

Mission - 1 Peter 2:9-12
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Any organization needs a clear and compelling mission if it plans to actually accomplish anything of value on the world. A sense of mission defines the culture, values, and even the product the organization or company produces. If followed, the mission of an organization will draw people and create excitement, especially if that mission has further significance than making shoes or a soda. This is no different for us within Christianity. If we claim to be Jesus' people, rescued by the Gospel and part of the community of faith, then the Gospel should shape the mission of our churches and our lives. Yet, so often we are content pulling in, choosing comfort and safety over pursuing the mission of God.

Our *Pillars* series has focused on three intertwined themes that creates the foundation for everything we do at Genesis, Gospel, community, and mission. The point of this series is that the true Gospel when proclaimed in its fullness will create and shape a people living in deep community. God saves individuals through the Gospel, but He does not save them individually, rather, any person who has had the sacrifice of Christ applied to their sin, been redeemed in Christ, and now bows their knee to King Jesus is saved into a people for Christ's own possession. And God sends those people on mission, as representatives of His values and power, proclaimers of His message. By doing this through in us, God makes His good news visible, or in other words, the church is the Gospel made visible, God's plan to take the veiled good news of Christ and make it real in a community.

This is our vision and desire as a church, and it is also the reason we have Community Groups. There is nothing magical about these groups, rather, they are our attempt to honor Scripture giving people a place to form this community and live on mission with each other. It is a vital part of living our mission, which we state this way; *Genesis Church exists to help people find a new beginning in Christ and become more like Him*. This means that it is our desire to be a safe place for anyone from any background, faith story, and struggle explore faith and find Jesus, and once they do we want them to grow as a disciple. But we believe that discipleship and mission cannot be separated, because God is a sending God. The Father sent the Son into the world for our redemption, then the Father and the Son sent the Spirit to apply redemption, and now God sends the church into the world to make this Gospel known and seen. So to grow as a follower of Jesus includes being a part of His mission.

This is so important as we figure out what living on mission actually means. We are not talking about going and doing a whole bunch of stuff for God. That would actually be blasphemy. To understand our mission, we must begin with God's mission, and realize that God is already at work around us. Our mission is to join Him in what He is already doing. God is in the business of rescuing people, doing justice, loving mercy, and redeeming His creation. Theologian Chris Wright said it this way, "It is not so much the case that God has a mission for His church in the world, as God has a church for His mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for a mission – God's mission." As a church, we are the people of God whom He has formed through the Gospel, and put in this city as an extension of His mission. This is the point of our text in 1 Peter this week. God took a people who previously were not a people and made them His people. Look at the phrases that explain the gracious work of the Gospel in 1 Peter 2:9-10. Each is rich in meaning, and connected to one of the great passages in all of Scriptures, Exodus 19.

- Chosen race - the Greek here speaks of an extended family, we are chosen in Christ and put into a great family.
- Royal priesthood - The job of priests are to represent God to the people, to be the go between for the unseen God and people who need Him.
- Holy nation - We have been set apart as a nation of people, but a nation scattered among the nations. Our citizenship and allegiance is to a different King and we represent His Kingdom.
- A people for His own possession - Christ is King over God's Kingdom, which means in a

real way, He owns it all, and all people. But we are His special possession, one's chosen by Him for Himself.

These are amazing phrases that show the glory of the Gospel applied to the people of God. But notice the why. God did all this so that we would proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. God saved us to send us with His message. In verse 11 we are called to reject old sinful habits and live holy lives, so that (v. 12) the manner of our lives and good works confront the arguments of those who reject Jesus. Peter realizes that this is how God saves people. The last phrase, "(that they) glorify God on the day of visitation," is not so much a reference to the Second Coming, rather it speaks of God's visitation in the Gospel saving these people. This is the Gospel made visible. God's holy people on mission in a hostile world. This is our mission, this is what the Gospel both produces and calls us to. And this is why our groups are so important, it gives us a place to see this happen.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 John 1	3 John 1	Ezekiel 1	Ezekiel 2	Ezekiel 3	Ezekiel 4	Ezekiel 5

Reading from this past week: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: James 1:26-27

Family Worship

Song - *No Place Better*

<https://youtu.be/waIOBvKdTqc?si=0rN-l89mx5LPSYpk>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Warnings of Jesus

Story: Leaders Wanted to Trick Jesus

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the Prophet?

Answer: Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Scripture: Matthew 22

New City Catechism

Question #37: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

Verse: Ephesians 6:17-18

Scripture

1 Peter 2:9-12

- Look at the things Peter says about us as followers of Jesus in verses 9-10. Which phrase is your favorite?
- According to this text, why did God save us?
- What are some ways our church seeks to join God in His mission in our town and around the world?
- How can our family or Community Group live in God's mission?

Prayer

Pray that our church would live on mission and train followers of Jesus to live as missionaries to their neighborhoods and job.

*Pray for Community Group Leaders Mike & Melissa Singleton, Darin & Amanda Slater, Bill & Cheryl Branson, Kirk & Jane Mathews, Scott & Leslie Holdegraver, Chad & Missy Raley, Brandon & Kate Gregory, and Mike & Heidi Hubbard.