

Theological Equipping Class – Missions

The Mission of the Father, Son, and Spirit

God is the One on mission

- God Initiates His Redemptive Mission after the Fall: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* - Genesis 3:15
- God Calls Abraham: *“Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* – Genesis 12:1-3
- God Rescues Israel from Egypt – *“The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* – Exodus 19:3-6
- God will write His law on our Hearts - *“³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”* – Jeremiah 31:31-34
- God will transform our hearts and give us His Spirit: *“I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.”* - Ezekiel 36:24-29
- God brings Salvation for the Gentiles - *“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”* – Isaiah 56:6-8
- Father, Son, and Spirit each play a particular role in this Mission - *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”* - Galatians 4:4-7

Father Orchestrates and Sends:

- Orchestrates the Mission - *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the*

foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” – Ephesians 1:3-6

- Sends His Son to Redeem - *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16*
- Sends His Spirit to Transform/Sanctify - *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.” – John 14:16*

Son is sent to Redeem:

- Incarnation - *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” – John 6:38-40*
- Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension
- Defeats Sin, Death, and the Devil
- *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” - Philippians 2:5-11*
- *“God the Father sends God the Son to become incarnate as one of us, to redeem us, and to rule over us as the firstborn Son among many redeemed, adopted siblings.” - Scott Swain*

Spirit is sent to Transform:

- Spirit Convict of Sin and Righteousness: *“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...” – John 16:8*
- Spirit Transforms the Heart:
 - Adoption - *“God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”” - Galatians 4:6*
 - Sanctification - *“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control” – Galatians 5:22-23*
- Spirit Empowerment the Church for God’s Mission - *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8*
- Spirit Guide into Truth: *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” – John 16:13*
- Spirit Glorifies Jesus: *“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” – John 16:14*

Goal of God’s mission: God is Glorified by us and We Delight in Him. - *“In the missions of the Son and the Spirit, God makes His dwelling among us, brings the all-sufficiency, glory, and beatitude of his tripersonal life to us, causing us to find our all-sufficiency, glory, and beatitude in Him” – Scott Swain*

God will be Victorious in His Mission

- *“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” – Habakkuk 2:14*

- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” - Revelation 21:1-5
- “I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” – Revelation 7:9-10

Joining the Mission of God:

We Join the Mission of God

- Commissioned by the Son: “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:18-20
- Empowered by the Spirit: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8
- God guiding Paul - Acts 16 - Prevented from going to Asia...“come and help us” in Macedonia
- God elects Believers - “And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” – Acts 13:48
- Spirit must empower - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8
- Spirit changes hearts - “I planted, Apollos watered, God gave the growth” – 1 Corinthians 3:6
- God in His infinite wisdom and love chooses to use us in His Mission - “For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” - Romans 10:13-17

Our Motivation for God’s Mission:

- God’s Glory - “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.” – John Piper
- Man’s Ultimate Joy in God - “Love is helping people toward the greatest beauty, the highest value, the deepest satisfaction, the most lasting joy, the biggest reward, the most wonderful friendship, and the most overwhelming worship – love is helping people toward God.” – John Piper
- Glory of God and the Delight of Man are not opposed - “The Scotch catechism says that man’s chief end is ‘to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.’ But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy him” – C.S. Lewis

Means by which we join in God’s Mission – Suffering

- “Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” - Matthew 16:24
- “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master... If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.” - Matthew 10:24-25
- “Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” - Matthew 10:21-22
- Rejoicing in Suffering:
 - “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.” - Philippians 1:29
 - “Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.” - Acts 5:41
 - “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known...For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” - Colossians 1:24-29
- Glory of Suffering for the Mission of God:
 - “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” - Jim Elliot
 - “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” – Romans 8:18

Practical Ways to Join the Mission of God

1. Be Kingdom Minded

- The Mission of God goes far beyond the walls of The Parkway Church

2. Think about and study Missions

- Study to be Biblical rather than following the latest trends
 - Faithfulness > Numbers
 - Disciples > Conversions
- Christianity in the Majority World
- Globalized World - “Diaspora Mission”
- Study to be Inspired

3. Pray

- “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” – Matthew 9:35-38
- For Parkway:
 - Pray that unbelievers would trust Christ
 - Pray we would send missionaries, plant churches, and replant Churches
- City, County, State, Country, World
- Operation World (<https://operationworld.org/>)
- Pray Big Prayers: “Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.” – William Carey

4. Send

- Sending is as vital to the Mission of God as going

5. Go

- Some may be called to go overseas
- All of you can go across the street (Diaspora Missions)

6. Be a Faithful Church

- “I have a solution for a globalized world. It’s called the healthy church. Biblical, healthy church is the means of God to advance his glory among the nations.” - Mack Stiles