

PRAYER

- Pray for the missionaries that we have in the nations, that God would keep them, provide for them, and bless them with the fullness of the gospel.



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CONNECT

- When was the last time you met a person from a different culture or nation? What did you do to make him or her feel welcome?
- What particular culture or nation are you fascinated with and would want to learn more about?
- If you were in an unfamiliar place and language is clearly a barrier, what would you do to compensate or overcome that barrier?

WORD

²¹But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3: 21-24

WHAT

What does the Bible say?

In Christ, both Jews and Gentiles can now partake of everything offered through the gospel (Ephesians 3:6) as long as they put their faith in the Person and finished work of Jesus. As people who live for God, our message should be about what Jesus has done and that it is beyond culture and race. The Apostle Paul has actively preached this gospel especially to the Gentiles. Let us learn his perspective as we share the same message.

- **We are Christ's ambassadors.**

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Be reconciled to God" is the summary of the gospel message Paul proclaims to unbelievers. This is the very message we ought to bring not only to the people around us but to the people of all nations as well. We ought to be "global Christians," faithful where we are but with our eyes to the world. Why do we need to concern ourselves with people from other nations (Matthew 28:19,20)?

- **Sensitivity and relevance result to acceptance and moral authority.**

²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9: 22

Paul was a Jew and valued his Jewish heritage. Though aware that his ethnicity no longer defines him as a Christian, he was careful enough not to alienate his own people so he can still share the gospel to them.

In the same way, with careful thought and wisdom, we must find how we can be relevant to the people or culture we are in so we can still engage them with our message. What do missionaries usually do first when sent to a new nation? Why do you think is this necessary and why should we think the same?

- **We do this to share in the blessings of the gospel.**

I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:23

Our calling as followers of Jesus is tied to His commission for His disciples, which was to make disciples of all nations. The Apostle Paul knows this and the blessing that comes as this is obeyed. While making disciples is one thing that we can and ought to do wherever we are, making disciples of nations is also something we need to own as a calling. How can we make disciples of all nations wherever we are now?

SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- How does the fact that you are called by Christ to be His ambassador to the people around you and the nations affect you?
- We are called to adapt Paul's strategy to engage our culture. How can you do this?
- Our personal calling is tied to our obedience to Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations." What do you think about statement?

NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- To be an ambassador for Christ, first you have to "belong to Christ" (Ephesians 1:13). If you want to know how, speak to your Victory Group leader about this.
- What practical step can you immediately take to reach out to people of a different culture or nation this week?
- How can you "make disciples of all nations" now? How can you be a part of what our church is doing in response to the Great Commission?