

C. Missions

In the last chapter of the gospel of Matthew, Jesus told His disciples:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-21)

This statement, known as the “Great Commission,” is the commission of all believers. It is a commission of such great importance that it is echoed in all the gospels (Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, and John 20:21.) It is a commission that goes beyond just proclaiming the gospel; it involves making disciples by teaching them God’s Word. This is why the emphasis in every ministry at Calvary Spokane is to teach God’s Word, discipling everyone in His Word, that all might “observe” or do that which is commanded by Him.

Calvary Spokane takes a broad definition of “missions.” Missions to us is every aspect of ministry here at Calvary, from Sunday worship to children’s ministry, from our youth ministry to our outreach in other countries. Missions is the fulfilling of the Great Commission in all areas of ministry. In fulfilling Acts 1:8, “And you shall be my witnesses ... in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth,” we see our “Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria” to be the city and region around Spokane. God has placed us here, that His name and His Word may be made known. Our “ends of the earth” would be an extension of this ministry to those to whom we reach out and/or support beyond our local borders or cross-culturally.

In the first chapter of Acts, just prior to Jesus’ ascension into heaven, He reminded His disciples by what power and authority they were to go in, “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses,” (Acts 1:8). We are Christ’s witnesses not in our own power or ability, but in the power of the Holy Spirit. No ministry can take place through man’s skill or ability. It is only through one’s dependency on the Holy Spirit. It is our desire to be continually sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading in every aspect of ministry.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul states his desire is:

To know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:10-11)

It is this heart of knowing the Lord that lead him to also say:

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. (Colossians 1:28)

We pray that the cry of Paul's heart is the cry of our heart, and his striving to be our striving. In summary, missions at Calvary Spokane is "to know Him and make Him known."