

# Doing and Loving the Gospel Mission

Rom 16.3-16

## The Church Militant

### Identity: the mission is life-defining

- Paul makes an immediate connection between his life (being spared) and the gospel mission (going on).

Phil 1.21 "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me."

- His mantra: "Christ exalted – churches established"

**"The only disaster ultimately that can befall us is to feel ourselves at home here on earth." –Malcolm Muggeridge**

Acts 20.24 "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

### Relevance: the need for 'incarnational' ministry

- We want to be a church that is going into the community with care, and love, and mercy, and witness – we want them to see gospel reality

1 Jn 3.18 "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

1 Cor 9.19 "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant of all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew ... to those outside the law, I became as those outside the law ... to the weak I

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became weak .... I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some."

## **Impact: the gospel (word & deed) works**

Rom 1.5 "through [Christ] we have received grace and apostleship to *bring about* the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."

- The book of Acts makes it clear that God is delighted to answer faithful 'missions work' with glorious seasons of harvest.
- Faithful churches, seeking to fulfill God's call, will have an impact on the community.

**"Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth."**

– John Wesley

**For you, brother, I pray that the Lord might crown this year with His goodness and in the coming one give you a hallowed dare-devil spirit in lifting the biting sword of Truth, consuming you with a passion that is called by the cultured citizen of Christendom 'fanaticism', but known to God as that saintly madness that led His Son through bloody sweat and hot tears to agony on a rude Cross – and Glory!"**

– Jim Elliot, age 20, January 1948

## **The Church Jubilant**

### **Greet ... the choir**

- The people Paul mentions in Romans 16 didn't just *do* the mission, they *loved* the mission!

2 Cor 12.15 "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls."

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1 Pet 1.8 "... though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

● The aftertaste of the greatness and glory of God: joy

▶ Sovereign Grace prophetic word ... "songs in the streets"

Acts 8.8 "... so there was much joy in that city."

**"God created me – and you – to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion – namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. Enjoying and displaying are both crucial. If we try to display the excellence of God without joy in it, we will display a shell of hypocrisy and create scorn or legalism. But if we claim to enjoy his excellence and do not display it for others to see and admire, we deceive ourselves, because the mark of God-enthralled joy is to overflow and expand by extending itself into the hearts of others. The wasted life is the life without a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples."**

–John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life, p.31

● This is the glorious mission of the church! We are called together to sing the gospel song, to do the gospel mission.