

10-1-17
THE MISSING INGREDIENT
SACRIFICE AND MISSIONS

Every year during the month of October we set aside this whole month to promote what we call Missions, which is really the great commission. As my custom every year I give some messages on the subject of being about the great commission. We are commanded to do so by Christ.

When He said.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The actual word mission means to be sent. Though the word missionary does not appear in the Bible, it is a biblical concept. The word means sent one.

Jesus said so send I you.

When we talk about missions, we are talking about the duty of sending out men of God as messengers of God, to do the work of sharing the gospel message and planting a church of like faith around the world.

THREE ASPECTS OF MISSIONS:

This is also called the great commission.

1. GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL.
2. COMMAND THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL TO BE BAPTIZED.
3. COMMAND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED TO BE TAUGHT ALL THINGS.
Establish Churches.

This is the great commission or mission of the church.

Three aspects of Missions:

1. TO SEEK THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION.
Locally our Jerusalem, thru local church.
2. TO SEEK THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION IN OUR SURROUNDING AREAS JUDEA & SAMARIA thru local church extensions and church planting.
3. TO SEEK THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION AROUND THE WORLD.
Through missionary outreach.

WE NEED TO MUTI TASK. DO ALL THREE AT THE SAME TIME.

Now, when we think of this mission of the great commission, historically we think of one thing.

We think of men and women who have dedicated their lives to God.

We think of men and women who have left family and friends and country.

We think of great servants of God who traversed lands and seas to bring the good news of salvation to people who have never heard this message.

We think of people like:

Jim Elliot who in order to reach an isolated people risked his life, and even sacrificed his life so others could be reached with the Gospel.

Many Years ago, a Korean missionary came to our store to purchase a digital piano for his mission work. We were talking about the decline of the church in America. He said to me that the reason the Church in the US is not experiencing revival is because they do not know the meaning of Sacrifice.

He said, the Korean Church knows what it is to sacrifice because it has gone through persecution.

This true story dates back to the time when North Korea and South Korea were engaged in a big conflict. As a result Christian preachers were targeted by the Communists. In such a tense situation a group of 40 activists kidnapped a preacher, his wife and two children. They took them to the outskirts of the city.

They tried to force the preacher to deny Christ and demanded that he will no longer preach that Jesus Christ is Lord. But the preacher refused. They threatened him saying that they would bury him, his wife, and children alive. But the preacher did not budge. As if to prove that they were serious, they started digging a hole right in front of them. But they could not get a word out of him. This aroused their anger and they placed the four of them in the hole.

Now they began playing on his emotions. "Because of your stubbornness your innocent children are going to die right in front of your own eyes. Deny Christ and we shall leave you". But the preacher did not relent. Finally they started filling up the hole. Still the preacher remained unmoved. The hole was filled up gradually and now the children were about to be covered. Slowly the preacher started getting shaky. He was torn between emotions. The cries of his little children moved him. But realizing this the preacher's wife told him, "Within a little while we shall all be with our Lord forever. Be bold and do not give up." These words encouraged him and he did not relent. As a result all of them were buried alive. The news of this tragedy shocked many. The Christians of South Korea were shaken. "Why did God allow this to happen? The preacher preached about Christ. He was killed. What wrong did his wife and children do?" These were the questions that rent the air. The preachers were confused and found it difficult to answer these questions. Years rolled by. This was the time of the great revival in South Korea.

One day during a service in one of the larger churches of south Korea.. a man rose up and told the surprised audience that he was one among the 40 persons who buried the preacher and his family and he proceeded to explain the details of the gory incident. He said that he was moved by the courage and conviction of the preacher who did not deny Christ even at the point of death. He had wanted to know who that Jesus was and in the process he had been convicted and had accepted Christ as his Savior. It took many years to understand why God had permitted that incident. God had used the death of those 4 people save 40 more. Martyrs of Christ are never buried, they are sown.

When we think of missions we think of Missionaries around the world who gave their lives for the cause of Christ.

***THIS MORNING I WANT TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT SACRIFICING FOR THE CAUSE OF MISSIONS.***

Sir Winston Churchill: Quotes on Sacrifice.
I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.

Nathan Hale: Quotes on Sacrifice.
I regret that I have but one life to give for my country.

Erich Fromm: Quotes on Sacrifice.
Not he who has much is rich, but he who gives much.

Albert Einstein: Quotes on Sacrifice.
Only a life lived for others is worth living.

If anyone is crazy enough to want to kill a president of the United States, he can do it. All he must be prepared to do is give his life for the president's.

