

Chapter 1: The Supremacy of God in Missions

The Definition of Missions:

The Goal(s) of Missions:

“...we can only have one ultimate goal – and that goal must be God-centered. God’s glory rules the pursuit of all other goals. The pursuit of God’s glory is the only pursuit large enough to control all others and to encompass all others into itself...A God-centered focus is the only one that is large enough to encompass all that God calls on us to do – it scoops up and embraces all that God has commanded of us, whether on the mission fields of the world or the home front.”¹

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. 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 of missions...”²

The Evidence for God’s Supremacy in Missions

2 Corinthians 4:15

“Does Paul labour for Jesus’ sake or for his converts’ sake? Clearly he toils for Jesus and for his converts alike. But equally clearly his final end, his grand goal, is the glory of God.”³

1. Our Response to the Gospel Acknowledges God’s Glory
2. The Believer’s Transformation Reflects God’s Glory
3. The Spirit’s Work Through the Gospel Displays God’s Glory
4. The Center of the Gospel Message is God’s Glory
5. The Believer’s Hope in the Gospel Focuses on God’s Glory

¹ David M. Doran, *For the Sake of His Name.*, p. 5.

² “Let the Nations Be Glad! 2nd Edition: Piper, John: 9780801026133: Amazon.Com: Books,” accessed April 7, 2026, <https://www.amazon.com/Let-Nations-Be-Glad-2nd/dp/080102613X>.

³ Wells, *A Vision for Missions.*, p. 121.

The Implications of God's Supremacy in Missions

1. The Priority of Missions must be Faithfulness to God and His Word, not Fruitfulness
2. The Practice of Missions must be controlled by Scripture, not Traditions or Trends
3. The Promotion of the Missions must be primarily based on God and His glory, not Man's Needs

*"Yes, men are needy. And yes, they will perish without Christ. Let us never forget those truths. Let us emphasize them. But our danger, it seems to me, lies in another direction. It lies in forgetting God in our zeal for men."*⁴

4. The Power for Missions must be Divine, not Human

*"In this sense – the deepest and truest sense – we are all missionaries. You must not suppose and I must not imply, that the impulses and inspirations that move our missionaries are at all different from the motives that ought to move every Christian. That must be the furthest thing from our minds. Perhaps we have no thought of going abroad. It may not be the thing for us to do. But that will make no difference. We too must have the highest and best inducements for what we do. And they will turn out to be the same motives that the missionary ought to have, no more, no less."*⁵

*"Missions-centered churches are, first and foremost, God-centered churches. The goal of every Sunday school class, sermon, and ministry is not to raise up leaders who will go and do ministry. No, the goal is always to bring the hearts of our listeners to the point that they love God more. Such love is necessary for faithful Christian living at home and abroad."*⁶

*"I remain convinced that missions must be God-centered and that means that not only is God's glory our motivation, but His Word is the authoritative source for understanding how to magnify His glory. In other words, God's glory isn't only why we do missions, it determines the what, how, and where of missions too. My prayer is that this version of the book will be used to stir and strengthen local churches so that our hearts burn with zeal for God's glory and we are freshly motivated and equipped to go to the unreached peoples and places of the earth for the sake of His Name!"*⁷

⁴ Wells, *A Vision for Missions.*, p. 104.

⁵ Wells, *A Vision for Missions.*, p. 18.

⁶ Menikoff, *Prioritizing Missions in the Church.*, p. 127.

⁷ David M. Doran, *For the Sake of His Name.*, p. x.