



Links Players

On Mission - The Mandate & Motivation of Missions

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad...
(Psalm 67: 1-4, ESV)

It boggles the mind to consider the game's explosive growth expanding across the globe, especially with the entirely unexpected announcement on Tuesday of the merger between the PGA, DP, and LIV Golf Tours.

For all the hubbub surrounding this news—and plenty of that is swirling around—we should step back from it all and consider the global claims of Jesus Christ; we stand in awe at the infinite and immense scope of Christ's territorial claims.

Consider that Christ has been given all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18-20). That is to say, Jesus Christ has the "title deed" to all the world; it legally belongs to him by right of Creation and Redemption (Romans 4:13; Hebrews 1:1-2).

However, it is also an obvious historical fact that the world's nations refuse to bow their knees to this reality (Psalm 2). How do we make sense of this?

For one, it is wrong-headed to conclude that the world belongs to the enemy. According to Scripture, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...." (Psalm 24: 1, ESV).

Paradoxically, it is also true that "Satan is the god of this world...." (2 Corinthians 4:4).

He is trespassing on the land (the earth) that belongs to Yahweh! Therefore, Satan is merely a little-g-god over the world system of unbelieving men and women. He is certainly not governing a Christian's life. To be sure, Satan is not Sovereign over the affairs of the nations; God is!

This massive gap between what legally belongs to Christ and the stubborn refusal by the nations to submit to Jesus' rule is where the Church's missional efforts play an essential and pivotal role.

The church's mandate is not to go forth in military might to reclaim what belongs to King Jesus; rather, we are to advance his kingdom through communicating the gospel in the power of the Spirit.

Regarding our motivation for the church's global mission, John Piper writes, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is! Missions exist because worship doesn't."

At a minimum, Piper makes two critically important points: 1) We join God "on mission" to bring unbelievers into the "white-hot" worship of God through Jesus Christ; worship is ultimate, not missions, and 2) When we are not "on mission" with God, it is usually because we are not in "white-hot" worship of God.

It is virtually impossible to commend what one does not cherish! Thus, worship is both the fuel and the goal of missions!

Prayer: Father, cause us to see your beauty and worship! Cause us to invest our lives in the mission of God so that others may delight in the joy of worship!

READING - Psalm 67; Galatians 3:1-14

OPENING QUESTIONS: When you have a great round, do you remain silent or tell friends and family about it?

1. Psalm 67 is about the immeasurable gift of having God's favor/blessing. For the Psalmist, what is the goal of desiring God's blessings? How does that apply to us?

2. In Galatians 3:1-14, Paul refers to the story of Abraham. A) How many times does he refer to the Spirit? Why is that important as it relates to missions? B) Through whom will the blessings of Abraham come to the nations?

3. From today's devotional, what is the primary goal of missions? What is the fuel for missions? Discuss the practical implications of both.