John F. Kennedy

Nothing so much enhances a good as to make sacrifices for it.
George Santayana

The pig and the chicken were on their way to breakfast, trying to decide what to have. When chicken said, "Let's have ham and eggs." The pig then replied, "That's fine for you, it's a small donation on your part, but it's a total sacrifice for me."

They never fail who die in a great cause.
Lord Byron

Sacrifice is the key ingredient necessary to see Missions succeed..

Darrel Champlin told me that to be accepted in by his mission board as a missionary, each missionary had to sign a pledge that they would be willing to give their life, if necessary, for the cause of Christ on the mission field.

This is missions month, and all month we are going to be talking about the great commission. Every Wednesday we have guest missionary speakers who will be coming in and speaking to

us about missions. We are going to challenge you this month to be faithful stewards in the area of giving.. not only to missions but also in the giving of your tithes to support local missions through this church.

However, the first missionary message I want to preach, this the first day of the month is concerning the most important ingredient of all when it comes to missions. **THAT INGREDIENT IS THE INGREDIENT OF SACRIFICE.**

I. THE REASON THAT SACRIFICE IS CENTRAL TO MISSIONS IS BECAUSE CHRIST'S MISSION ITSELF WAS TO COME AND BE OUR SACRIFICE.

1. IN DESCRIBING WHY CHRIST CAME TO EARTH .. THE BIBLE SAYS

Christ's own mission was to come into this world and be a sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

I Corinthians 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

WHY DID GOD TAKE ON FLESH?

HE TOOK ON FLESH TO BE OUR SACRIFICE..

ALL THE SACRIFICES OF SCRIPTURE ARE A PICTURE OF HIS SACRIFICE TO COME.

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

2. HIS SACRIFICE WAS NECESSARY TO PAY FOR OUR SIN.

Why is our economy in such a state?

Everyone wants something for nothing.

No one wants to make sacrifices.. today.

Remember a day when a great president of our country made this statement:

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY. "

We've come a long way, the wrong way.

Today we are in a economic disaster and who is called to bail out wall street? THE GOVERNMENT. But where does the government get it's money? THEY JUST PRINT UP MORE AND ONE DAY THAT WILL BACKFIRE.

Why did Jesus have to come to earth and pay the price of our sin?

It was because God had to balance the budget of heaven and pay our mortgage payment for that mansion he wants us to have in heaven.

3. NOTE WHAT CHRIST SACRIFICES FOR US.

A. Jesus who was rich became poor so we could be rich.

CEO's of the world get rich on the sacrifices of others.
Christ made us rich with His sacrifice.

Political leaders stay safe while they send our young men off to die.
Jesus allowed His disciples to remain safe while He gave His life for us.

CHRIST SACRIFICED FOR US.

The problem we see today is that everyone wants someone else to sacrifice.

The problem with Wall Street is that the CEO's and economic leaders of this nation have an eat drink and be merry mentality.

1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Without a Christian ethic and a firm belief in divine accountability, equity, honesty, and accountability go out the window.

A few years back, we had bailout after bailout.. Our government bailed out GM, the Banks, in fact, as of today there have been 974 bailout recipients.

If Obama had not doubled the national debt we would be in a economic depression no different than the great depression of the 1930's. Before the 1930's it was nothing for our nation to at times have a surplus in its budget.

We have developed a mentality that has no concept of sacrifice.

In fact God uses terms that relate to debt to describe our spiritual condition when it comes to sin. We had a sin debt to pay and Jesus came to earth to pay that debt. The debt had to be paid.

SACRIFICE DESCRIBES WHY CHRIST CAME TO EARTH.

When the Bible uses the word LOVE, AGAPE.

WE REALIZE THIS WORD IS WRAPPED UP IN THE IDEA OF SACRIFICE.

God so loved us that He gave Himself for us.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Jesus said his love was made manifest in his sacrifices for his friends.

And then we can say because he loved, we love.

BECAUSE HE SACRIFICED, WE SACRIFICE.

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

3. THINK ABOUT WHO CHRIST SACRIFICED FOR: WE WHO WERE AND ARE SINNERS.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Romans 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Think about who Christ died for, you and me.

When on the cross, they mocked and scourged Him.
He said, Father forgive them they know not what they do.

Missionary Otto Loning, tells the story called "The Pineapple story.." of how he needed to surrender his rights with the natives that he was ministering to. As the natives stole his Pine apples he was getting angry at them. He realized that he needed to surrender or sacrifice his rights, in order to minister to those people. His testimony is a wonderful testimony about what kind of people some missionaries had to reach and what kind of people they need to be to reach them.

Jesus sacrificed to reach us. We need to sacrifice to reach others.

