

# *Biblical Theology of Missions*



*Classroom Hours:* 24 (minimum)

*Description/Overview:* This course proves the mandate for world evangelism encompasses the entire Bible. It traces the biblical theology of missions throughout God's Word and establishes missions as a central theme.

*Objectives:*

At the end of this course of study, students will be able to:

1. Define and describe what is meant by a biblical theology of missions. Some erroneously think that the mandate for missions began with the Great Commission. Prove that the missionary mandate began in the Book of Genesis, is a central theme throughout the entire Bible, and that the Bible begins with missions and maintains that theme throughout its entirety.

2. Reveal the main characters of life's drama established by the close of Genesis 3. Genesis 3:15 is considered to be the mother of all mission's promises. Explain why this statement is true.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of why Genesis 12:1-3, and the promises given to Abraham, are vital to the understanding of the Bible and of missions. Discuss this mission's significance statement, "We are blessed to be a blessing." Identify and debate the longstanding connection between the Gospel and the covenant given to Abraham.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the everlasting covenant given to David and its relevance in any discussion of missions.
5. Determine why the Psalms has been acclaimed as one of the greatest missionary books.
6. Explain, using Scriptures, why Isaiah can be considered the great evangel prophet of the Old Testament.
7. Explain how Pentecost, a harvest festival, was significant to the urgency of evangelism. Show, using Scriptures, that God's plan for evangelism included reaching Gentiles. Prove that "witnessing" was a key concept throughout the Book of Acts.
8. Describe how Pentecostals, from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have always had a burning desire to evangelize the world. Our vision is to every tribe and nation: Jesus. We have always had a desire to send the message, train the messengers, and to establish indigenous churches in every nation.
9. Research and report on what the United Pentecostal Church International; your national church; your local church is doing to fulfill the task of world evangelism.
10. Propose the need for regional missionaries within the United Pentecostal Church International. Uncover why having regional missionaries will never do away with the need of having North-American or western-based or sent missionaries. Explain the role of western-missionaries in regional missionary development.
11. Suggest reasons why (national or local) churches are not eagerly involved in missions and what can be done to reverse each. Develop a mission's strategy or plan for your local church or national church organization. Outline the steps involved in transforming our missionary fields to missionary forces.

12. Larry Pate once said, “Sending a missionary without training is like commissioning a carpenter without tools.” Discuss various areas of education that can be provided in training regional missionaries. Also indicate how training or exposure to the need for missions and missionaries can be provided in Sunday school for children and in the local church.

## *Topics / Concepts:*

At times a long list can cause one to be a little fearful. A solid burden and vision for missions falls short if dependent on feelings alone. It must be anchored in God’s Word and His desires. In short, despite a long list of concepts, what needs to be kept in mind in this course is tracing missions as a central theme of God’s Word. This list merely exemplifies this basic point. We are on a journey, through God’s Word, and our destination is Revelation 5:9; 7:9. The list merely identifies milestones and directional markers along the way. They keep us on the right road. Enjoy the journey!

- Missions is the central theme of the Bible
- Defining the Biblical theology of missions
- Genesis 3:15
- Covenant of Abraham and missions
- Covenant of David and missions
- Scriptures that emphasize blessing the nations
- Psalms as a missionary book
- Isaiah as an evangelist to the nations
- Witnessing in the Book of Acts
- Pentecost and Missions
- John 4:35
- Matthew 9:38
- Acts 1:8
- Gentiles in the church
- 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pentecostals and Missions
- Regional Missionary Program

- Revelation 5:9; 7:9
- Great Commission
- Missio Dei
- Establishing a program for missions locally and nationally
- Overview of the missions program of the UPCI
- Expanding the global work force
- Missions and missionary education

### *Recommended Primary Textbook(s):*

*Biblical Theology of Missions (James G. Poitras)*

### *Recommended Alternatives:*

### *Recommended Supplementary Textbook(s):*

### *Overview of Lessons available in the Recommended Primary Textbook:*

- Discovering the Heart of Missions
- Discovering the King of Missions
- Discovering the Fire Still Falls
- Discovering the Wall has been Torn Down
- Discovering our Role in Keeping with God's Heartbeat

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*Languages Available:*

The primary textbook is available in Spanish

*Course Packet Resources:*

*Comments:*

*Date of Last Revision:*

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