

### Chapter 1 : Be On Mission With God Sermon by Paul Fritz, Philippians - theinnatdunvilla.com

*So what is clear from this piling up of proof texts is that Paul wanted to say: the mission of Jesus Christ was to reach all the nations, all the peoples--for the glory of God. It is not a merely Jewish phenomenon.*

A missionary in Africa was once asked if he really liked what he was doing. His response was shocking. My wife and I do not like dirt. We have reasonable refined sensibilities. We do not like crawling into vile huts through goat refuse. But is a man to do nothing for Christ he does not like? God pity him, if not. Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. Here are a few helpful guidelines that have proven effective through twenty five years of mission experience in Africa and in the USA. The Lord initiated His will through Abraham, as the Provider, the Almighty and the Multiplier of His kingdom for all those who will receive, believe and act on His promises. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham, All nations will be blessed through you. God revealed to John that every tribe, tongue, nation and people would worship together forever in heaven. A one-legged school teacher from Scotland came to J. Hudson Taylor to offer himself for service in China. Pillar of Fire, January First, Many people forget what James teaches us about, "Resist the devil, draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hearts you double minded. Communicate more from the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "It is God who at work in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. James writes, "Wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. Use the gifts, callings, time, talents, energies, abilities, resources, background, languages, connections, friends, ministries, and open doors that the Lord provides for you. He guides us not only with His moral will found in the scripture but He uses His sovereign will to show us the best ways that we can individually and corporately contribute to the cause of Christ for eternity. Do not try comparing yourself with somebody else. You must follow me.

*Paul's mission to bring about the obedience of faith among the nations is in direct continuity with God's aim to redeem the nations since the call of Abraham. God's original intention according to Genesis was for humanity to spread out and fill the entire creation.*

Encourage one another to follow Jesus. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. Saul started out as a Pharisee. Saul wanted to please God, but he was completely wrong about how to do it. Saul did terrible things to the people who believed in Jesus. Saul believed that he was right to harm the believers John But then one day, Saul met Jesus! Jesus appeared to Saul when Saul was heading to Damascus to arrest more believers. Saul repented of his sins - he changed his heart and mind about the wrong things he had done - and he began to follow Jesus. Jesus gave Saul a new identity and a new name: Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. You can imagine that it took the believers a little while to get used to the idea that their greatest enemy was now one of them Acts 9: There was one man who helped the believers to accept the truth that Saul was a follower of Jesus. When you describe a person, you usually begin with the most important things first. After God sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of all believers, they were teaching about Jesus and proving His power by performing miracles. Many people were putting their faith in Jesus. All the believers helped each other and shared all that they had. No one had any needs because those who had money or food gave it to those who did not. He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. We learn that he was generous. Just like Jesus, he put others before himself. He gave it to the apostles to share with the other believers. We see that his parents named him Joseph, but he was such an encourager that those who knew him started calling him by the nickname of Barnabas - Son of Encouragement. Does anyone here have a nickname? Call on a few students to share their nicknames. Your parents gave you your name. But what if people started calling you a nickname based on the way you treated others? Think about that for a moment. What do you think your nickname might be then? If applicable, share positive nicknames of some of your students based on some behaviors you have witnessed: An encourager helps others by giving them what they need or by speaking good words to them. Encouragers always want others to do well. In this case, Barnabas wanted the other believers to follow Jesus with all their heart Acts Everything he did and said was done to help others to follow Jesus. Think of a time when someone encouraged you. Maybe your mom or dad helped you learn to ride your bike, telling you that you could do it. Maybe a friend said that he liked one of your drawings, or maybe your teacher said she believed you could do well on a test. Encouragement can make all the difference for someone who is about to give up. I want to tell you a true story about a boy who grew up about years ago. When he was a child, Walter loved to draw, though his parents did not really praise him for this. Doc Sherwood and his wife told Walter how wonderful his drawings were. Of course, you all know what became of Walt Disney. He grew up to bring us Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and a host of other characters, theme parks, and lots of fun. He won 26 Academy Awards for his beloved Disney cartoons and movie productions. A little encouragement can go a long way! As believers, the most important thing we can encourage someone to do is to follow Jesus, just as Barnabas encouraged his friends to do. Encouragement is so important that the Bible actually commands that we do it. The Bible says that believers must meet together, like we do here at church, so we can encourage each other Hebrews We should encourage in good times and especially in difficult times. Paul had met Jesus on the way to Damascus. The Jewish religious leaders in Damascus did not like this at all. They did not want people to follow Jesus. They planned to kill Paul, so Paul had to leave Damascus. He went to Jerusalem. The believers in Jerusalem were in a difficult situation. When Paul came to town, they were afraid of him. This must have been a difficult time for Paul as well. How could he make the believers understand that he was now one of them? He was not going to harm them. He had changed from the inside out! Barnabas took Saul to the apostles. He said that Saul had seen the Lord. He told how the Lord had spoken to Saul. So Saul stayed with the believers. He moved about freely in Jerusalem. He talked and argued with Jews who followed Greek practices. But they tried to kill him. The other believers heard about this. They took Saul down to Caesarea.

