

**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 1
Foundations of Spiritual Growth**

Week 1: The Big Picture

INTRODUCTION

(Eph. 4:11,12) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...

Purpose of this course:

Unit 1: Foundations of Spiritual Growth

Unit 2: Dynamics of Spiritual Growth

Unit 3: Provisions for Spiritual Growth

Unit 4: Challenges & Opportunities of Spiritual Growth

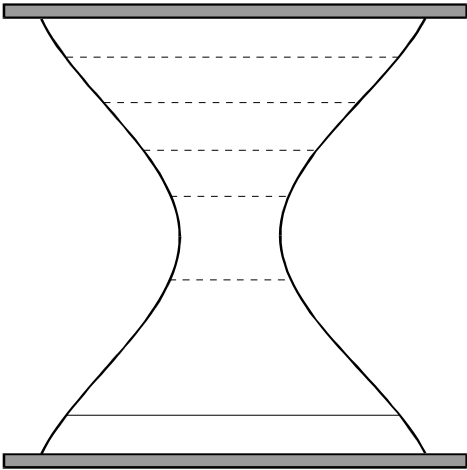
Take note!

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FOUR STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CENTRALITY OF MISSIONS

Definition: God's core purpose for humanity: His plan to redeem lost humanity and to reestablish his rule through Jesus. This plan of God is called "the blessing" in many parts of the Bible.

1. Missions is the central plot of the Bible.



The Old Testament: The blessing promised

(Gen. 3:15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

- WHO:

- WHAT:

(Gen.12:1-3)** The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. (2) I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- WHO:

- WHAT:

(Gen. 49:8-10) Judah, your brothers will praise you; your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you. (9) You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness--who dares to rouse him? (10) The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

- WHO:

- WHAT:

(1 Chron. 17:11-14) When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring (seed) to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. (12) He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. (13) I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. (14) I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.

- WHO:

- WHAT:

Jesus' First Coming: The blessing of redemption fulfilled

Matt. 1

The gospels record:

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The Church Age: Our role in spreading the blessing of redemption

(Matt. 28:18-20*) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

(Rev. 7:9,10) After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (10) And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Jesus' Second Coming: The blessing of redemption & rulership consummated

(Rev. 20:4) I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

(Rev. 22:3-5) No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

2. Missions is the central plot of history, within the biblical period and beyond.

- **God is sovereignly working through history to accomplish his purpose**

(Eph. 1:10,11) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (11) In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...

Biblical Examples

Joseph:

Jesus:

- **The obedience of the church affects the length of human history.**

(Matt. 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

(2 Pet. 3:12) ...as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

So what?

3. Missions is the primary purpose of the church.

Xenos Mission Statement:

God has called on the church to cooperate with him as he reconciles the world to himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). Therefore, Xenos Christian Fellowship exists to help people learn to draw close to God. This work begins by inviting people to receive the gift of forgiveness offered through Christ.

We are committed to fostering spiritual growth by encouraging people to respond to God's love through loving service toward God and all people. Specifically, we direct our resources to serving the family, the non-Christian community locally and internationally, and the broader Christian community.

4. Missions is a key to victorious Christian living.

(John 12:24,25) I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (25) The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

(Mark 8:34,35) Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Any spirituality which merely develops and fulfills the individual, and does not focus on God's mission, is unbiblical and therefore doomed to failure and disappointment.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

Xenos Vision Statement:

Xenos has set out to build a highly trained, sophisticated, caring, leadable, cohesive, committed, and flexible work-force of Christian servants who continually strive to serve the Lord and do his will.

Memory Verses

(Gen.12:1-3)** - The Abrahamic covenant, in which God promised to provide his redemptive blessing to the world through Abraham's descendants. Key elements of the promise: land, nationhood, personal blessing, and all the nations blessed through one of Abraham's descendants.

(Matt. 28:18-20*) - The Great Commission, in which Jesus commands the church to both evangelize and instruct people from every people group.

ASSIGNMENT

Complete the assignment on God's attributes.