

# C O N T E N T S

**The Basis for Missions** ..... 1

---

**Spreading the News!** ..... 13

---

**Missions Today** ..... 25

---

**God's Special Servants** ..... 37

---

**Supporting the Troops** ..... 53

---

**Who, Me?** ..... 67

---

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

## *Lord, Send Me Anywhere*

*O Lord, since Thou hast died  
To give Thyself for me,  
No sacrifice could be too great  
For me to make for Thee.*

*I only have one life,  
And that will soon be past;  
I want my life to count for Christ,  
What's done for Him will last.*

*I follow Thee, my Lord,  
And glory in Thy cross;  
I gladly leave the world behind  
And count all gain as loss.*

*(chorus)*

*Lord, send me anywhere,  
Only go with me;  
Lay any burden on me,  
Only sustain me.  
Sever any tie,  
Save the tie that binds me  
To Thy heart,  
Lord Jesus, my King,  
I consecrate my life, Lord,  
To Thee.*



# Introduction

At the end of history, the saints in heaven sing praise to Jesus Christ:

*Thou art worthy to take the book,  
and to open the seals thereof:  
for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood  
out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;  
and hast made us unto our God kings and priests:  
and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:9-10)*

This means that one of God's purposes in history is that every people group will have at least one representative in heaven.

God wants this to happen. It will happen. God values the praises of people who aren't white, who aren't middle class, who've never used the Internet. He wants to set up third-world, dark-skinned people as rulers along with fair-haired Norwegians.

This little song, that Revelation says will be sung in the future, is a great leveler of the peoples. Every person made in God's image is valuable, and so is every nation made up of those people.

If you are a Christian, one of the future rulers of the globe, it is your privilege and responsibility to join with God in His mission to publish great things to the nations. And we already know the end of the story.

## CHAPTER ONE

# The Basis for Missions

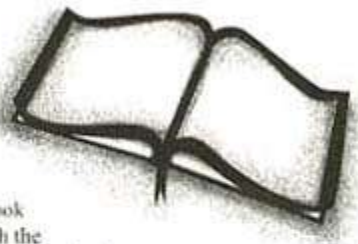
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Springtime at my house means baseball! Finding the gloves and bats, playing catch in the backyard, signing up for Little League, and listening to the Atlanta Braves point to many months of fun and competition. Several years ago the local baseball organization asked me to coach a team of seven-year-old boys. With fear and trembling, I accepted. Becoming the coach transformed me into the expert! Reading the rules of baseball proved to be the first of many humbling experiences. Although I had played organized baseball for six years, cheered as an avid fan, talked about the game and greatly enjoyed it, I soon discovered how very little I knew about the specifics of the game. This first-year coach painfully learned far more than any of the players did. The team won many games, but could have won more if the coach had known the game better.

Your involvement in the church's great missionary effort may be like my first year of coaching. I had played the game but did not know the rules. You probably often hear about missions, sometimes contribute financially, and may even know a missionary. But do you ever wonder why your pastor makes such an affair out of the annual missions conference? Why not keep all that money at the church to aid poor folks or build that new gymnasium? Why send families to places with unfamiliar names to learn a foreign language and eat strange foods when the need in this country is so great? These are good questions that deserve straight answers from our rulebook for missions, God's Word.

Though knowing the rules of baseball is necessary, I needed more to be a good coach. I had to create practice drills, organize the lineup, and motivate the team within the confines of the rules. Giving out candy bars to those who make good plays is not required by the rules, but neither is it prohibited. Candy bars helped us win and did not violate the rules, so I gave out lots of candy bars! The church today does many things related to missions that are not specifically mentioned in Scripture. Christian leaders creatively devise programs and organizations to aid in the work of missions. This book seeks to acquaint you with the rules and techniques of modern missions so that you may be an effective "team player."



Baseball is a blast! Participating in the work of Jesus Christ around the world is much more than a "blast." It's a wonderful privilege with great reward in both time and eternity. Let's first learn the rules, and then we will discuss how you as a teen can be active in this great work.



#### Rules' Violations

1. In baseball, what happens when a runner leaves the baseline?
2. In soccer, what happens when a player hits the ball with his hand?
3. In basketball, what happens when a player travels with the ball?
4. In football, what happens when a player grabs a facemask?
5. In life, what happens when we don't follow God's rules?