From there they sent him off to Tarsus. Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. The Holy Spirit gave the church [believers] strength and boldness. So they grew in numbers. And they worshiped the Lord. Paul spoke even more boldly, and the church grew in number. Then you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be My witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be My witnesses from one end of the earth to the other. Jesus said that first they would tell people about Him in the capitol city of Jerusalem, then the area around Jerusalem, then everywhere on earth. This is like saying they would begin by teaching in Atlanta, then they would go into all of Georgia, then they would go to every other country. For the last several weeks, we have read about the believers preaching to the Jews in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was where the big Temple was, the city where Jesus was crucified and rose again. Most of the people who lived in Jerusalem were Jewish. Next, the disciples, such as Peter and John, told the truth about Jesus in the surrounding area of Judea and Samaria the original Promised Land. This area was also full of Jewish people. Now it was time for the good news to spread out - beyond Jerusalem, to the people who were not Jews, not descendants of Abraham. Raise your hand if you are not Jewish. One day when the believers were worshipping and praying, the Holy Spirit spoke to them. He said it was time for Barnabas and Paul to go on a trip - a mission trip. The two men sailed to an island called Cyprus. John went along to help them. They traveled across the island, preaching about Jesus. He tried to keep the governor from believing the truth. Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord? Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time. When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

## Chapter 3 : Mission and Values

*Paul had decided to preach to gentiles apparently out of his own revelatory experience that this was the mission that had been given him by God when God called him to function as a prophet for.*

This assignment is called your mission, and it is different from your ministry. Your ministry is your service to believers in the Body of Christ, while your mission is your service to unbelievers in the world. God created you for both. Your life mission is both shared and specific. One part of it is a responsibility you share with every other Christian, and the other part is an assignment that is unique to you. Our English word "mission" comes from the Latin word for "sending. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. At age 12 he said, "I must be about my fathers business," and 21 years later, dying on the cross, he said, "It is finished. He completed the mission the Father gave him. The mission that Jesus had while on earth is now our mission since we are the Body of Christ. What he did in his physical body, we are to continue as his spiritual body - the church. What is that mission? Introducing people to God! The Bible says " Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Once we are his, God uses us to reach others for these five purposes. He saves us and then sends us out. The Bible says, "We have been sent to speak for Christ. There are a number of reasons why you need to take this mission seriously. Jesus Commands us to Continue His Mission He calls us not only to come to him, but also to go for him. Your mission is so important Jesus repeated it five times in five different ways in five different books of the Bible. It is as if he was saying "I really want you to get this! In one of these instances Jesus said, "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told you. Note that these words are not the Great Suggestion. Your mission is mandatory, not optional, if you are a part of Gods family. Jesus said, "Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God. The Bible says, " But I will hold you responsible for their death. Your Mission is a Great Privilege Although it is a profound responsibility, it is also an incredible honor to be used by God. Paul said, "God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. We get to partner with God in the building of his kingdom. Paul calls us "co-laborers" and says, "We are workers together with God. Even worse would be to keep secret the way to forgiveness, purpose, peace, and eternal life. We have the greatest news in the world and sharing it is the greatest kindness you can show to anyone. One problem that long-term Christians have is they forget how hopeless it felt to be without Christ. We must remember that everybody needs Jesus, no matter how contented or successful they appear to be. Without Christ, they are hopelessly lost and headed for eternal separation from God. The Bible says, "Jesus is the only One who can save people. The consequences of your mission will last forever. Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God. This is why we must be urgent about our mission. Jesus said, "All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. Get started on your mission of reaching out to others now! Well have all of eternity to celebrate with those weve brought to Jesus, but we only have our lifetime in which to reach them. Everything else will eventually vanish. Knowing that, why would you give anything else a higher priority? On the other hand, if just one person will be in heaven because of you, your life cannot be considered a failure. You werent placed on earth to do nothing or just live for yourself. God invites you to participate in what hes doing in the world. Whenever you see God at work, its an invitation to join him. Gods timetable for historys conclusion is connected to the completion of the commission weve been given. Today, theres a growing interest in the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. When will it happen? Right before Jesus ascended to heaven the disciples asked Jesus this question, and his response was quite revealing. He said, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But 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. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. Jesus said, "The details of my return are none of your business. What is your business is the mission Ive given you. What we do know for sure is

this: Jesus will not return until everyone he wants to hear the Good News has heard it. Then the end will come. Completing Your Mission will Bring Glory to God The night before he was crucified Jesus reported to his Father, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Its what you were created to do and should be your life goal. Then the other things will be yours as well. Instead of praying, "God bless what I want to do" pray "God help me to do what youre blessing! David prayed, "Turn me away from wanting any other plan than yours. Can you think of any valid reason to prevent you from making that commitment? The Bible says, "Give yourselves completely to God--every part of you--for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes. For a free subscription, you can sign up at [www](http://www). You may reprint this article in your publication with the following attribution:

**Chapter 4 : Paul's Commission () - The IVP New Testament Commentary Series - Bible Gateway**

*Paul, called of God to be the apostle to the Gentiles, is what we would call our "missionary par excellence" of the missionary activity recorded for us in Scripture. The apostle Paul is front and center.*

Moreover, Paul thought that the purpose of this revelation was his own appointment to preach among the Gentiles Galatians 1: Whereas Peter , James , and John , the chief apostles to the circumcised Galatians 2: Paul preaching the gospel, detail of a 12th-century mosaic; in the Palatine Chapel of the Royal Palace, Palermo, Sicily. There is, however, another possibility. Paul conceded that he was not an eloquent speaker 2 Corinthians Moreover, he had to spend much, possibly most, of his time working to support himself. As a tent maker, he worked with leather, and leatherwork is not noisy. While he worked, therefore, he could have talked, and once he was found to have something interesting to say, people would have dropped by from time to time to listen. It is very probable that Paul spread the gospel in this way. Travels and letters During the first two centuries of the Roman Empire , travel was safer than it would be again until the suppression of pirates in the 19th century. Paul and his companions sometimes traveled by ship, but much of the time they walked, probably beside a donkey carrying tools, clothes, and perhaps some scrolls. Occasionally they had plenty, but often they were hungry, ill-clad, and cold Philippians 4: Paul wanted to keep pressing west and therefore only occasionally had the opportunity to revisit his churches. Fortunately, after his death one of his followers collected some of the letters, edited them very slightly, and published them. Chloe was an important member of the church in Corinth 1 Corinthians 1: Women were frequently among the major supporters of new religious movements, and Christianity was no exception. Some of the other Christian workers must have been quite important; indeed, an unknown minister of Christ established the church at Rome before Paul arrived in the city. Paul treated some of these possible competitorsâ€™such as Prisca, Aquila, Junia, and Andronicusâ€™in a very friendly manner Romans He was especially wary of Apollos, a Christian missionary known to the Corinthians 1 Corinthians 3: Only in the latter two cases, however, is the nature of the disagreement known: Basic message In the surviving letters, Paul often recalls what he said during his founding visits. He preached the death, resurrection, and lordship of Jesus Christ , and he proclaimed that faith in Jesus guarantees a share in his life. In the second, he died so that the believers may die with him and consequently live with him. These two ideas obviously coincide see below Christology. The resurrection of Christ was also of primary importance, as Paul revealed in his Letter to the Thessalonians , the earliest surviving account of conversion to the Christian movement. Since Jesus was raised and still lives, he could return to rescue believers at the time of the Final Judgment. The resurrection is connected to the third major emphasis, the promise of salvation to believers. These and many other passages reveal the essence of the Christian message: See below Moral teachings. Churches Although Paul may have converted some Jews, his mission was directed toward the Gentiles , who therefore constituted the vast majority of his converts. Pagan religion was very tolerant: Civic loyalty, however, included participation in public worship of the local gods. Jews had the privilege of worshipping only the God of Israel, but everyone else was expected to conform to local customs. Paul the Apostle preaching to the Athenians. Although he showed some flexibility on eating food that had been offered to an idol 1 Corinthians Thus, his converts had to give up public worship of the local gods. Religiously, they could identify only with one another, and frequently they must have wavered because of their isolation from well-established and popular activities. It was especially difficult for them to refrain from public festivities, since parades, feasts including free red meat , theatrical performances, and athletic competitions were all connected to pagan religious traditions. This social isolation of the early converts intensified their need to have rewarding spiritual experiences within the Christian communities , and Paul attempted to respond to this need. Although they had to wait with patience and endure suffering 1 Thessalonians 1: In fact, Paul saw Christians as beginning to be transformed even before the coming resurrection: Although he placed his converts in a situation that was often uncomfortable, Paul did not ask them to believe many things that would be conceptually difficult. The belief that there was only one true God had a place within pagan philosophy, if not pagan religion, and was intellectually satisfying. By the 1st century, many pagans found Greek mythology

