

DOING MISSIONS ACCORDING TO NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

By Bob Young

Introduction

We have made the point that in Great Commission, Jesus did not tell us how
But we have good information in Acts about how the early church did it

- Acts 1:8
- Scattered from Jerusalem after Pentecost, went home
- Scattered in Acts 8:1ff
- Samaria, sent in reinforcements temporarily
- God prepared Paul as a messenger to the Gentiles
- As long as the churches were close geographically, stayed in contact (Acts 1-12)

Paul's missionary journeys

- How gospel went to new areas, distant and more remote
- Preached in synagogues, then turned to Gentiles
- Established new churches in relatively brief time (maximum is 1 ½ years in Corinth, 3 years in Ephesus)
- Went back to visit those churches, stayed in contact

Body of Sermon

Principles for doing mission work, based on Paul's first journey, Acts 13-14

-1- Principle of opportunity, God's open doors, God's guidance

-2- Principle of preaching, principle of the gospel

Easy to get distracted and do a lot of other things, easy to accept indirect approach

Easy to avoid conflict, but Paul had conflict

We want to leave a good taste, but not always possible

Effective preaching will touch multiple people, not just reap the "easy fruit" or low-hanging fruit

Think about how we can touch families, establish foundation for church

-3- Principle of maturing congregations, principle of growth

Importance of edifying, strengthening

Paul had to go back, eventually had to write back (Galatians)

Personal spiritual growth and development

-4- Principle of leadership

Paul worked to establish leaders, encourage leaders, and meet with leaders

-5- Principle of results

6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5

More churches were established, churches of Asia Minor as a result of Ephesus?

Church in Rome, Christians went there, established a church

Churches naturally expanded the message, 1 Thess 1:7