

P540

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

THEME: What makes a missionary?

SONGS: COME FILL THIS PLACE 4:25

Jesus Lord to me 4:00

INTRO: When you think of the word 'missionary' what comes to mind?

Webster defines 'missionary' as 'One sent on a mission to convert others to a particular doctrine – especially to do religious work.

From the world's perspective, the ROGET Thesaurus lists synonyms for missionary as

'Holy Joe', 'Bible Beater' and 'Glory-roader'.

Could it be that the general perception of a missionary might be incorrect?

Today on Grace Notes, we'll look at what the Bible says about missionaries and their responsibilities.

Listen carefully, you may find that YOU fit the description.

To be a missionary is one of the highest callings a person can receive. A missionary is nothing more than a witness – someone who has experienced something and needs to tell others so they can experience it, too.

As Believers in Christ, we are ALL witnesses. We've heard the Good News that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and have experienced the salvation that Jesus died and rose again to give, by accepting His free gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says that it is by GRACE we have been saved, through FAITH, and this is not from ourselves, it is the gift of God. It is not by our works, so that none of us can boast.

What has Christ done for you? That's the message missionaries are to share. Ephesians 2:10 says that our work or destiny is plotted out...

We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God PREPARED IN ADVANCE for us to do.

1 Peter 2:9 says..You are a CHOSEN people, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION a people BELONGING TO GOD, that you may DECLARE THE PRAISES of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

God wants to use us as His MOUTHPIECE – to PROCLAIM Him to the world.

***** COME & FILL THIS PLACE *** 4:25**

WHY are we called?-

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 tells us. It reads...

**If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation – the old is gone-
the new has come. All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself
through Christ & gave us the ministry of reconciliation. We are
AMBASSADORS for Christ as though God were making His appeal through us.**

**It's not our ABILITY God wants, it's our AVAILABILITY. There's NO LIMIT to
what GOD CAN do with one COMPLETED YIELDED to Him.**

According to Mark 16:15 we are called to...

**Go into all the world and preach the GOSPEL(the Good News)
to EVERY CREATURE.**

In Acts 1:8 the disciples were told...

**..you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will
be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the
ends of the earth."**

**So where's YOUR Jerusalem? It's right where you live, your own back door, the
person next to you.**

**How do you witness in Judea? By getting involved in ministries in the
surrounding areas in which you live.**

**How about Samaria? Remember this was spoken to the Jews who didn't
associate with Samaritans. Our Samaria is reaching out to people of a different
race, culture or socioeconomic background.**

**The ENDS of the earth covers all the bases. That's people we may never see.
We can reach out to them by supporting other missionaries who are called to
foreign lands, or, better yet, how about going there yourself?**

In ministering we NEED to have a SERVANT ATTITUDE.

Jesus was KING, yet he dealt with the poor, children - even the dead. He washed the disciple's dirty feet, even Judas', who he knew would betray Him.

Philippians 2:7-8 says God made himself of no reputation but took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death – even the death of the cross.

To be effectively used by God requires obedience and a sacrifice on our part.

Why aren't we effective? Maybe we're too busy. We get caught up in trivial matters and waste precious time. Ephesians 5:15-16 says that we need to 'redeem the time'. The passage reads...

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

"Redeem" implies the preciousness of the opportune season, a jewel to be bought at any price.

Matthew Henry writes, "Our time is a talent given us by God for some good end, and it is misspent and lost when it is not employed according to His design."

We've also misplaced our values. We too often see quiet time as 'down time'. Psalm 46:10 says...be still & know that I am God.

God told HEZEKIAH, the priest, to instruct his fellow priests to minister before the Lord before serving the people. 'Minister' means 'service in worship'.

What is it that we WORSHIP - the service we do or the master we serve?

Maybe OUR SALVATION IS STALE to us?

Think about the sacrifice made just for you. John 3:16 says...

**For God SO LOVED the world (why should he)
that HE GAVE His ONLY begotten son (thing most precious to him)
that whosoever BELIEVES in Him should not perish (made it easy)
but have EVERLASTING LIFE (life assurance we don't have to pay for).**

We need to visit the cross before starting our day and experience God's love afresh. Ask Him to show you what He saved you from and what He's saved you for. Then you won't be able to keep from telling others about Jesus, your LORD.

***** JESUS LORD TO ME *** 4:00**

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