lacking in intellectual and moral content, and replacing it with the Hebrew Bible was therefore not especially difficult. The belief that God sent his Son agreed with the widespread view that gods could produce human offspring. The activities of the Holy Spirit in their lives corresponded to the common view that spiritual forces control nature and events. The teaching of the resurrection of the body, however, was difficult for pagans to embrace, despite the fact that life after death was generally accepted. Pagans who believed in the immortality of the soul maintained that the soul escaped at death; the body, they knew, decayed. Moral teachings Although Paul recognized the possibility that after death he would be punished for minor faults 1 Corinthians 4: Paul regarded suffering and premature death as punishment for those who sinned 1 Corinthians 5: He thought that those who believed in Christ became one person with him and that this union was not broken by ordinary transgression. Paul did regard it as possible, however, for people to lose or completely betray their faith in Christ and thus lose membership in his body, which presumably would lead to destruction at the Judgment Romans Paul, like his Jewish contemporaries the scholar and historian Flavius Josephus and the philosopher Philo Judaeus , completely opposed a long list of sexual practices: However, he urged married partners to continue to have sexual relations except during times set aside for prayer 1 Corinthians 7: These ascetic views were not unknown in Greek philosophy, but they were standard in Greek-speaking Jewish communities, and it is probable that Paul acquired them in his youth. Some pagan philosophers, meanwhile, were more inclined than Paul to limit sexual desire and pleasure. For example, the Stoic philosopher Musonius Rufus flourished 1st century ce wished to restrict marital sexual relations to the production of offspring. Some aspects of Jewish sexual ethics were not generally accepted among the Gentiles to whom Paul preached. Sexual behaviour, therefore, became a substantial issue between him and his converts, and for that reason his letters frequently refer to sexual ethics. His other moral views were as simple and straightforward to ancient readers as to modern: To all of these issues he brought his own expectation of perfection, which his converts often found difficult to satisfy. Male homosexual activity is condemned in the Hebrew Bible in Leviticus Paul accepted the prohibition but made an exception in the case of Christians who were married to non-Christians 1 Corinthians 7: The consequence has been that, in some forms of Christianity, the only ground for divorce is adultery by the other partner. Until the 20th century the laws of many state and national governments reflected this view. The first is his preference for total celibacy: This view may have been a personal matter for Paul 7: He was motivated in part by the belief that time was short: The top tier consisted of those who were entirely celibate such as, at different times in the history of the church, monks, nuns, and priests. Married Christians could aspire only to the bottom, inferior tier. In his letter to the Romans Few Christians were willing to stray from Romans 13 until the 18th century, when the Founding Fathers of the United States decided to follow the Enlightenment philosopher John Locke rather than Paul on the question of revolt against unjust rulers. Theological views Monotheism Paul, like other Jews, was a monotheist who believed that the God of Israel was the only true God. But he also believed that the universe had multiple levels and was filled with spiritual beings. He declared in 1 Corinthians 8: Despite all this, Paul believed, at the right time the God of Israel will send his Son to defeat the powers of darkness 1 Corinthians After his death and resurrection, his followers regularly referred to him as the Messiah Acts 2: Various Jewish groups, however, expected different kings or messiahs or even none at all, and these titles therefore did not have precise meanings when the Christians started using them. He seems not to have defined the person of Jesus metaphysically for example, that he was half human and half divine. God, according to Paul, sent Jesus to save the entire world. His death, in the first place, was a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of everyone. Early Christians, influenced by the ancient theory that one death could serve as a substitute for others, believed that Jesus died on the cross so that believers would escape eternal destruction. When the time was right, God would send Christ back to save the cosmos by defeating all the remaining forces of sin and to liberate all of creation. In this grand vision of the redemption of the created order, Paul shows how deeply he believed in one God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the cosmic importance of his Son, Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ According to Paul, all humans, no matter how hard they try, are enslaved by sin Romans 7: Mere repentance is not enough to permit escape from the overwhelming power of sin. Timothy reported back that their faith was strong 1 Thessalonians 3: Circumcision was the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham , the first of the Hebrew patriarchs, and

it was traditionally required of all Gentiles who wished to worship the God of Israel. The question was whether his Gentile converts would have to accept those parts of the Jewish law that separated Jew from Gentile. Paul opposed making these aspects of the law mandatory for his Gentile converts. Paul employed the language of righteousness and faith when he was using the story of Abraham to argue that circumcision was no longer necessary. The body of Christ Paul regarded his converts not only as individuals who had been freed from sin but also as organic members of the collective body of Christ. Only the worst forms of denial of Christ can remove an organic member from the body of Christ. A part of the body of Christ, for example, should not be joined to a prostitute 1 Corinthians 6: Besides avoiding the deeds of the flesh, members of the body of Christ receive love as their greatest spiritual gift 1 Corinthians Paul thought that membership in the body of Christ really changed people, so that they would live accordingly. He thought that his converts were dead to sin and alive to God and that conduct flowed naturally from people, varying according to who they really were. This absolutist ethical viewâ€”those in Christ are to be morally perfect; those not in Christ are extremely sinfulâ€”was not always true in practice, and Paul was often alarmed and offended when he discovered that the behaviour of his converts was not what he expected. It was in this context that he predicted suffering and even death or postmortem punishment for transgressions 1 Corinthians

**Chapter 5 : Paul the Apostle - Wikipedia**

*I hope tonight to do three things. First, I want to explore the way in which Paul speaks of the powerful word of God at work in and through the gospel.*

