

## He Gives Us A New Mission

### Study Questions

July 31, 2016

Colossians 4:2-6

#### **ICE BREAKER**

**Discuss:** What mission or goal have you worked hardest on in your life? A diploma? A date? A job promotion? Forgiving someone? Learning a language?

#### **LESSON REVIEW**

##### **Read Colossians 4:2-6.**

*If mission is the alerting of people to the reign of God through Christ, our mandate is to do whatever is required in the circumstances to both demonstrate and announce that kingship. We feed the hungry because in the world to come, there will be no such thing as starvation. We share Christ because in the world to come, there will be no such thing as unbelief. Both are the fashioning of foretastes of that world to come, none more or less valid or important than the other.*

*– Michael Frost*

In another place in the same book, Michael Frost describes the mission of the church this way:

*Imagine a friend locked in a small room. This room is dirty, dusty, full of clutter. In fact, the dirt is so substantial that the windows in the room are completely and totally covered in grime, so much so that no light from the outside is able to enter the room. Outside the room, the sun is beginning to rise. A beautiful sunrise is quickly developing. Your friend has never seen a sunrise. What would you do to show the beauty of the developing sunrise to your friend? Clean the window! Cleaning the window would allow your friend the ability to see a sunrise for the first time. But the grime is so thick that cleaning the window takes time. At first, your friend is only able to see a gradual brightening in the room. Then little bits of orange colored light begin to shine through. As you clean, more and more of the beautiful sight outside becomes visible and the beauty of the sunrise becomes reality for your friend.*

Frost's point is that all humans live under the current and universal reign of Jesus. Jesus reigns over every part of humanity – even the dark and grimy parts. Indeed, the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. The role of the missionary is simply to alert people to this truth. To clean windows

so that they can see what kind of world they really live in – one more beautiful than their darkened experience suggests.

**Discuss:** What do you think of Frosts' definition of mission? Is it accurate? Biblical? How would you define the mission of God?

**PRAY: Have holy conversations daily with the God of heaven.**

Andy said we should talk to God daily about the people we're becoming and about the people we are serving. Prayer works on both fronts: it makes us more like Jesus and more devoted to his mission. And it opens doors to share the good news. In another IBC sermon, Barry Jones said, "Before we talk to people about God, we must talk to God about people."

**Discuss:** What kind of person are you becoming? Who are you praying for?

**SHARE: Have holy conversations daily with the people around you.**

Wisdom means having conversations, not performing monologues. This means listening. If we expect someone to learn the tenets of our belief, we should be willing to learn the tenets of theirs.

**Discuss:** Think of the person you just said you're praying for. Can you explain their most basic beliefs about God and the nature of reality?

Grace means taking an interest in people's lives, not closing a sale.

**Discuss:** What opportunities to share have you had recently?

### **APPLICATION**

Andy closed by saying that the mission of God is not just for preachers and not just for organizations. We must not be content with letting preachers do our sharing. And we must not be content with giving our money to missional projects. As Christians, we are called to join the mission personally.

**Discuss:** Andy counted 21 people with whom he is having ongoing spiritual conversations. Count yours.

As you pray for those people this week, write down what you know about their beliefs. Then seek to add to your understanding as you ask probing questions and listen to their answers.