

“Paradox of Missions”
Ephesians 6:19-22

Central Idea of the Sermon—We are encouraged when we engage in missions.

Purpose—To highlight missions’ involvement to encourage Spiritual development.

Introduction—Paradox—seemingly absurd or self-contradicting statement that is actually true

I. *Missionaries need our church to partner in Missions.*

- a. This verse continues the previous verse and applies the idea of the church praying for Paul.
- b. Paul was an apostle/missionary
- c. Content—that God’s Word would be given to Paul for his current circumstances
- d. Purpose
 - i. That He would be successful in fulfilling his calling as an ambassador of Christ
 - ii. That He would have success in sharing the gospel in his circumstances
- e. How we partner for missions.
 - i. Southern Baptist Convention—collection of churches that associate based on common doctrine (Baptist Faith and Message) and a common mission (reaching the world for Christ)
 - ii. Evangeline Baptist Association
 1. 42 churches and missions in Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermillion, and Iberia Parishes.
 2. Church planting, revitalization, and pastoral encouragement.
 - iii. Louisiana Baptist Convention
 1. 1600+ churches/missions in Louisiana
 2. Church planting/revitalization, Church encouragement, Disaster Relief, BCMs, youth/children camps
 3. Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home, Louisiana College
 - iv. Southern Baptist Convention
 1. Over 50,000 churches/missions
 2. International Mission Board
 3. North American Mission Board
 4. Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission
 5. Lifeway
 6. Guidestone
 7. Six Seminaries
 - v. El Renuevo—Hispanic mission
 - vi. Chinese ministry
 - vii. Other partnerships
- f. How we do it
 - i. Pray
 1. Special weeks of prayer
 2. Entities have prayer newsletters
 3. IMB Prayer App
 - ii. Give
 1. Budget
 - a. CP—10.5%
 - b. EBA, LoveInc., World Hunger, UL BCM, ABC
 2. Special Offerings
 - a. LMCO, AAEO, Georgia Barnett State Missions, Bower-Conrad Associational

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3. Past partnered with Compassion International, Another Child Foundation, Louisiana Reach Haiti
 4. Disaster Relief—Reserve, New Orleans—Port Ministry/FBC Reserve
 5. Total given in the last 10 years is at least \$7.8 Million
- iii. Go
1. Mission trips—Romania, Brazil, Nicaragua, Haiti, Alaska, and others; COVID has pressed pause, but we are looking
 2. Disaster Relief trips--hurricanes
 3. Engagement with partners—leaders among the EBA, LBC, and SBC
- g. We have a role to play in spreading the gospel beyond Acadiana, and we need to do it.
- h. We need to commit to pray, give, and go.
- II. *We need our church to partner in missions.***
- a. Sent Tychicus—fellow worker/missionary with Paul, would have been called an Evangelist
 - i. He took the letter to Colossae and to Ephesus
 - ii. Instructed and reported on the mission work of Paul and his associates
 - b. Resulted in comfort/exhortation
 - i. Invitation to come alongside
 - ii. Relieve sorrow and concern
 - c. Their involvement in missions resulted in their encouragement and motivation to come alongside even more.
 - d. The more the church focuses outward, the more it is developed inwardly.
 - e. Illus.—Going on mission trips does more for the mission team than the destination
 - f. History of the WMU
 - i. Started in 1888, with Annie Armstrong as the first Executive Director/Treasurer
 - ii. The Women’s Missionary Union was founded to support the SBC by promoting missions education, raising money for missions, and calling out the called
 - iii. The developed WMU groups in each state convention, association, and churches
 - iv. They then developed a program to educate the next generation in missions: Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Mission Friends.
 - v. The emphasis was to educate and motivate children to engage in missions by teaching in a way that would engage children.
 - vi. Over time, some of these organizations and programs lost their way, for two main reasons: no hook or no bait
 - g. Application
 - i. As we focus outwardly, we benefit inwardly.
 - ii. Missions must be our main thing.
 - iii. We must Pray, Give, and Go.

Conclusion

- Commit to mission involvement in our church
 - Preschool Department
 - Children Department
- Pray for Missionaries Connected to our Church
 - Pat & Veronica Melancon – Thailand
 - Scott & Dana Belmore – Alaska
 - Leah Brown – Peru
 - Meghan Myers – undisclosed

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- Tyler & Abbie Wales – Siberia (currently stateside)
- Victoria Manning – stateside
- Invitation