

The smoke of 1000 villages

Romans 15:14-24

Pauline priorities in mission
or
Missiological Myopia

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Myopia:

"A condition in which the visual images come to a focus in front of the retina of the eye, resulting in **defective vision of distant objects.**"

--Webster's

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Context

- Occasion for writing the book
 - a missionary support letter!
- Immediate context in ch. 15
 - the inclusion of the Gentiles

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Biblical priority in mission is determined by 3 factors:

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Biblical priority in mission is determined when there is:

1. A competent church, vs. 14, 15

- a. Full of goodness, v. 14
- b. Complete in knowledge, v. 14
- c. Competent to instruct one another, v. 14

--noutheteo

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Biblical priority in mission is determined when there is:

2. A proclaimed Gospel, vs. 16-19

- a. Enabling: the grace of God, v. 15c
- b. Nature: a priestly duty, v. 16
- c. Fruit: an acceptable offering, v. 16

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“And they will bring all your brothers, **from all the nations**, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an **offering** to the Lord. . .”

--Isaiah 66:20

(Italics added)

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- e. Method: word and deed, vs. 18, 19

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- d. Value: worthy of glorying in, v. 17
- e. Method: word and deed, vs. 18, 19
- f. Power: the Holy Spirit, v. 19

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2. A proclaimed Gospel, vs. 16-19

- g. Scope: The Gospel is “fulfilled”, *pleruo*

Mk. 6:43, “Twelve baskets full”

Mt. 5:17, “I have come not to destroy the Law but to fulfill it”

Gal. 5:14, “The whole law is summed up in a single command”

Acts 12:25, “When they had finished their mission”

Acts 14:26, “For the work they had now completed”

Rom. 8:4, “In order that the righteous requirements of the Law might be fully met in us.”

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"Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh **what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions**, for the sake of his body, which is the church."

--Col. 1:24

(Italics added)

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Biblical priority in mission is determined when there is:

3. An uninformed people, vs. 20-24

- It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel **where Christ was not known**, v. 20.
- Not be building on someone else's foundation, v. 20.
- Those who were not told will **see**, those who have not heard will **understand**, v. 21.

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"Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness—so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. **For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.**"

--Isaiah 52:14,15

(Italics added)

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"Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, **so that we can preach the Gospel in the regions beyond you.**"

--2 Cor. 10:15,16a

(Italics added)

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OBJECTION

- God is loving and wouldn't send people to hell
- There are good people in every culture
- Other religions lead to God
- God elects—it's His responsibility

ANSWER

Rom. 1:20
"Without excuse"
Rom. 3:10
"No not one"
Rom. 3:22
One "Righteous One"
Rom. 10:13,14
"No preaching, no hearing, no faith, no salvation"

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"for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they **call** on the one they have not believed in? And how can they **believe** in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they **hear** without someone preaching to them? And how can they **preach** unless they are sent?"

--Rom. 10:13-15a

(Italics added)

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SUMMARIZE:

1. Critical to get to Spain—unreached people
2. Paul on his way to Jerusalem
3. Would stop off in Rome on way to Spain
4. Wanted the Romans to “*assist*” him on his journey there: *propempe*
5. Did he ever make it to Spain?

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“Paul, having taught righteousness to the whole world, having gone to the limits of the West, and having given testimony before the rulers, thus was removed from the world and taken up into the Holy Place.”

--Clement of Rome, I Corinthians V.vii,
A.D. 95

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CONCLUSIONS

1. When there are significant numbers of believers, gathered in healthy churches, there _____ a priority for missions

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CONCLUSIONS

1. When there are significant numbers of believers, gathered in healthy churches, there IS NOT a priority for missions

AND

2. Where there has been a significant proclamation of the Gospel such that people are able to hear if they want, there _____ a priority for missions,

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CONCLUSIONS If it is true that:

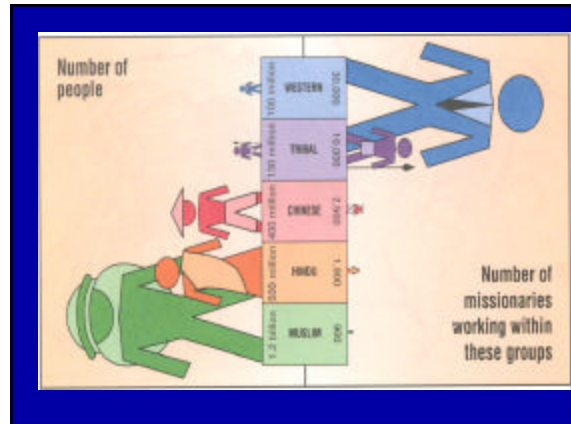
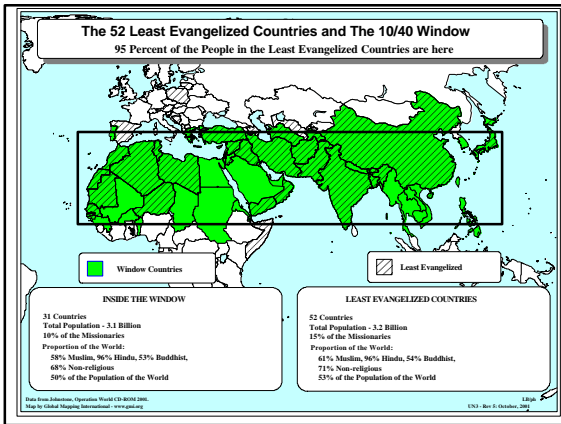
1. When there are significant numbers of believers, gathered in healthy churches, there IS NOT a priority for missions
AND
2. Where there has been a significant proclamation of the Gospel such that people are able to hear if they want, there IS NOT a priority for missions,
AND
3. There are still areas of the world where people do not have access to the Gospel,

THEN:

**THOSE AREAS AND THOSE PEOPLE SHOULD
ASSUME OUR PRIORITY IN MISSIONS**

Who has not heard?





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APPLYING THIS IN 2003

1. College Park Church is a competent church.
2. The Gospel has been "fully proclaimed" in the United States.
3. There are **2 billion people** (30% of the world's population) in 1,600 people groups who today could not be saved even if they wanted, because there's no preacher!

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APPLICATION FOR COLLEGE PARK:

1. **We must keep on doing good**, growing in knowledge, and instructing one another, reminding ourselves of the important points of Scripture.
2. **We must radiate the light** of the grace of Jesus in and around Indianapolis.
3. In missions outreach, **we must focus on the unreached:**
 - new missionaries: to the unreached
 - new partnerships: for the unreached
 - adopt an Unreached People Group (UPG)

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What does this mean for you as an individual?

I wish I could tell you. . .but you'll have to ask the Lord of the harvest!

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