

## “Telling the Good News Under the Cross”

Opening Prayer

Song

**“Lift High the Cross”** vs. 1, 2, 5

Chorus:

Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Chorus)

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. (Chorus)

For Thy blest Cross which doth for all atone,  
Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne. (Chorus)

I. Introduction

A. The Word “Mission”

B. The Problem: Most are able to come to a \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of the term “mission.” The question is: “\_\_\_\_\_ does it have to do with your \_\_\_\_\_?”

C. The Struggle

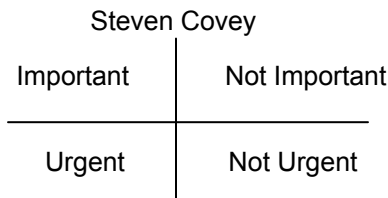
1. Some confuse the idea of mission with the concept of \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ = Short term/Narrow focus

“Mission” = \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Mission is that which gives my life both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Some forget that “mission” cannot be fully understood outside of a \_\_\_\_\_ construct.

- Colossians 1:15-17
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Acts 17:24-28

3. Some people have never taken the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary to consider how the idea of “mission” applies to life.



II. A Theology of Mission

A. Broad Definition: “\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ does in an effort to \_\_\_\_\_ fallen mankind to Himself.”

- The provision of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The establishment of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The calling of \_\_\_\_\_. (To \_\_\_\_\_ the afflicted and \_\_\_\_\_ the comfortable).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture.
  - Ezekiel 33:11
  - 1 Timothy 2:3-4

- B. Narrow Definition: "What \_\_\_\_\_ has done through the work of \_\_\_\_\_ to restore man to Himself."
1. Objective Justification: The \_\_\_\_\_ result of Jesus' work. His \_\_\_\_\_ of the law and His \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross have resulted in a \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness that is available to all mankind.
  2. Subjective Justification: Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and all of the benefits of His perfect obedience of life and death are \_\_\_\_\_ and communicated to the sinner individually through \_\_\_\_\_.

Applied to "mission"  
God is at work seeking to restore fallen mankind to Himself by \_\_\_\_\_ applying the \_\_\_\_\_ results of the work of Jesus Christ to individuals through faith.

- C. How God carries out His mission
1. Through His \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ God has specific and \_\_\_\_\_ means through which the Spirit works to create faith, namely His \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Holy \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Matthew 28:18
    - Romans 10:esp. 17
    - Acts 8:26ff
    - 1 Peter 3:18-22
  2. Through the creation of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Matthew 16:13-19
    - Peter 2:9
    - Ephesians 4:11-13
  3. Through \_\_\_\_\_ saints.
    - a. First, by moving His saints to fulfill the duties assigned to them by virtue of their station or calling in life.

"At creation God set in place the structure in and through which we care for one another. He instituted four situations in which life takes place: home, occupation, society and congregation." Robert Kolb "Speaking the Gospel Today" p. 36

\*See Luther: Table of Duties/Small Catechism, for a vocational understanding of mission.
    - b. Second, by moving His saints to \_\_\_\_\_ their neighbor.
    - c. Third, by moving His saints to utilize the \_\_\_\_\_ gifts.
      - Ephesians 4
      - Romans 12
      - 1 Corinthians 12
    - d. Fourth, by moving His saints to witness and evangelize in His name.

"When a Christian begins to know Christ as His Lord and Savior...his heart is thoroughly permeated by God. Then He would like to help attain this blessedness for others – so He begins to teach..." Martin Luther

      - Acts 1:8
      - 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

<p>"Snapshot of an Evangelist" Acts 29:23-25</p> <p>_____.</p> <p>_____.</p> <p>Tried to _____.</p>
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III. Lutheran Distinctives

A. Note the \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_ nature of “mission.”

Evaluate

- “The mission Jesus had while on earth is now our mission” Rick Warren, p. 282
- “God is at work in the world and He wants you to join Him.”

