.

Luke 6:38, ***“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”*** God will not let you out give Him.

Lesson from Dead Sea: _____

V. Missions will build the Field of the local Church.

The field or outreach of any church is very limited geographically. Most churches could not reach out further than fifty miles in a lifetime if their total outreach was left up to the church members alone.

As a church takes on more missionaries for support, they began enlarging their field reaching not only from street to street, but from state to state and from shore to shore until finally their field has become as big as God's field, the world, Matthew 13:38.

The cheapest way for any church to spread its outreach around the world is by taking on missionaries and let them take your message to their part of the world.

VI. Missions will build the Future of the local Church.

This is not to say that churches with great missionary programs do not have church problems. But we can rest assured that God will bless any church that takes the Great Commission to heart.

God's greatest desire for this age is that the Gospel be preached to all nations.

God will bless any church that will put Missions as the very heart of their activities. As a church sends forth laborer into the harvest, God will replace them with other laborers in the local church.

As the church gives out its money to missions, God will give to that church more people who will give more money, so they can give more to missions. **VII. Missions will build the Final Reward of the local Church.**

To look at many churches today, you would think they believe their final reward was to be determined by the number and size of their buildings.

This is the day of elaborate sanctuaries, fellowship halls, family life centers, and a host of other buildings being built for the glory of someone else beside the Lord. I am not against a church having a nice facility, or anything that it needs to better serve the Lord and glorify God. What I am saying is these things are temporal and will not be remembered at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The final reward of the church at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be when, for the first time, they see the real fruit of their missions giving and the answers to their prayers which they prayed for their missionaries.

No church can really claim to be a New Testament Church unless it is involved in carrying out the Great Commission of our Resurrected Lord. Any Church that will involve itself in carrying out the Great Commission will be richly blessed.

If you are involved in a Church that is not striving to carry out our Lord's Commission you should do one of two things.

1- Talk to your Pastor and church leaders about this and see if you can get them to start a mission program.

2- If they will not, then you need to ship out. If you are in a church that does not stress missions; you belong to a social club or something else besides a New Testament Church if it is not involved in carrying out the Great Commission.

Missions will reap several wonderful benefits as we take seriously this matter called missions.