II. SINCE HE SACRIFICED, AS PART OF HIS MISSION, WE SHOULD SACRIFICE TO OBEY OUR MISSION GIVEN BY HIM ALSO.

Imagine when God called Paul the Apostle to be saved and preach the gospel. The first thing that was said about him to Ananias was this:

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

It is only reasonable that we follow in His footsteps.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

HOW DO WE?

There are two sacrifices that each of us should give.

1. WE SHOULD SACRIFICE OF OUR TIME TO TELL OTHERS OF THE MESSAGE.

We need to tell others about the news that He came to reconcile this world to Himself.

WHAT IS ALL HISTORY ABOUT? WE SEE MEN BY NATURE ARE RUNNING FROM GOD!

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Men are running from God, hiding from God.

Trying to escape the knowledge of God.

Making a total mess of things.

The first missionary was God Himself who came to Adam with the message of reconciliation and offered a sacrifice and covering for their sin.

2. In the Garden, Christ came to Fallen mankind with terms of reconciliation thru blood atonement.

This was the first sacrifice for sin.

3. After that the second time we see men making a sacrifice we read about Cain and Abel.

CAIN BROUGHT HIS SACRIFICE.

ABLE BROUGHT HIS SACRIFICE.

NOT ONLY DOES MISSIONS REQUIRE A SACRIFICE, IT REQUIRES THE RIGHT KIND OF SACRIFICE!!!

There are many bringing the fruit of their hands, good works, things that look good to them. The sacrifice must be based on the right message.

4. *SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER all kind of things missions.*

Some think as long as you are doing good works it is legitimately missions. NO NO NO NO.

The proper sacrifices of missions must be to share a proper message. It is not missions if there is not a proper Gospel preached.

Why will you invest and sacrifice for something that is only temporal.

Why did God reject Cain's sacrifice? It was the wrong kind of sacrifice. The only thing worth sacrificing for is that sacrifice that points people to the ultimate sacrifice, which is the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is why Abel's sacrifice was accepted, it spoke of our Lord's sacrifice to come. Heb. 12:24 says that the blood of Abel's sacrifice pointed to the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus would make someday!

5. *In missions there are always those who sacrifice their time. There are those who sacrifice their Money.*

JESUS WAS RICH YET HE BECAME POOR FOR US.
Missions and giving go hand in hand.

We are all to go where we can go. Note when Jesus healed the maniac of Gedera, he wanted to go on the mission field with Jesus.

Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

Mark 5:19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Jesus wants some of us to go and tell to our friends and relatives and tell them what great things he has done for us.

So not all of us are called to go to a far away land to tell others. Some of us have the commission to tell our friends and neighbors what great things God has done for us.

BY THE WAY: God wants to do great things for you so you have something to tell them.

Yet the Bible tells us we need to be part of this commission to go into the whole world and preach the gospel.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We need to be part of this commission. We are all to give to those who can go where we cannot. This way we are all involved in this great commission.

We do this through our sacrificial giving.

Recently we took a few offerings and gave about \$700.00 to one of our missionaries in Texas to help give relief and share the gospel with people that are struggling in Texas from the hurricane disaster down there.

This was a good sacrificial offering for the Lord's work in Texas.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE SACRIFICES WE ARE TO MAKE TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION.

There are two ways to build a house.

You can literally hammer the nails yourself.

or

You can hire others to do it for you.

Now you are commanded to go into all the world.

You need to be willing to do that.

1. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO IT IF GOD CALLED YOU TO DO IT? Would you be willing to go?

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Who was that command given to:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2. There is no distinction between clergy and laity in the Bible.

We are all commanded to go.

We are all commanded to witness.

3. Example of the early church:

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

**4. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.
SO MISSIONS GIVING IS SUPPORTING THOSE WHO CAN GO WHERE YOU CANNOT.**

II Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

II Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

II Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

II Corinthians 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.

II Corinthians 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

II Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

IV. Understanding God's Pattern Of Giving.

Throughout Scripture there has been a pattern of giving.

That pattern consists of the:

- 1. GIVING OF THE TITHE.**
- 2. GIVING OF OFFERINGS.**
- 3. CONSIDER WHAT TITHING IS:**

Abraham gave tithes before the law so the pattern of tithing was there from the beginning.

It was a valid form of giving before the Mosaic law.

It is a valid form of giving now after the law..

Giving of the tithe, giving 10% of income to support local place of worship.

Ought to be systematic.

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

- 4. CONSIDER WHAT AN OFFERING IS:
AN OFFERING IS WHAT YOU GIVE FROM THE HEART ABOVE THE TITHE.
Not specified, you are not commanded to give it.**

Missions giving is more in line with giving an offering.

Each year we give a challenge.