B. Notice the emphasis on the means of grace vs. the \_\_\_\_\_ of the witness.

“The Old Evil Foe constantly seeks to prevent the precious gospel by trying to convince us that it is techniques, your planning, our winsome ways, our persuasive ability, our good intention, our strategizing which makes the difference, which makes the church grow.” Samuel Nafager Issues p. 26

- Romans 1:16
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

C. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_ motivation!

Evaluate

- “If you are a part of God’s family, your mission is mandatory. To ignore it would be disobedience.” R.W. p. 283
- “You have a choice to make. You will be either a world-class Christian or a worldly Christian.”

D. Both/And vs. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ orientation.

Evaluate

“World class Christians are the only fully alive people on the planet.”  
Worldly Christians focus on self. What type of Christian do you want to be?

- Romans 7:14-25

**“Telling the Good News Under the Cross”**  
**Answer Key**

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Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne. (Chorus)

I. Introduction

A. The Word “Mission”

B. The Problem: Most are able to come to a dictionary [“Webster”] understanding of the term “mission.” The question is: “What does it have to do with your life?”

C. The Struggle

1. Some confuse the idea of mission with the concept of goals.  
Goals = Short term/Narrow focus  
“Mission” = long-term/broad  
Mission is that which gives my life both direction and meaning.
2. Some forget that “mission” cannot be fully understood outside of a Biblical construct.
  - Colossians 1:15-17
  - Ephesians 2:1-10
  - Acts 17:24-28
3. Some people have never taken the time necessary to consider how the idea of “mission” applies to life.

Steven Covey	
Important	Not Important
Urgent	Not Urgent

II. A Theology of Mission

A. Broad Definition: “Everything that God does in an effort to restore fallen mankind to Himself.”

- The provision of the Decalogue.
- The establishment of the Levitical Priesthood.
  - The calling of prophets. (To comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable).
- The inspiration of Scripture.
  - Ezekiel 33:11
  - 1 Timothy 2:3-4

- B. Narrow Definition: “What God has done through the work of Jesus Christ to restore man to Himself.”
1. Objective Justification: The factual result of Jesus’ work. His fulfillment of the law and His death on the cross have resulted in a declaration of righteousness that is available to all mankind.
  2. Subjective Justification: Christ’s righteousness and all of the benefits of His perfect obedience of life and death are imputed and communicated to the sinner individually through faith.

Applied to “mission”

God is at work seeking to restore fallen mankind to Himself by subjectively applying the objective results of the work of Jesus Christ to individuals through faith.

- C. How God carries out His mission
1. Through His means of grace God has specific and definite means through which the Spirit works to create faith, namely His Word and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
    - Matthew 28:18
    - Romans 10:esp. 17
    - Acts 8:26ff
    - 1 Peter 3:18-22
  2. Through the creation of the Church.
    - Matthew 16:13-19
    - Peter 2:9
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  3. Through individual saints.
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    - b. Second, by moving His saints to serve their neighbor.
    - c. Third, by moving His saints to utilize the service gifts.
      - Ephesians 4
      - Romans 12
      - 1 Corinthians 12
    - d. Fourth, by moving His saints to witness and evangelize in His name.

“When a Christian begins to know Christ as His Lord and Savior...his heart is thoroughly permeated by God. Then He would like to help attain this blessedness for others – so He begins to teach...” Martin Luther

      - Acts 1:8
      - 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

“Snapshot of an Evangelist”

Acts 29:23-25

Explained.

Declared.

Tried to convince.

III. Lutheran Distinctives

- A. Note the Theocentric vs. Anthropocentric nature of “mission.”

Evaluate

- “The mission Jesus had while on earth is now our mission” Rick Warren p. 282
- “God is at work in the world and He wants you to join Him.”

- B. Notice the emphasis on the means of grace vs. the person of the witness.

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- Romans 1:16
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- C. Gospel vs. Law motivation!

Evaluate

- “If you are a part of God’s family, your mission is mandatory. To ignore it would be disobedience.” R.W. p. 283
- “You have a choice to make. You will be either a world-class Christian or a worldly Christian.”

- D. Both/And vs. either/or orientation.

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