

For the Sake of His Name—Ch.6 (The Local Church's Role in Missions)

I. The Local Church Must Pray For Missionaries

1. Prayer for the supply of missionaries—Matt 9:36-38

"In light of the size of the harvest and shortage of workers, the disciples of Jesus Christ must do something, but contrary to our natural impulse (to work harder), Jesus commands us to pray for more workers." P.108

2. Prayer for the effectiveness of missionaries—2 Thess 3:1; (cf. 1 Thess 2:13)

"The word is glorified when it is received for what it is, the word of God, not the word of men." P.109

3. Prayer for the longevity of missionaries—2 Thess 3:2

"What we can be sure of is that God wants us to pray for those who serve him on the front lines of the gospel because they are engaging in spiritual warfare and they have very real enemies that oppose them." P.110

II. The Local Church Must Send Out Missionaries—Acts 13:1-4

1. God is the supreme sending agent—vv.2, 4

"The Spirit is the one who called the church to set apart Saul and Barnabas for the work of missions and the Spirit is the one who sent them out...[Apart from relying upon ongoing, specific revelation] God works in the life of a believer to provide both godly ambitions and the abilities necessary to carry them out." P.111

2. The local church is the mediating agent—v.3

"It is the church that confirms the call of God and consecrates missionaries for their task...Missions springs from the local church and aims to plant local churches because the local church is the centerpiece of God's work in this [age] (1 Tim 3:15)." P.112

III. The Local Church Must Responsibly Oversee Missionaries—Acts 14:26-28

"Since they had been set apart by the church at Antioch, it was to the church that they gave their report and accounting of what God had done in and through them." P.112

IV. The Local Church Must Diligently Support Missionaries—3 John 5-8

1. The reasons to support missionaries—v.7

"Going out for the sake of Christ's name meant going out to bear witness to Him; and for the gospel's sake they would not make themselves dependent on unbelieving Gentiles for support." P.114

2. The method of supporting missionaries—v.6

"These words indicate both what we are to do ("send them on their way") and how we are to do it ("in a manner worthy of God")...by supplying them with [their needs]." P.115

3. The result of supporting missionaries—v.8

"When we engage in missionary support, we actually become a co-laborer in the missionary endeavor." P.115