BUT THAT CHALLENGE IS WRAPPED UP IN THE CONCEPT OF SACRIFICE.
CONSIDER:

- A. WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS GREAT COMMISSION?**
- B. WHAT SACRIFICES ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE?**
- C. WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM HIS HOUSE?**
- D. WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE TO BE PART OF BUILDING GOD'S CHURCH?**

HAVE YOU GIVEN OF YOURSELF????

II Corinthians 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

II Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

II Corinthians 8:3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

II Corinthians 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

II Corinthians 8:5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

NOW WHEN WE THINK OF MISSIONS THESE ARE THE KIND OF SACRIFICES WE THINK OF.

- V. WHAT KIND OF SACRIFICES ARE WE TO BE WILLING TO GIVE?
HOW DO WE MEASURE THESE SACRIFICES?**

To be an acceptable sacrifice they need to cost us something.

II Samuel 24:22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

II Samuel 24:23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

II Samuel 24:24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

II Samuel 24:25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

If there is no cost there is no sacrifice.

In fact David said, such cheap sacrifices are not acceptable to the Lord.

What do we have that we can sacrifice?
WHAT THINGS ARE VALUABLE TO US??

1. THREE AREAS OF SACRIFICE:

- A. Our Time.
- B. Our Labor.
- C. Our Money.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

We all treasure our time, our labor and our money. These are acceptable sacrifices.

When we think of the word Missions we think of sacrifice.

2. HOW DO WE SHOW OUR SACRIFICE OF TIME TO THE LORD?

We set apart the first of our time for the Lord. Sunday.
The first appointment of the week is to God.

It would be good that we would set apart the first of our time each day to Bible reading and prayer.

3. THE FIRST OF OUR LABOR, WE SHOULD SACRIFICE.

Love the Lord with all your mind, all your heart & strength.
We should serve the Lord in our youth, not wait till we get older.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Ecclesiastes 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

Ecclesiastes 12:3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

Ecclesiastes 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

So many think they will serve the Lord in a greater way when they retire.

NONSENSE.

4. SACRIFICES OF OUR MONEY.

The first appointment of the week is with God.

The first check we write in the week should be to God, first fruits.

NOTICE THE PATTERN OF GIVING.

A. GIVING OF HE TITHE.

B. GIVING OF OFFERINGS. As already mentioned.

Missions giving is more in line with giving an offering.

Each year we give a challenge.

BUT THAT CHALLENGE IS WRAPPED UP IN THE CONCEPT OF SACRIFICE.

How much do we sacrifice in the area of our giving.

We should consider this.

JESUS WHO WAS RICH BECAME POOR FOR US.

Missionaries are special people in my book. They are worth supporting. This month I am going to challenge you to consider supporting our missions work. I am going to challenge you to support this local church. This is your local mission field. I am going to challenge you to give the first day of the week to the Lord.. We are working together to win your family and friends to the Lord.. But we also partner together to support preachers around the world that are doing the same thing that we are doing here. As we gather together in this local church we do it as a group effort.. This is not the Pastor doing a solo. This is not my church, it is Christ's Church and we are all part of that church.

THE KEY INGREDIENT FOR MISSIONS IS WRAPPED UP IN THE WORD SACRIFICE:

DARELL CHAMPLAIN WROTE A TRACT ABOUT THE TESTIMONY OF HIS FATHER IN LAW

In 1936, Ruth Grings passed away of black fever. I consider missionaries who die on the field martyrs. She gave her life for Christ. This left Herbert on the field with five children. They were in the Congo, Africa, in a remote village. They had been there for many years without good results and no converts to speak of. The family had to dig the grave for their Mom themselves and place her body into the grave themselves. The villagers watched.

It does not take much imagination to picture the straits Herbert found himself in. But after the modest funeral a few of the village people made their way to the missions outpost and timidly

knocked on the door. With the body of his wife fresh in the grave, it could have been easy to imagine this war torn missionary to get embittered about his loss. Just then the villagers asked Missionary Herbert Grings what they need to do to be saved.

He asked, why now? I have preached to you for years What makes you come now? Their reply was:

We believe you believe, and you live your belief. We have seen your religion is good for living. But now we see that your religion is not only good for living but it is better for dying and we want your religion!

To win souls for Christ there must be sacrifices that are made. How many missionaries through the years have made those sacrifices? When we support them we are part of that work.

Please prayerfully consider fully supporting your local church, and supporting missionaries through our missions budget. We call this our faith promise missions budget. All month we will put in the bulletin a commitment form to encourage you to give over an above your tithe to missions giving. As our custom we will be doing that this month. Please take this month to pray about what the Lord would have you to do towards missions giving.