



"How God Uses the Church to Spread the Word-Pt. 1"

In Acts 12:25-13:52, there are 4 marks of faithfulness that invoke God's activity through the church to spread the word:

I. The Church Must Faithfully Commission God's Appointed Messengers—vv.12:25-13:3

As I researched textbooks and curricula, I was alarmed at some of the strange ideas that were being hailed as 'cutting edge'—ideas that had no foundation in the Word of God. Together, they represented a basic lack of attention to the doctrines and missionary patterns given in Scripture and a fundamental lack of belief in the sufficiency of God's Word for missions strategy...[Furthermore] I had become increasingly alarmed at the lack of theological conviction [of missionaries]...because oversimplistic thinking naturally leads the church into apostasy...[Then] With doctrine compromised, unity centers solely on [culturally accepted] moral and social issues. [Consequently,] there is more of a desire to save society than to save sinners from their lost state [resulting in] eternal damnation. (1)

4 realities of God's call in one's life to be a missionary:

1. God's Call is Grounded in a Biblical Command, Not in Feelings;
2. God's Call is Governed by Godly Dedication, Not Human Ambition;
3. God's Call is Given through a Settled Conviction, Not Special Communication;
4. God's Call is Confirmed by the Believing Community, Not Personal Autonomy. (2)

The question of giftedness for the task of ministry and missions must be asked and answered within the context of local church ministry. The gifts were given for ministry within the church and for the church. [The sending process] is the process of recognition by the church of the gifts given by God to the candidate for ministry. If a man is not able to teach and not able to hold fast the word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict, then that man is not qualified for leadership in the local church, whether at home or on the foreign field. And these gifts cannot be displayed or evaluated apart from the community of believers. It is there that the ministry of the word centers and from there that the ministers of the word are [recognized, examined] and sent...(3)

¹ Russell L. Penney, *Overcoming the World Missions Crisis*, (Kregel Academic: 2001), 11, 21.

² David M. Doran, *For the Sake of His Name*, (Allen Park, MI: Student Global Impact, 2002), 266-279.

³ Ibid., 278-279.