

To The Ends Of The Earth

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 3rd, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

~2nd Corinthians 5:18-20 (NASB)

1) Living A Life Of Lasting Purpose

- A) A Christian missionary is “one who is sent” by God to spread the “gospel” (good news) about Jesus Christ (Acts 13:2-3). Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a missionary to mankind (John 17:1-8).

- B) Of course, all followers of Jesus Christ are called to live “missional” lives (John 15:16; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

- C) We are all called to live as “ambassadors” of Jesus Christ (2nd Corinthians 5:18-21), living exemplary lives which do not distract from Jesus Christ (1st Peter 2:11-16). Living a purposefully missional life is the only thing a follower of Christ can do better on earth than in heaven!

D) Living a life of lasting purpose means being a “maker of disciples” (Matthew 28:19-20) in the midst of our “going, baptizing, and teaching.” This is an investment in “true riches” (Matthew 6:19-21) which will last forever!

2) The Green Beret's Of Christianity

A) Missionaries (those who are sent), are often appointed to locations and circumstances which are very difficult (2nd Corinthians 6:4-10; cf. Acts 13:50-51) and which require tremendous dependence on God (Philippians 1:12-21).

B) A short summary of the Apostle Paul's life (2nd Corinthians 11:21-29) reveals the amazing hardships and effort which are required for missionary work!

3) Supporting Our Missionary Partners

A) Our church is part of an “alliance” of people spread around the world (The Christian & Missionary Alliance, C&MA) seeking to see the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) fulfilled through over 900 workers in 81 countries.

B) Most missionaries work with great effort to raise their own support (very differently than 1st Corinthians 9:1-14) through fundraising and communications.

C) However, in the C&MA, all of our missionaries are supported through the GCF (Great Commission Fund), funds administrated by the C&MA for supporting the basic needs of our missionary corps around the world.

D) Part of our accomplishment of Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is to be great “senders” by supporting those who are “sent.”