The apostle Paul is front and center. From all we know of him, he was an intense and supremely motivated man, both before and after his conversion on the way to Damascus Acts 9. It then becomes, for all religious history, a preeminent model for missionary outreach. The question then needs to be asked, "Did Paul have a strategy when accomplishing his missions? So much depends on our definition of strategy in trying to answer this question. But if we take strategy to mean a flexible method of procedure, developed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and subject to His direction and control, then Paul can be seen to have forethought to his work. Kane Paul deliberately planned his journeys beforehand, selected certain strategic points at which to establish his churches and then actually carried out his designs. Though other missiologists do not write of Paul in this way, most use Paul as their model for ministry. For starters, one may read the section in Perspectives: First, he directed his work particularly to the non Jewish world "to bring about the obedience of the Gentiles" vs. Second, he limited it to the main area of the Roman world where others had not gone. Paul claims "from Jerusalem round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Both Luke and Paul speak constantly of the provinces rather than the cities Acts 9: The cities where he did plant churches were centers of Roman administration, of Greek civilization, of Jewish influence or of some commercial importance. Particularly, the church in Rome was to be of strategic importance when Paul planned to leave the East and begin work in the West. Found there were three distinct classes: Jews, proselytes and God fearing Gentiles. Here Paul felt at home as all of them had a knowledge of the one true God, an acquaintance with the Old Testament, and an expectation of the "coming" Messiah. Only when he was expelled did he go elsewhere. He believed that every ethnic group had the right to hear the gospel and he would gladly preach to them, but if they adamantly refused the message and persecuted the messenger, no purpose could be served in staying amongst them. He felt it would be better to move on to a responsive group. Paul experienced that it was the devout Gentiles that were most responsive to the gospel Acts Turning away from his own people hurt him deeply Acts He was conscious of the fact that a Christian worker was required to be faithful 1 Cor. Paul was convinced that the missionary must have a strong base at home, for at the end of each journey he always returned to Antioch to report on his journeys Acts The connection between the prayers of the church and the success of the missions was a vital thing. Paul spent significant time on his return visits and knew the importance of it. When he was planning to go on to Spain with the gospel, a letter was sent to Rome to ask for their support Rom. He stayed as long as he could, setting up the church inspite of the difficulties. When mature local leaders had been trained, he would move on, leaving the leaders in charge. These church plants were self governing Acts Made Use of Fellow Workers back to top Paul believed in teamwork. On all the missionary journeys he had companions along. Barnabas and John Mark set out with him on the first journey Acts The preaching of the gospel was a joint effort 1 Thess. Consider the following texts: Paul knew the purpose of his life: In practice this meant the complete subordination of every interest, personal and otherwise, to the work of Christ. And as to the content of the gospel message, he was adamant and dogmatic Gal. Paul does give some concrete examples of what it means to be "all" to the Jews Acts Adeptly Communicated an Unchanging Message back to top Paul viewed himself as a chosen herald to announce a message from God himself that would affect the destiny of all mankind 2 Cor. It was an authoritative, life changing message 1 Cor. The proclamation of Jesus Christ is at the heart of the missionary task Rom. When preaching to the Jews, he reasoned from the Scriptures. He began with their own historic beginnings and swiftly proceeds to the life of Christ, the promised Messiah Acts To the Gentiles, Paul reasoned from nature Acts Notice also the testimony of Paul in his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders Acts

**Chapter 6 : Berean Bible Church: Paul's Mission - Colossians**

*Audio Transcript. Both Paul and Moses said they would rather be personally damned in order for others to be saved – a sort of trade. So doesn't this imply that their vision of mission was a higher priority than their personal and eternal joy in the presence of God?*

