

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Summary of “What is the Mission of the Church” by AJ Gibson

Christians are **sent** (Jn. 20:21) **to proclaim a gospel of repentance** (Lk. 24:46-48). They proclaim not merely the death and resurrection of Christ, but **Jesus’ global supremacy and lordship** (Rom. 10:9). The result of making disciples of all nations “**ties the disciple’s mission to God’s promises to bless ‘all nations’** through Abraham and his descendants (Gen. 18:18, 22:18).” Disciples are made through baptizing and teaching (Matt. 28:19-20). Baptism is “a public announcement of one’s faith in Jesus and glad submission to his kingship.” **Becoming a disciple involves embracing a new way of life.** Therefore, **Jesus’ followers “must be taught to observe all he commands.** His cosmic authority is to be expressed in every detail of their lives.” **This takes “time and commitment”** and is to take place inside a community of believers (Eph. 4:15). When “the gospel is proclaimed and rebels repent of their sin and are gathered into healthy churches where they obey Jesus and grow together into Christlike maturity,” **the result is worship.** “That’s the goal of our mission.”

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Read Psalm 96—How does obedience to this Psalm lead to things we've looked at in this article?

- Will be worshipping as we sing of Lord's mighty deeds; it will proclaim His glory to the ends of the earth
- Worship—method to fight sin

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1 Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. 3 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

- vv. 1-3 proclaim His salvation; His deeds – in order to do this, must believe that what He has said is true; must see His deeds and they must be glorious; working under God and for God and with God
- This should drive us to I Thess. 1:5 power of Spirit which produces the song
- Must see that power of God inside to change my heart to Rom. 8:29 be conformed to image of His Son
- Do the work under God, according to His Word to bring us to see His glorious work so that we can praise Him

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4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name;

- vv. 4-8 gives content of what is required in vv. 1-3 (who is God and why is He praiseworthy—what will you do about it)
- Individual acts of worship and then corporate
- v. 8 bring an offering—here, from not just necessity
- Acknowledge that God is glorious and respond on the right side of that glory without first making our own moral judgment about that glory

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Bring an offering and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire;

- Holiness—otherness in every way
- Something can't see, but should see, will see eventually because it is there
- Acknowledge that don't understand, overwhelming—but then hear God's commandments and see them as a starting point for acknowledging Him (Deut. 10:12-13)
- Acknowledging that our ceiling for worship is always too low
- There must be wisps that capture our attention but they point to much more (splendor of holiness)

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10 Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”

- Willingness to open your mouth about this great God
- Must acknowledge that He created the world and has Creator’s rights—Rom. 1:19-20
- God’s justice cannot be swayed—brings hope as we look to eternity for trustworthiness—then can look to God in the past and see His hand
- Governments will have their time and their successes and failures—God’s kingdom purposes will stand

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11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, and all it contains; 12 Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy 13 Before the LORD, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness.

- Listen to the rest of the earth proclaim the glory of God—then listen to what it is saying—the Lord is coming back
- We are smaller than we think—sea roars—whether we listen or not, it will do what God ordains for it
- All of them doing what they are supposed to do—doing it while they say that the Lord is coming back—this should focus us to do what God wants us to do because limited time

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FUTURE GRACE AND THE PURPOSE OF ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCLUSION PT. 1



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Why eight years in Future Grace?



Future Grace and the purpose of Adult Sunday School conclusion Pt. 1

- **How much should leader/leaders decide what is valuable and where we should focus and how much consideration should be given for people's preferences, opinions, or "felt needs"?**

Future Grace and the purpose of Adult Sunday School conclusion Pt. 1

- How much should leader/leaders decide what is valuable and where we should focus and how much consideration should be given for people's preferences, opinions, or "felt needs"?
- **What should a small church prioritize when don't have resources to accommodate everyone's felt needs?** Does everyone deserve the benefits of a large church where there are more opportunities for people to get what they think they need OR deserve to find church that fits their understanding of growth and service?

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- **What IS the skeleton and flesh of a healthy church?**

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- **What DOES healthy spiritual growth look like?**

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- **What is the common mission for ALL Christians?**

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- **How do we determine value?** If we value the wrong things, how do we change focus in a godly way?

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Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 1:27

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Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Philippians 2:1–2

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Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1–6

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- What is the common mission for ALL Christians?
- How do we determine value? If we value the wrong things, how do we change focus in a godly way?
- **What does it mean to know/trust God's Word in a way that leads to worship, obedience, contentment, and whole-hearted faithfulness in service for God's kingdom together with those God assembles and not by ourselves or with those we imagine?**

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- **How do we biblically change focus and values so it results with us walking worthy of the gospel together as outlined in Philippians 1:27?**

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**Let's publicly process. Any thoughts that would be helpful as you listen?
(undeveloped thoughts, questions)**



What problems might occur if the people you are tied together with for life and ministry don't have a common history or common understanding of normal Christian life or our mission together?