#### A Look at the Rules

The best place to start learning about a complex issue is at the beginning; therefore, let's start in Genesis and work through the Old Testament. Most people are familiar with the account of Adam and Eve's creation and subsequent fall into sin. The blackness of sin provides a contrast with God that enables us to see and understand His character. God allowed Adam and Eve to eat from any tree except one. He sets boundaries around acceptable behavior for man. Adam ignored the boundary when he ate from the tree and immediately began receiving the negative consequences of his action.

In biblical studies, "death" means separation from God and has implications in both the present and the future. God expelled the first family from the Garden of Eden, and eventually Adam's body died. More importantly, Adam could no longer fellowship with God as before, and his sin infected the entire human race. The apostle Paul tells us, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Mankind's chief characteristic throughout time is not his intelligence, physical strength, or vast accomplishments, but his sinful nature. Every obituary and every cemetery should remind us of Adam's disobedience and our disobedience to a holy God.



God was not willing to leave Adam or the rest of humanity in such a hopeless condition. First, God told the serpent who enticed Eve to sin that in time a child born to the woman would gain ultimate victory over evil (Gen. 3:15). The conflict between the "seed of the woman" and evil is one of the main themes of the Bible. Second, until this final victory occurred, God made a temporary provision to restore at least part of what was lost in Adam's disobedience. This provision was "coats of skins" to clothe the first couple (Gen. 3:21). Remember that they complained about being



naked and afraid. The skins covered the nakedness and also pointed to the important concept "atonement," which means "covering." The animal died in Adam's place. Notice, however, that many consequences of the sin remained, including expulsion from the Garden, and had to be faced by Adam for the rest of his life on earth.



Some of you may exclaim, "The 'rules' of missions sound a lot like a Bible doctrines class!" You are absolutely correct. All faith and practice, what we believe and do, must come directly from the Bible. Genesis is a book of foundations. The remaining 65 books develop the themes introduced in Genesis. Let's make sure we understand the basics from the account of man's fall. Man is a sinful being deserving death for his disobedience. God, however, introduced a plan to restore fellowship with man through the coming Redeemer and illustrated the plan by covering the guilty couple with coats of skins. Animals don't normally donate their skins. The coats required the death of the animal. The Lord transferred the penalty ("thou shalt surely die"—Gen. 2:17) to an innocent party in order to restore man to partial fellowship. The concepts in Genesis are at the very heart of missions today. Man rebels against God and is now subject to God's wrath. God provided for man's salvation through Jesus Christ and now seeks for the practical restoration of fellowship. In simple terms, *missions is telling other people about the saving power of Jesus Christ and the new life that follows.*

### God's Missionary Heart

The Old Testament centers on God's missionary heart. Through ordinary people, eloquent prophets, righteous politicians, natural wonders, and occasional miracles, God reaches out to humanity with the message of salvation. Let's look at just a few examples.

### Terms in the Field



**Sin**—disobedience to the will of God (Rom. 3:23)

**Fall**—Adam disobeyed God, resulting in his fall from a state of innocence into sin. All men now have a natural inclination toward sin.

**Atonement**—a covering, especially in relation to sin. The blood of a sacrifice covered the sins from God's eyes and made forgiveness possible.

**Death**—Spiritual death is separation from God, while physical death is a separation of the body from the soul. Both resulted as penalties for sin.

**Righteousness**—conformity to God's standards for life and being

**Gentiles**—people or nations that were not part of Israel

**Word**—the English translation of the Greek *logos*, which means "statement" or "thought." Jesus is God's statement to man about life. John uses *logos* to describe the eternal and human nature of Jesus Christ.

**Ransom**—the price paid by Christ through His death on the cross, resulting in our redemption.

**Salvation**—the great deliverance from the guilt and the pollution of sin accomplished by Christ

- Noah, the man who built the ark at God's direction, was a preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5). What did he preach? We do not have any of his sermons, but we can speculate based on the information that we do have. Noah preached about the effects of sin, about God's judgment, and about salvation. The ark was a huge object lesson for many years, but only his family believed. The entire world perished because the people refused the message of restoration.