What were the different missionary journeys of Paul? The apostle Paul was a well-educated, leading Jew named Saul. He even participated in the execution of the first Christian martyr, Stephen Acts 7: On his way to Damascus to find and imprison more Christians, Paul met the Lord. He repented, turning in faith to Jesus Christ. After this experience, he attempted to persuade Jews and Christians about his life-changing conversion. Many doubted and shunned him. Christians such as Barnabas, however, accepted and spoke up for him. Paul and Barnabas became missionary partners. On three separate missionary journeys – each several years in length – Paul preached the news of Jesus in many coastal cities and trade route towns. The following is a brief chronicle of these missionary journeys: At first, their method of evangelism was to preach in the town synagogues. Because of his bold testimony of Jesus, Saul the persecutor became Paul the persecuted. Those who rejected his message of salvation through Jesus Christ tried to stop and harm him. In one city, he was stoned and left for dead. But God spared him. Through trials and beatings and imprisonments, he kept on preaching Christ. Between his first and second missionary journeys, he participated in a conference in Jerusalem discussing the way of salvation. The final consensus was that the Gentiles could receive Jesus without submitting to Jewish traditions. After another stay in Antioch, building up the church there, Paul was ready to take a second missionary journey. He asked Barnabas to join him, revisiting the churches of their first missionary journey. A disagreement, however, caused them to split. God turned this dispute into a positive, for now there were two missionary teams. God providentially redirected Paul and Silas to Greece, bringing the gospel to Europe. At Philippi, the missionary team was beaten and imprisoned. Rejoicing to suffer for Christ, they sang in jail. Suddenly, God caused an earthquake to open the doors of the cell and free them from their chains. The amazed jailer and his family believed in Christ, but the government officials begged Paul and Silas to leave. Traveling on to Athens, Paul preached to an inquisitive audience on Mars Hill. He proclaimed the only true God whom they could know and worship without man-made idols. Again, some sneered and some believed. Paul taught those who believed in Christ and established them in churches. During this 2nd missionary journey, Paul made many disciples from all backgrounds: God confirmed his message with miracles. A young man, sitting in an upstairs window sill, went to sleep and fell out the window. He was thought to be dead, but Paul revived him. Once involved in the occult, the new believers at Ephesus burned their magic books. Idol-makers, on the other hand, were not pleased with their loss of business on account of this one true God and His Son. One silversmith named Demetrius started a city-wide riot, praising their goddess Diana. Trials always followed Paul. The persecution and opposition ultimately strengthened true Christians and spread the gospel. His final words to the church at Ephesus display his devotion to Christ: And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. Some Bible scholars see a fourth missionary journey as well, and early Christian history does seem to attest to the idea. At the same time, there is no explicit evidence for a fourth journey in the Bible, as it would have occurred after the close of the book of Acts.

**Chapter 7 : The Role of Suffering in the Mission of Paul and the Mission of the Church – Southern Equip**

*The Bible is a book which has a mission, and that mission is God's mission: to confront us with "the reality of this God, the reality of this story and the reality of this people" (54, his emphasis).*

There he met James and stayed with Simon Peter for 15 days. Paul asserted that he received the Gospel not from man, but directly by "the revelation of Jesus Christ". In his writings, Paul used the persecutions he endured to avow proximity and union with Jesus and as a validation of his teaching. It was in Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called "Christians". The first journey, [Acts 13–14] led initially by Barnabas, [55] took Paul from Antioch to Cyprus then into southern Asia Minor Anatolia , and finally returning to Antioch. In Cyprus, Paul rebukes and blinds Elymas the magician [Acts From this point on, Paul is described as the leader of the group. John Mark leaves them and returns to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas go on to Pisidian Antioch. On Sabbath they go to the synagogue. The leaders invite them to speak. Paul reviews Israelite history from life in Egypt to King David. He introduces Jesus as a descendant of David brought to Israel by God. He said that his team came to town to bring the message of salvation. He quotes from the Septuagint [56] to assert that Jesus was the promised Christos who brought them forgiveness for their sins. Both the Jews and the " God-fearing " Gentiles invited them to talk more next Sabbath. At that time almost the whole city gathered. This upset some influential Jews who spoke against them. Paul used the occasion to announce a change in his mission which from then on would be to the Gentiles. Circumcision controversy in early Christianity A vital meeting between Paul and the Jerusalem church took place some time in the years 50–51, [59] described in Acts How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? This sermon addressed early issues in Christology. On their trip around the Mediterranean sea, Paul and his companion Barnabas stopped in Antioch where they had a sharp argument about taking John Mark with them on their trips. The book of Acts said that John Mark had left them in a previous trip and gone home. In Lystra, they met Timothy , a disciple who was spoken well of, and decided to take him with them. Paul and his companions, Silas and Timothy, had plans to journey to the southwest portion of Asia Minor to preach the gospel but during the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him to go to Macedonia to help them. After seeing the vision, Paul and his companions left for Macedonia to preach the gospel to them. They turned the city against the missionaries, and Paul and Silas were put in jail. After a miraculous earthquake, the gates of the prison fell apart and Paul and Silas could have escaped but remained; this event led to the conversion of the jailor Acts They continued traveling, going by Berea and then to Athens, where Paul preached to the Jews and God-fearing Greeks in the synagogue and to the Greek intellectuals in the Areopagus. Paul continued from Athens to Corinth. Interval in Corinth Around 50–52, Paul spent 18 months in Corinth. The reference in Acts to Proconsul Gallio helps ascertain this date cf. The couple followed Paul and his companions to Ephesus , and stayed there to start one of the strongest and most faithful churches at that time Acts In 52, departing from Corinth, Paul stopped at the nearby village of Cenchreae to have his hair cut off, because of a vow he had earlier taken. He then traveled north to Antioch, where he stayed for some time Greek: Third missionary journey The Preaching of Saint Paul at Ephesus by Eustache Le Sueur According to Acts, Paul began his third missionary journey by travelling all around the region of Galatia and Phrygia to strengthen, teach and rebuke the believers. Paul then traveled to Ephesus , an important center of early Christianity , and stayed there for almost three years, probably working there as a tentmaker, [73] as he had done when he stayed in Corinth. He is claimed to have performed numerous miracles, healing people and casting out demons, and he apparently organized missionary activity in other regions. Paul finished his trip with a stop in Caesarea , where he and his companions stayed with Philip the Evangelist before finally arriving at Jerusalem.

