

The Biblical Basis for Sending Missionaries

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CONTEXT

Paul's Final Charge to Timothy

Written from a cold Roman dungeon, Paul's second letter to Timothy represents the dying words of history's greatest missionary to his spiritual son. Timothy had been left in Ephesus to combat false teachers who had infiltrated the church.

Paul knows his end is near: *"I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come"* (4:6). His burden? That Timothy remain faithful to gospel ministry in perilous times.

□ Paul's Urgency

"Do not be ashamed of the witness about our Lord...but join with me in suffering for the gospel" (1:6-8)

⚠ REASON 1

The Perilousness of the Times

"In the last days difficult times will come" (2 Timothy 3:1)

Spiritually Violent Times

The Greek word *chalepos* (difficult/perilous) appears only once elsewhere—describing demon-possessed men so fierce no one could pass (Matthew 8:28).

False Godliness

People maintain religious forms while denying transforming power. Satan's most effective weapon is deception, not overt persecution.

Souls Perishing

God's wrath remains on all who reject Christ (John 3:36). The spiritual danger surrounding us compels action—we must send laborers into the harvest.



Catalog of Perilous Characteristics

Paul describes those with a form of godliness but denying its power (2 Timothy 3:2-5):

- Lovers of self and money
- Proud, arrogant, abusive
- Disobedient, ungrateful, unholy
- Heartless and unappeasable
- Slanderous, without self-control
- Brutal, not loving good
- Treacherous, reckless, conceited
- Lovers of pleasure rather than God

❏ Does this not describe our own age? False teaching proliferates while souls hang in the balance.



REASON 2

The Piety of the Forerunners

1 — Paul's Pattern

Teaching, conduct, faith, patience, love, perseverance through persecution (3:10-11)

2 — Timothy's Calling

"Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed" (3:14)

3 — Our Heritage

Standing on shoulders of Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Spurgeon—faithful men who proclaimed unchanging truth

Anyone faithful will follow the way it has always been done—not in style, but in essential message and commitment to God's Word. We send missionaries who follow the pious pattern of apostolic ministry.

The Power of the Word

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16)

Sacred

Set apart, holy—divine revelation uniquely authoritative and utterly trustworthy

God-Breathed

Theopneustos—every word originates from the very breath of God (2 Peter 1:21)

Profitable

Useful for teaching truth, exposing falsehood, restoring what's astray, building righteousness

Sufficient

The man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work—lacking nothing

Scripture's Transforming Work



Salvation

1

Sacred writings make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ (3:15). Faith comes by hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17).

Sanctification

2

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). We grow in grace through the Word.

We send missionaries because we have the Word of God—the only message that saves, the only truth that sanctifies, the only power that transforms dead hearts.

The Profoundness of the Charge

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead...preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

1

Divine Accountability

This solemn charge is given before the face of Almighty God. Christ's eyes are like flames of fire—nothing hidden from His gaze (Revelation 1:14).

2

Faithful Stewardship

We will give account for souls under our care (Hebrews 13:17). Success is measured by faithfulness to God's charge, not popularity or numbers.

3

Universal Mandate

Preach the Word in all occasions, to all people, in all places. Be ready in season and out of season—when convenient and when not.

What Is a Missionary?

01

Called by God

To full-time ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4)

02

Crosses Boundaries

Geographical and cultural barriers to reach the unreached (Acts 22:21)

03

Preaches Where Christ Is Unknown

Takes the gospel to areas where Jesus is largely unknown (Romans 15:20)

Missionaries go as heralds of the King, commissioned to proclaim His Word, knowing they will answer to Him for their faithfulness.



Our Biblical Foundation



The Bible Commands It

The Great Commission is not optional. Christ's mandate to make disciples of all nations remains unfinished.



The Bible Is the Message

We send missionaries with the inspired, inerrant, sufficient Word—the only message that saves and sanctifies.



The Bible Is the Method

The apostolic pattern remains: preach the Word, in season and out, with patience and teaching.



The Spirit Is the Power

The Holy Spirit works through God's Word, calling sinners to repentance and building His church.

May we be found faithful to the biblical mandate of sending Bible-saturated missionaries.

May God raise up those who will go, make us a church that sacrificially sends, and may Christ be glorified as His Word goes forth in power to every people.