

Reading the
Mission-Compelling
Scriptures

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67

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, *holding forth the word of life*, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:14-17

...and Shine...



68

God's Mission: Propositional Statements

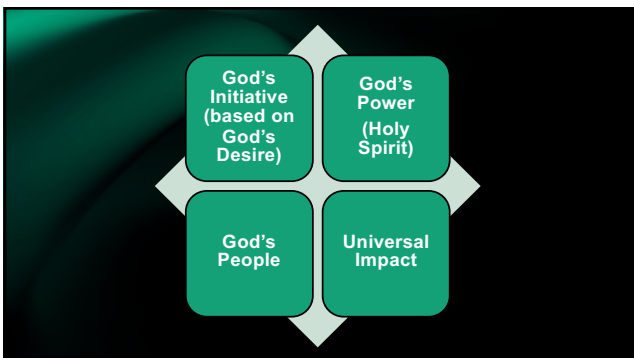
- *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17*
- *This [praying] is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. 1 Timothy*
- *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20*

69

God's Mission: Propositional Statements

Risk?

70



71

"The Christian church, as described in the book of Acts, is a mission church"

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem [Acts 1-7], in all Judea and Samaria [Acts 1-10], and to the ends of the earth [Acts 11-28]

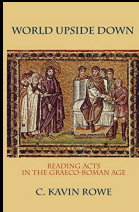
Acts 1:8 is "not a simple table of contents, but a promise"

Ernst Haenchen (1971)

72

Rowe, *World Upside Down*

Acts is an "attempt to form communities that witness to God's apocalypse" and the "construction of an alternative total way of life" that "runs counter to the life-patterns of the Graeco-Roman world." Acts is a "culture-forming narrative."

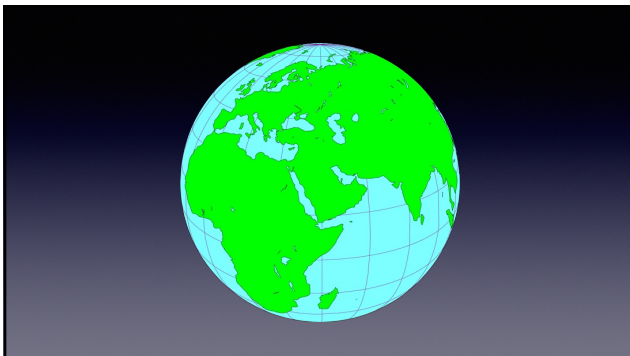


73

The Hope: A New Lord

- *Festus: "I have nothing to write to the lord about him" (Acts 25:26)*
- *In Thessalonica: "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." (Acts 17:6-7)*

74



75

To the Ends of the Earth (Acts Conclusion)

- "Let it be known to you, then, that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles; they will listen."
- He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

76



77

Reading Paul Missionally

Paul believed himself to be caught up in a divine mission – a mission not everyone appreciated – to spread a powerful word of good news (the "gospel") that would establish an international network of transformed, peaceable, multicultural communities worshipping, obeying, and bearing public witness to the one true God by conformity to his Son in the power of the Spirit. Michael Gorman, *Reading Paul*, 22

a compulsion is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!... I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it." (1 Corinthians 9:16, 12-23)

78

Reading Romans Missionally?

In the Epistle to the Romans, when he drew up a compendium of Christian doctrine, did Paul the author philosophize about the mysteries of the Trinity, the mode of the Incarnation or about "creation active and passive?" On the contrary, what does Paul do? He reasons most certainly about the Law, Sin, and Grace. Topics, I say, on which alone the knowledge of Christ depends.

Philip Melancthon, *Commentary on Romans 2.1.7*

79

Reading Romans Missionally!

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ (1:1-6)

For I long to see you ... hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (1:15)

80

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81

Reading Romans Missionally!

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction, and what if he has done **so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy**, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— including **us whom he has called**, not from the Jews only but also from the gentiles? As he also says in Hosea,

"Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" "And in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called children of the living God." (Hosea)

Romans 9:22-26

82

Reading Romans Missionally!

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

Romans 15:7-9

83

Reading Romans Missionally!

But now, with no further place for me in these regions, I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you when I go to Spain. For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while...So, when I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain, and I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Romans 15:7-9

84

The Word of the Lord Grows

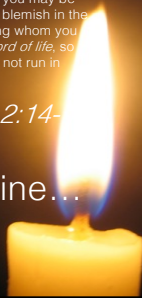
- "If, then, we are to hear the divine word of our New Testament on its own terms (and that is the whole task and function of interpretation), we must study it historically. We must learn to see it as the growing and working divine word, as God Himself, active in history. We must come to know it and comprehend it as a word that has its point of origin (as divine word) in human history, as word that is essentially history, and as **a word that has history-making power, as a dynamic and creative personal power of God at work among men.**" (Franzmann, 2).

85

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Philippians 2:14-

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86