**Chapter 8 : How To Be On Mission With God Sermon by Paul Fritz, Matthew - theinnatdunvilla.com**

*Look for ways that you can commune with God in His word, through prayer and with godly mission minded people who can help you get a greater sense of the pulse of God's mission ministry that you can plug in to.*

The Mission of the Church What is the mission of the church? What is its reason or purpose for being in the world? Just as the church had a divine beginning, even so it has a divine mission. The mission of the church is altogether spiritual. First, I want to state what the mission of the church is not. It was never the mission of the church to try to direct and control the affairs of state. Jesus taught that there is to be a separation of church and state. There is no justification for the church or any other religious organization seizing the reins of government and attempting to exercise control over men in government. The mission of the church is not to become a social institution. There are some who evidently feel that the mission of the church is to entertain people and please men. This has led some churches to build mammoth recreational programs, complete with kitchens and fellowship halls. Some have built gymnasiums and athletic facilities in the hope of luring people to become interested in Christianity. One church that I know about has a place of worship, which will seat about and a fellowship hall, which will seat Are we able to see where the emphasis is being placed? One preacher said it was getting so that when he heard the word "fellowship" he could smell the coffee! Well, if you use the word "fellowship" in a biblical sense, you will "smell no coffee. It may be the business of parents, mothers and fathers, to provide recreation, but it is not the duty or the mission of the church. When people feel they must provide recreation halls, kitchens, fellowship halls, gymnasiums, athletic facilities and what have you to induce people to come to church, they are telling the world that they do not believe that Christianity has the merit to attract the attention of serious-minded people. All of these circus-like attractions which are used to woo large numbers of people is only bribery. It is not a cut above the denominational group which recently initiated the practice of giving "trading stamps" to those who could secure the most new members for the congregation. Such is not the mission of the church! What is the mission of the church? The primary mission of the church is to preach the gospel. This is our paramount objective. Perhaps you remember that one of the first problems that the church faced in the first century was the complaint that the Grecian widows were being neglected, and that they were not being fed. What did the apostles do? Did they give up the preaching of the gospel and say, "Our first duty is to take care of these poor folks and feed them? They told the disciples to choose seven men to be appointed over the business of caring for the poor. They continued with their primary mission - preaching the gospel. They said, "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" Acts 6: It is a worthy thing to give a poor beggar a bath and a new suit of clothes, but how much more important that he receive the bath of regeneration and put on Christ. How much better to preach the gospel to him, and fit him and prepare him to live forever with Christ and all the redeemed. Jesus compared the church to a householder who went out into the marketplace to hire laborers into his vineyard, Matthew Jesus also compared the nature of the kingdom of heaven to a sower who went forth to sow. The seed the sower was sowing was the word of God, Matthew The Bible says of the church at Antioch, "And when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" Acts The apostle Paul said in I Timothy 3: A pillar is a large stone colonnade or column, which supports the roof of a porch or a building, thus the church supports and upholds the truth of God. That is the mission of the church - to support and uphold the truth. The apostle Paul also identified the church as the institution, which is to make known the wisdom of God. Let me also point out that local congregations of the church were the medium through which this mission of the church was to be accomplished. God never intended for us to have some human society for the purpose of having rummage sales, garage sales, pie suppers, bingo games, and cake walks for the purpose of preaching the gospel. God intended for the church to do this work. Members of the church are to give their money on the first day of the week, and these funds are to be used for the mission of the church. What is the primary mission of the church? Its primary mission and central obligation is to preach the gospel. It is said that if you go to Palestine, the Holy Land, as it is called, and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the guide will take you to a red stone beneath the great dome of the church and state: Matthew stressed that same obligation but he

