



Missions: Is It Necessary? Part 1

Lesson 13

"Those who affirm that people who today have no access to the gospel may nevertheless be saved without knowing Jesus try to argue that this idea 'enhances our motivation to evangelize the lost.'...it is a futile effort. The arguments fall apart as you pick them up.... the abandonment of the universal necessity of hearing the gospel for salvation does indeed diminish the urgency of work evangelization. And I say again that this is not the main reason for affirming the necessity of hearing and believing the gospel for salvation. The main reason is that the Bible teaches it, and therefore the good of man and the glory of God are most honored by it." ~John Piper

🕒 What Was This Series All About? Three Questions in One: *Is Jesus the **only** way to salvation?*

Q 1 Will anyone experience eternal, conscious torment under God's wrath in hell?

Universalism says: **NO!** Everyone (including the Devil and his legions of demons) will one day be saved. **DOOMED to BE SAVED!**
Annihilationism says: **NO!** Immortality is a conditional gift given to only those who are saved. Unbelievers will cease to exist on the day of judgment.
Popular Belief says: **MAYBE**, but I am not going there, nor are any of my friends or family.
Jesus says: **YES**, and I love people enough to come to earth, warn them about it with conviction and compassion, and offer Myself as the only Way out of it. *Matthew 25:31-46*

Q 2 Is the work of Jesus necessary for salvation?

Pluralism says: **NO!** There are many paths to God; he has many faces.
Jesus says: **YES!** I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. *John 14:6*

Q 3 Is conscious faith in Jesus necessary for salvation?

Inclusivism says: **NO!** Those who have never heard of Jesus, but sincerely respond in faith to God based on the light they have will be saved on the basis of the work of Jesus. (There is a "wideness" to God's mercy for those who have never heard through no fault of their own.)
Jesus says: **YES!** Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. *Matthew 7:13-14*

🕒 How You Answer the 3-in-1 Question Directly **IMPACTS** Your View of Missional Living.

1. Inclusivism Cuts the "**NERVE Cord**" of Missional Living.

Questioning the Arguments by Inclusivists that Inclusivism Actually Increases the Motivation for Missions:

#1 Does inclusivism motivate us to speak boldly, take **RISKS**, face opposition, and endure hardship in fulfilling the Great Commission?

NO! God's sovereign election and special revelation to preach the gospel is what motivated Paul to endure persecution and boldly preach the gospel of Christ! *Acts 18:9-11; 13:46-49*

God Tells Paul to Be Bold to Preach the Gospel for Three Reasons:

- God's **PRESENCE**: The risen Lord is with Him.
- God's **PROTECTION**: No one will hurt you.
- God's **PREDESTINATION**: I have many people who I have chosen to be saved by means of hearing the Gospel and placing their faith in Me.

#2 Does inclusivism renew our commitment to reach **EVERY** individual with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

How Many Are Saved by General Revelation Apart from Hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

- If **many** are saved by general revelation, then **few** need missions and the motivation is **small**.
- If **few** are saved by general revelation, then **many** need missions and the motivation is **greater**.
- If **none** are saved by general revelation, then **all** need missions and the motivation is the **greatest**. *Romans 1:18-23; Romans 3:9-18*

NO! God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, are the just Judge and gracious Savior who determine who is saved, how many are saved, and how they are saved. Our responsibility is to reach and preach to all peoples without distinction. *Acts 17:22-34*

#3 Does inclusivism **BROADEN** our understanding of evangelism in such a way that it motives missional living?

NO! Escape from eternal death is a part of our motivation for missional living, but to escape eternal death is to also enjoy eternal life. *Acts 10:1–11:18*

- Paul preaches the Gospel to Cornelius not just so he can enjoy the fuller benefits of salvation, but so he can escape eternal death **AND** enjoy eternal life by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

#4 Does inclusivism exalt love as the **PRIMARY** motivation for missional living in a way that exclusivism does not?

NO! There are many different motivations for evangelism and missions that should all flow out of a love for God and a love for others to the point of sacrificing ourselves to show forth the glory of Christ in all things!

Biblical Motivations for Missional Living:

- 1) **DELIGHT (= LOVE)** in spreading the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ! *2Corinthians 4:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10*
- 2) **DESIRE (= LOVE)** for the good of others: both the escape of eternal death and the enjoyment of eternal life in Jesus Christ! *Romans 1:14-15; Romans 9:1-3; 1Corinthians 9:19-23*
- 3) **DREAD** of facing the judgment seat of Christ without persuading as many people as possible to place their faith in the Jesus Christ! *2Corinthians 5:9-11; 2Corinthians 5:20; 1Corinthians 3:8-9*
- 4) **DUTY** to obey the will of the Father and the lordship of Christ to make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all Jesus Christ commanded! *1Corinthians 9:16-17*
- 5) **DETERMINATION** to redeem the time before it is too late for God has appointed that each person dies once and after this they face His judgment! *Colossians 4:5-6; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14*

2. Exclusivism as Taught in the Bible **STRENGTHENS** the “Nerve Cord” of Missional Living.

The Bible clearly answers the question whether missions is necessary in Romans 10:1-21.

How Do You Answer the Question: **Is Jesus the Only Way to God?**

Do others know how you answer that question by your passionate concern for the lost across the street you and around the world?

Do they see your answer in your priorities as it relates to local witnessing and global missions?

Do they see it in how you proactively pray for and pursue after the lost with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

- 🕒 **What Is One Way This Series Has Had a Lasting Impact on Your Thinking about Jesus Being the Only Way to God?**
- 🕒 **What Is One Way Your Feelings Have Changed Toward Those Who Have Never Heard?**
- 🕒 **What Is One Area of Confusion that Has Been Cleared Up by This Series?**
- 🕒 **What Is One Conviction that Has Been Strengthened or Established by This Series?**
- 🕒 **What Is One Step You Will Take in Your Witnessing to the Lost and Involvement in World Missions as a Result of This Series?**