

Theme: The heartbeat of mission is a desire to see God worshipped by everyone.

## I. Intro - Mission: Possible series

- A. Mission: Impossible TV shows and movie
- B. They always accomplished the “impossible” mission
- C. We have been given a seemingly impossible mission to reach people everywhere with the Gospel of Christ
- D. What is our mission - & Is it possible in today's world?

## II. The Mission

### A. Paul's Mission: Called To Apostleship

Through him and for his name's sake, **we received grace and apostleship** to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.  
Romans 1:5

1. Grace and apostleship - this is Paul's call
2. Paul was called to be an apostle to take the Gospel so others might hear and believe
3. We are not apostles, but we too have received grace, and we are called by God to mission

### B. The scope: call Gentiles

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship **to call people from among all the Gentiles** to the obedience that comes from faith.  
Romans 1:5

1. Paul's mission: call the Gentiles
2. Gentiles - ἔθνεσιν - the nations
3. The Gentiles are those who were not part of God's covenant people, spread throughout the earth

4. The mission is not just to encourage one another, or to reach out to those 'like' us - it is to go after anyone who is outside of God's covenant people

### C. The goal: the obedience that comes from faith

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship **to call people** from among all the Gentiles **to the obedience that comes from faith**.  
Romans 1:5

1. The goal: call people to the obedience of faith
2. This is not just head knowledge - it is obedience springing from faith
3. A biblical response of faith always produces obedience to God. A faith that does not produce obedience is not biblical faith.
4. Worship is a response of faith to the Gospel that produces obedience in the life of the believer. Anything less is not worship.

## III. The Heartbeat of Mission

### A. The heartbeat of mission: His name's sake

Through him and **for his name's sake**, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.  
Romans 1:5

1. Ministry is first for the sake of God & His name
2. “The ultimate reason for a mission to the Gentiles was not the salvation of the Gentiles but the proclamation of the name of Jesus Christ. What was fundamental for Paul was the glory and praise of Jesus Christ.” Thomas Schreiner on Romans 1:5, Romans (BECNT), 35-36

B. The basis for all we do: the glory of God

So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.** 1 Corinthians 10:31

1. The glory of God is the foundation for all we do
2. If anything is done with an eye to something else first it is sinful, no matter the other motivation
3. Question 1 - Why did God make humans? To glorify and enjoy Him forever!

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. <sup>9</sup> **All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name.** <sup>10</sup> **For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.** Psalms 86:8–10

1. The nations will worship - so God gets glory
2. This is because God alone is great
3. Even our mission of reaching out is first about God's glory
4. Quotes on this point  
"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 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." John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad, p. 11

**"I can honestly share with you that my first burden is not world evangelism, but the Glory of God.** One of the reasons that we of Operation Mobilization have been able to put men in the Muslim world and keep them there five, ten, or even fifteen years is because as we went to the Muslim world twenty years ago, **our first burden was not the conversion of Muslims, or the establishing of the church in the Muslim world, but the Glory of God . . .** It's impossible for us to predict how much fruit there will be. Our first burden is the Glory of God, therefore we obey Him and we go forth to lay down our lives in witness." George Verwer, Mission Challenge: Counting the Cost, p. 182

C. What about our concern for people & their suffering

1. We are to be concerned about people - but that is secondary
2. The first great commandment to love God is before the second great commandment to love neighbor
3. This will not reduce mission - it will fuel it!  
"Paul writes that his mission to all the nations is "for the sake of His name." (Romans 1:5) **Even love for the commands of Christ and love for the lost sheep of Christ are subordinate to and dependent on this love for the name of Christ...is this not the cause of our guilty silence?... We do not speak for Christ because we do not so love His name that we cannot bear to see Him unacknowledged and unadored.** If only our eyes were opened to see His glory, and if only we felt wounded by the shame of His public humiliation among men, we should not be able to remain silent." John Stott, Our Guilty Silence, pp. 14ff

## IV. The Mission: Applying the Word

- A. Do I see God's glory is the ultimate good in the universe?
1. Make no mistake - this is very counter-cultural
  2. The Fall - our rejection of the ultimacy of God
  3. Our world increasingly rejects God as ultimate
  4. This infects the church - we are very man-centered
  5. Outcome of this is the shrinking of God in our eyes!
  6. Mission begins with God's glory because when God shrinks in our eyes, the mission seems impossible & we increasingly compromise our call.
  7. Do I see that Scripture is crystal clear that God's glory is ultimate?
  8. Do I see that any other view actually makes nonsense of the entire biblical story and totally undermines the mission God has given us?
- B. Do I value the worship of God more than anything else?
1. This must not just be head knowledge - it must be heart experience!
  2. If we do not cherish the worship of God above all, we can not be on mission

“In missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory... Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. **You can't commend what you don't cherish....** Missions begins and ends in worship...where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak.” John Piper, Let The Nations Be Glad, pp. 11, 12

3. What competes with God for my ultimate passion?
4. What do I cherish as much or more than God? Money? Power? Prestige? Security? Reputation? Family?

### C. The Table: Cherishing God above all

#### The Heartbeat of Mission: Worship

Romans 1:5

September 4, 2016

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Evangelism & missions; great commission; worship; God's glory; passion for Christ

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from His Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth - who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:4–6

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