



God's Glory in MISSIONS

Lesson 4: A Historical Foundation for Missions

Review

Introduction

When did the history of missions begin? _____

Why study Missions History?

- Helps us avoid the mistakes of the past and learn from successes
- Helps us stay humble
- Helps us to be aware of our own blindness and presuppositions
- Helps us gain inspiration from those who have gone before
- Reminds us that we are not alone

THE FIRST 1800 YEARS

Missions in the Early Church (30 – 300)

Acts 2:5, 'Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.'

As the church grew so did persecution (Acts 8:1)

As the church grew so did its focus (Acts 9:15)

As the church grew its center changed (Acts 11:19, 26)

Missions after Constantine (313 – 500)

Results from the Edict of Milan:

- Persecution of Christians ceased
- Immense growth in the church
- Tribal areas were evangelized

Some Major Names

- Martin of Tours
- John Chrysostom
- Patrick of Ireland

The role of Monasticism

A Thousand Years of Uncertainty (450 – 1450)

- Missionary efforts waned
- Islam grew
- The Crusades occurred (beginning 1095)
- Church did not move beyond Europe

Roman Catholic Missions before the Reformation (1450)

- Spain and Portugal desire global domination (Pope Alexander V)
- The Jesuits

Missions and the Protestant Reformation (1500)

Luther and Calvin (very little missionary effort)

- a. Different focus b. Little geo. knowledge c. Did not believe in it

Anabaptists

Reformation Results

- a. Bible Translations b. Printing press c. True gospel

Protestant Missions (1600-1700)

Danish Missions

- Method:
 - Learn the language and translate Scriptures into that language
 - Evangelize in the native language
 - Train local men to teach their own people

Moravian Missions

- Method:
 - Personal evangelism and Scripture translation
 - Support themselves with a trade and work amongst them

Missions in North America

- David Brainerd

THE LAST 200 YEARS

William Carey

- Method:
 - Scripture translation into native language
 - Understand the culture by studying literature, customs etc
 - Love and humility before those they seek to reach
 - Always accessible to preach and teach
 - Plant churches with national leaders
 - Establish churches that reflect the culture and community

Adoniram Judson

- Method:
 - Be culturally discerning
 - Translate Scriptures into native language
 - Don't expect quick results
 - Prepare for hardship

Lessons from the first 2000 years

- God is the primary worker
- The church is the proclaimer
- Preaching and teaching the Word
- Holding to good theology
- Love for the lost
- The focus is the expansion of the church
- Contextualization
- Sacrifice is required