worded it just a little differently. He recorded Jesus as saying: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: He said, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Teaching those who are baptized, teaching the saved, teaching them to observe all things the Saviour commanded. Thus, Jesus named another mission of the church. When the church has made disciples, then it is the mission of the church to teach them what Jesus wants them to know. It is not enough to teach them the first principles and then leave them to their own devices - they must be taught to observe all things that Jesus commanded. Therefore, teaching the saved is necessary. When sinners hear the call of the gospel and become Christians, they have faith, but there is something else to be added. Peter said, "And beside this, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" II Peter 1: One of the principal things to be added to the life of a Christian is knowledge. That was essentially what the apostle Paul was talking about when he spoke of "putting on the whole armor of God. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" Ephesians 6: All of these things are simply metaphorical references to the word of God. Many Christians are bareheaded and barefooted, so to speak, facing the enemy without defenses because they have no knowledge of the word of God. How can the church bring about this knowledge of the word of God? First, it is the duty of preachers, teachers, and elders of the church to teach the word of God, and feed the flock. In 2 Timothy 2: Also, the New Testament makes it clear that each Christian has a responsibility to other Christians. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. To Provide A Spiritual Atmosphere It is the mission of the church to provide the kind of place where spiritual life can flourish. The meetings of the church should be the kind of meetings where the spiritual man, the inner man, can be renewed. The services should be orderly and worshipful. The meetings should not be held and conducted with the end in view of simply attracting a great crowd and catering to the wishes and wants of worldly people. It is a great mistake for people to feel that they must put on a show to attract a crowd. Remember, the apostle in speaking of conduct in meetings said: It is not necessary to have the most eloquent speaker, or the most entertaining singing to build up the spiritual man. What does matter is to meet with a desire to worship and serve God in spirit and in truth, as Jesus instructed in John 4: Therefore, it should be the duty and mission of every member of the church to make it a place that is warm, friendly, receptive, and encouraging, and to show love for this world, even as Jesus loved the world and gave his life that he might redeem it from sin. To Reproduce The Character Of Christ Another mission of the church is to provide in its members the kind of person that Jesus wants to see. The objective of every church is to produce the likeness of Christ in the lives of its members. Is the church doing that for you? Do you have the humility that Jesus manifested while on earth? Can you turn the other cheek and go the second mile as Jesus did, and as Jesus taught that we should do? Do we stand for the things that Jesus taught? The apostle Paul commanded: That is the purpose of all our worship and work - to reproduce in our own lives the character of Jesus Christ. I once read the story of a preacher who went deep into the interior of China, to a village so remote that they could know very little about modern life. This preacher began to tell the villagers the story of Jesus - how he went about doing good, healing the sick and feeding the hungry, how he lived such an unselfish life in the interest of others, and the people said: He lived in our village. Come, we will show you his grave. This man had so exemplified the life of the Christ that when the people heard the story of Jesus, they immediately thought of the doctor. My friend, that is one of the purposes of the church - to reproduce the character of Jesus in its members. May it be said of every Christian, as it was once said of the apostles long ago, when they were brought in before the authorities, that they "took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. If you and I live so that people can take knowledge of us, that we have been with Jesus, that will be the most powerful influence we can ever have for the advancement of truth. To Bring Joy To Mankind Perhaps it could be said that the all-encompassing mission and purpose of the church is to bring joy and happiness to mankind. Not as

the world giveth, but as God giveth. Why is it that people attend worship?

**Chapter 9 : Paul & The Mission of God – Faith Improvised**

*Paul also recounted a "thorn in his flesh" that kept him from becoming conceited over the priceless privilege God had entrusted to him. In saying, "For when I am weak, then I am strong," (2 Corinthians , NIV), Paul was sharing one of the greatest secrets of staying faithful: absolute dependence on God.*

Only when we allow the power of His word and His Holy Spirit to work in us and through us will we truly be on mission with God. Jesus said, "If you abide in Me and my word abides in you then you will bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples. Always bearing in our bodies the death of the Lord Jesus so that the life of Christ may be made manifest in our bodies. O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way. Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong; 4. Envisioning His Plans in and through with all ethnic groups on earth 2. Empowering You With His Energy 3. Equipping You With His Abilities 4. Enabling You to Do His Will 5. Encouraging You When Discouraged 6. Enlightening You With the Knowledge of His will 7. Exchanging All Evil For Good 9. Energizing You to Overcome Fatigue Exceeding Abundant Prayer Answers Ever Present Help and Stay in the times of trouble Everlasting Love that People Need Everlasting Life Through Christ Establishing of the New Church Emotional support, security sustaining Equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry Edifying for the building of the body Evangelizing of the lost, unreached and those yet to understand Employment as the labors are few Entertainment so we can have life and have it abundantly Experiences that make one discerning Evaluator of all that is done so we do not have to judge ourselves or let others judge us by their standards Every tribe, nation, tongue and people group is to be reached with the gospel Engineer the removing of mountains Educating of the church and leaders Elder giver and trainer Exceeding abundant answers to prayer beyond what we can ask or think Enjoyment in your presence and pathways will be made known Elevating us so we are not overcome by evil but overcome with good Exchanging what is harmful with what is compassionate, caring and complete Envy replacer with contentment Effort exhorter when we need it Everyday supplier of our needs and the ability to cope with every challenge Essentials of truth, love, faith, hope, grace, priorities, purpose and power Evil defeater as He fights the battles Eternal victory is promised Engager of the lost, lonely and needy Enough deliverance is assured Exposer of what is wrong or incomplete Economizer of resources Exhibits His power, purpose and persuasive capacities of the Spirit