

Psalm 96:3-13

Why have we been in a series called “Reformation” for the month of October?

1. The Protestant reformation is recognized as beginning October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg Germany.
2. He sparked a Reformation that spread throughout Europe to France (John Calvin), Scotland (John Knox), England (William Tyndale), Switzerland (Ulrich Zwingli) and more and beyond.

Five statements distinguished the theology of the Reformation from the theology of the Roman Catholic church in the 16th century: We know these statements as the 5 Solas. We have already seen...

1. *Sola scriptura*: Scripture alone is God’s inspired, inerrant, sufficient, and final authority for the church.
2. *Solus Christus*: Christ alone is the way the ungodly are justified
3. *Sola fide*: the belief that Christians receive the redemption Christ has accomplished through faith alone.
4. *Sola gratia*....grace alone...which affirms that *all* of our salvation, from beginning to end, is by grace and grace alone.

This morning, we conclude our series with *Soli Deo gloria*...Glory to God alone! This sola is a reminder that God alone receives glory, and all the glory for our salvation.

1. Every single aspect of salvation is His doing and therefore He gets all the praise and glory.
2. In addition to Him being given all the glory for all of our salvation, He is also glorified, praised, and honored by those He saves!
3. Saved souls glorify God both because HE has done it and because those saved souls become worshippers of Him. Enemies are made worshippers!
4. And...he is glorified as the saved persevere in making more worshippers of Him through evangelism, discipling, and missions.
5. *Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.* Piper

I want us to consider the glory of God...and glorifying God from this angle...the angle of missions in Psalm 93.

I. The Message of Missions

The message of missions is what you say...it is what you tell. We see it here in our text.

1. Tell His glory v3a

Tell of His glory among the nations,

- a. Speak of the glory, majesty, and supremacy of God!
- b. Notice this perspective doesn't start with, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." It starts with God!
 1. God is love
 2. God is wonderful
 3. God is Lord and sovereign over your life.
 4. He is worthy!
- c. The message of missions is telling HIS glory. We have a great God.
- d. *Since God fills heaven and earth with his presence, we should fill heaven and earth with his glory.* Charnock

2. Tell His work v3b

His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

- a. Think of all the mighty works of God that are listed in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation
- b. Think of all the mighty works of Christ listed in the gospels.
- c. There is so much to tell of His works in our lives and our experience as well.
- d. But A #1 is His greatest work: THE GOSPEL
 1. Solus Christus
 2. Sola Fide
 3. Sola Gratia
- e. Tell His work of the gospel!
- f. Romans 10:13-15 *"WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."* 14 *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent?*

3. Say He Reigns v10

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."

- a. Our God reigns
- b. Psalm 93

II. The Purpose of Missions v4-6

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.

1. He is worthy of fear and praise and glory and glory and strength and offerings and worship
 - a. Those who do not know him are not giving him the praise and reverence He deserves
 - b. Instead they are giving it to idols, false gods...literally nothings!

2. Isaiah 44:9-17

- a. This is what the nations give glory to!
 - b. While splendor and majesty are before the One True God.
 - c. What do we give the glory to? What do we give our time to, our energy to, our resources to...our best to? A statue of wood or stone??
 1. Our job? \$\$?
 2. Social media?
 3. Entertainment?
 4. Sports or hobbies?
 5. What nothings compared to Christ?! For every one of those things will burn up on the last day....every single one.
3. The purpose of mission is to move people from giving glory and praise to nothings, whether idols of wood or stone, or things, gadgets, pleasure, or money...and lead them to give that glory and praise to the One True God who is worthy!

III. The End of missions

1. All peoples worship v7-10

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; Bring an offering and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. 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."

- a. All peoples...not all people...but all peoples worship Him
- b. People from every nation, tongue and tribe ascribe glory to the Lord!
- c. They bring offerings and worship Him in holy attire!

1. Revelation 7:9-10 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."*
2. Not only do very diverse people glorify the One True God, but the very diversity of the people, in and of itself, glorifies Him!
3. *There is something about God that is so universally praiseworthy and so profoundly beautiful and so comprehensively worthy and so deeply satisfying that God will find passionate admirers in every diverse people group in the world. His true greatness will be manifest in the breadth of the diversity of those who perceive and cherish his beauty. His excellence will be shown to be higher and deeper than the parochial preferences that make us happy most of the time. His appeal will be to the deepest, highest, largest capacities of the human soul. Thus, the diversity of the source of admiration will testify to his incomparable glory. Piper*

2. All Creation worships v11-12

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.

- a. All creation in heaven and on earth worships Him!
- b. Revelation 5
- c. Psalm 66:4 *All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.*

3. Even those who face Judgment will glorify Him v13

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.

- a. Christ is coming to judge the world
 1. Those on His right will enter into His peace
 2. Those on His left will enter destruction
 3. But all of them will give Him glory
- b. Philippians 2:10 *at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Sola Deo Gloria

1. *As we seek to find out why, with such millions of Christians, the real army of God that is fighting the hosts of darkness is so small, the only answer is—lack of heart. The enthusiasm of the kingdom is missing. And that is because there is so little enthusiasm for the King. Andrew Murray*
2. If you love the glory of God, you cannot be indifferent or apathetic towards evangelism, discipling, and missions.
 - a. This is how we advance the kingdom...and acknowledge His glory
 - b. By making more acknowledgers of His glory!
 - c. This is the ultimate goal of missions: sola deo gloria.
3. *“The highest of missionary motive is neither obedience to the Great Commission (important as that is), nor love for sinners who are alienated and perishing (strong as that incentive is, especially when we contemplate the wrath of God . . .), but rather zeal—burning and passionate zeal—for the glory of Jesus Christ. . . . Only one imperialism is Christian . . . and that is concern for His Imperial Majesty Jesus Christ, and for the glory of his empire.” Piper*

Paris Reidhead, in his sermon *2 Shekels and a Shirt* tells the following story about 2 young Moravians that illustrates the ultimate “why” of missions.

In the late 1700's a British planter owned an entire island in the West Indies off the coast of South America. Several thousand slaves toiled in the sugar cane fields under the burning sun. The atheist planter vowed that no missionary would ever set foot on the island to talk about God. He had said, "No preacher, no clergyman, will ever stay on this island. If he's ship wrecked we'll keep him in a separate house until he has to leave, but he's never going to talk to any of us about God."

3000 slaves were doomed to live and die without hearing of Christ.

Two young German Moravians heard of the island. They sold themselves to the British planter for the standard price for a male slave used the money they received for their sale to purchase passage to the West Indies. The Moravian community came to see the two young men off, who would never return again, having freely sold themselves into a lifetime of slavery.

Family members were emotional, weeping. As the ship slipped away with the tide and the gap widened. The housings had been cast off and were curled up on the pier. The young men saw the widening gap. They linked arms, raised their hands and shouted across the spreading gap "*May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering.*"

We go so that the Lamb may receive the full reward of His suffering.