

## **Core Seminars – Christian Growth**

### **Missions:**

*Week 9 – August 3, 2003*

#### **“TAKING THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS”**

*God has a passion to see His name glorified by showing mercy to sinners...but does he have a plan for this mission and can we know it?*

#### **I. God’s Commission for Missions – Matthew 28:18-20**

*God’s call for missions in Scripture cannot be defined in terms of crossing cultures to maximize the total number of individuals saved. Rather God’s will for missions is that every people group be reached with the testimony of Christ and that a people be called out for his name from all the nations.*

— John Piper, “Let the Nations be Glad,” pg. 169-170.

- People Groups and People Blindness.

People Group = the largest group in which the Gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers to understanding and acceptance.

— Lausanne Strategy Working Group, 1982.

#### **II. The Biblical basis for People Group thinking:**

- The Great Commission – Mathew 28:18-20 “go and make disciples of all nations...”
  - nation = *ethnos*
  - “all nations” = *panta ta ethne* = all the nations
- Genesis 12:1-3 “all peoples on earth will be blessed...”
- Matthew 24:14 “a testimony to all nations...”
- Acts 2:5 “men from every nation (*ethnous*) under heaven..”

### III. Who is “reached” and who is “unreached?”

Paul saw his mission as one of proclaiming the Gospel to those who had not heard the news.

- Romans 15:18-21 “I have fully proclaimed the Gospel...”
- Romans 15:23-24 “no more place for me to work...”

### IV. Is frontier missions to unreached people groups the only Biblical model for missions?

- Titus 1:5 and 1 Timothy 1:3 “unfinished” business.
- Establishing the church in unreached people groups is the work of missions in every age.

### V. Why does God do missions this way?

1. Diversity exalts His glory (Psalm 96:3-4)
2. Demonstrates his universal greatness (Romans 15:11)
3. Worth shown in variety of those who love Him.
4. Crushes ethnocentric pride.

---

Next Week? **Doing missions in a closed country.**