

Why Healthy Churches Value Missions

Romans 10:5-15

Our series continues: *Healthy: Life & Church in Romans 12-16*

- But today we take an excursus for this missions Sunday into chapter 10 of Romans

Why do healthy churches value missions? The simple answer is that Jesus did. (See Matthew 10, Luke 10, and Matthew 28:16-20.)

But since we're in Romans in this series, how does the apostle Paul talk about this in this letter?

Let's consider Romans 10:5-15:

- 10:5: Do the commandments and you will live. The Old Testament says this multiple times (e.g. Leviticus 18:5), and Jesus repeats it in conversation (Matthew 19:17). Only sinners need to keep reading...
- 10:6-7: Think zealous works can make you, the guilty one, right with God? Traveling over land and sea perhaps? Think you need to grab Christ in heaven and bring him down to bless you? No, Paul says.
- 10:8: No religious feats and journeys are necessary. The Word of God is *near you*. Jesus has spoken it, and it is good news for sinners.
- 10:9-13: The simplicity of salvation. God is pleased to give it away, rather than force people to earn it.
- 10:14-15: Missions! Evangelists, preachers needed. This word of salvation is not written in the stars, seen under a microscope, or discovered by philosophers. It was spoken by Jesus, and it needs to be repeated. Therefore, *go!*

Every healthy church must value missions. But they each must consider carefully *how* to do missions.

What about New Life and missions?

- New Life has strongly emphasized missions from the beginning!
- Missions spending is now 23% of the budget!
 - Our needs for the building could have threatened this amount, but that's one reason why we have a capital campaign, separate from missions spending and the rest of the general budget.
- We want to continue to support our long-term workers in the field.
- Short-term missions can be very helpful. We'd love to see more adult participation – please consider India or Spain in 2019!
- Long-term missions may not be the most important option for a certain region. Often we should support national (indigenous) Christian leaders somehow.
 - This is exactly what our relationship with Shanghai churches has been about, which they initiated!

What about locally? Are we 'missional' here in our beloved Easton Road corridor? Indeed!