**A BIBLICAL PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS:  
*Six Key Foundational Principles that Shape Us***

1. **The glory of God-** The supreme object of the work of evangelism is to glorify and enjoy God, not to save souls.

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Worship is ultimate, missions is not. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal in missions. It is the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory.

* 1. Worship is exhorted to all the nations. Commands to all the nations to praise and worship the Lord.
  2. Worship is promised by all the nations. *Every tongue, tribe, people and nation will gather around the throne to praise the Lamb.*
  3. Worship is prayed for all the nations (Psalm 67).
     1. GOD’S ULTIMATE PRIORITY IS TO GLORIFY HIMSELF
        1. God chose a people for His glory (Ephesians 1:4-6, 12, 14).
        2. God created a people for His glory (Isaiah 43:6-7).
        3. God called Israel for His glory (Jeremiah 13:11).
        4. God rescued Israel for His glory (Psalm 106:7-8).
        5. God raised up Pharaoh to glorify His name (Romans 9:17).
        6. God defeated Pharaoh for His glory (Exodus 14:4, 17, 18).
        7. God spared Israel for the glory of His name (Ezekiel 20:14).
        8. God gave Israel victory for the glory of His name (2 Samuel 7:23).
        9. God did not cast away His people for the glory of His name (1 Samuel 12:20-22).
        10. God saved Jerusalem from attack for the glory of His name (2 Kings 19:34, 20:6).
        11. God restored Israel from exile for the glory of His name (Ezekiel 36:22-23, 32).
        12. Jesus sought the glory of His Father (John 7:18).
        13. Jesus said to do good works so that God gets the glory (Matthew 5:16).
        14. Jesus warned that not seeking God’s glory makes faith impossible (John 5:44).
        15. Jesus said that He answers prayer so that God would be glorified (John 14:13).
        16. Jesus endured suffering for God’s glory (John 12:27-28, 17:1).
        17. God gave His son to vindicate the glory of His righteousness (Romans 3:25-26).
        18. God forgives our sins for His own glory (Isaiah 43:25; Psalm 25:11).
        19. Jesus receives us into His fellowship for the glory of God (Romans 15:7).
        20. The Holy Spirit is to glorify the Son of God (John 16:14).
        21. God instructs us to do everything for His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).
        22. God tells us to serve in a way that will glorify Him (1 Peter 4:11).
        23. Jesus’ ultimate aim for us is that we see and enjoy His glory (John 17:24).
        24. God’s plan is to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory (Habakkuk 2:14).
        25. All are under judgment for dishonoring God’s glory (Romans 1:23, 3:23).
        26. Jesus is coming again for the glory of God (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10).
     2. OUR NATURAL INCLINATION IS TO ROB GOD OF HIS GLORY.
        1. Man lacks the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
        2. Man spurns the glory of God (Romans 1:23).
     3. GOD GLORIFIES HIMSELF IN THE SALVATION OF SINNERS.
        1. God saves His people so that they will declare his glory (Joshua 7:8-9; 2 Samuel 7:23; Psalm 106:7-8; Jeremiah 13:11; Isaiah 43:21; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 7:10-12).
        2. God forgives sin for His own glory (Psalm 25:11; 79:9; Jeremiah 14:7, 9; Romans 3:25-26; 1 John 2:12).
        3. God makes sinners holy for His own glory (Psalm 23:3; Colossians 3:17; 1 Timothy 6:1; Revelation 2:3).

1. **The power of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit-**The only power that can save a person is the Holy Spirit, not our own strength. Therefore, prayer is key.
   1. Pray for God to exalt His name in the world (Matthew 6:9).
   2. Pray that God would extend His kingdom in this world (Matthew 6:10).
   3. Pray that God’s gospel would triumph (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
   4. Pray for the fullness of the Spirit (Luke 11:13; Ephesians 3:19).
   5. Pray that God would vindicate His people in their cause (Luke 18:7).
   6. Pray that God would save unbelievers (Romans 10:1).
   7. Pray that God would use his word (Ephesians 6:17-18).
   8. Pray to God for boldness in evangelism (Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:18-19).
   9. Pray for healing in unbelievers so that they would come to Christ (Acts 28:8).
   10. Pray to God for miraculous deliverances (Acts 12:5, 12; 16:26-16).
   11. Pray to God for provision in the gospel (Matthew 6:11).
   12. Pray to God for strategic wisdom (James 1:5).
   13. Pray to God for strategic leaders in churches (Acts 14:23).
   14. Pray to God for more workers in evangelism (Matthew 9:30; Acts 13:2-3).
   15. Pray to God for the success of other missionaries (Romans 15:30-31).
2. **The means of the Holy Spirit’s work-**The primary medium through which the Spirit works is the Scriptures; therefore, we “reason out of the Scriptures” like Paul did (Romans 10:14-17; Acts 17:2-3).
3. **The supremacy of Christ in salvation-** There is no salvation in anyone else but the person and work of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:2; John 14:6). This compels us out of love for God and man to direct people to Christ.
4. **The expectation of suffering-** We recognize that a church that proclaims the gospel will face persecution. Therefore, we will take joy when it comes knowing that the gospel and its rewards outweigh any suffering in this world (Matthew 5:11-12; 10: 16, 25; 13:44; John 15:20; Acts 14:22; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 4:1, 12).
   1. Suffering for the gospel makes us more like Jesus and dependent on Him (Hebrews 12:10; 2 Cor 1:8-9; Rom 5:3-4).
   2. Offering for the gospel is momentary compared to the eternal rewards we gain (2 Cor 4:17-18; Rom 8:18; Matt 5:11-12).
   3. Suffering for the gospel creates boldness in other Christians to share their faith (Phil 1:14).
   4. Suffering for the gospel often encourages those Christians are trying to reach and provides opportunities for sharing (1 Thess 1:5-6; 2 Cor 1:5-6; Col 1:24; 2 Tim 2:10).
   5. Suffering for the gospel will often advance the gospel (Acts 8:1; 11:19).
5. **The mandate of the whole church-** We recognize that while some are particular gifted as an evangelist, the task of evangelism/mission is a mandate to the whole church (Matthew 28:18-20).
   1. We trust Christ to build His church (Matthew 16:18).
   2. Christ will be with us until the mission is complete (Matthew 28:20).
   3. We boldly engage in evangelism and missions under the authority of the King of the universe (Matthew 28:18).
   4. We see not after decisions for Christ but to make disciples of Christ (Matthew 28:19).
   5. We engage in missions and evangelism to make disciples from all people groups of the earth (Matthew 28:19; Revelation 7:9).
   6. We seek to evangelize all people groups of the earth, including Jews, trusting that Christ will return when the mission is complete (Matthew 24:14).