



C204: Missions

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Chad Vegas, Lead Pastor (Sovereign Grace Church, Bakersfield, CA) and founding board chairman of Radius International

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COURSE MENTOR

Students must have a mentor to successfully complete the course requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of missions in its biblical, theological, and practical dimensions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course provides an overview of missions. Students will examine the work of missions:

- 1) Develop a theology of missions
- 2) Examine the essential qualities and characteristics of an effective missionary
- 3) Learn principles and strategies needed for engaging in missions
- 4) Interact with some of the resources available to missionaries

REQUIREMENTS

READING -- (20% of course grade)

These texts are **required reading** to be completed by assigned dates during course:

Let the Nations Be Glad, John Piper

From Age to Age by Keith Mathison

Filling Up the Afflictions of Christ by John Piper

Faithful Witness, Timothy George

John G. Paton, Missionary to the New Hebrides, John G. Paton

Recommended reading for this course:

The Defense of the Faith by Cornelius Van Til

Postmillennialism by Keith Mathison

The Gospel & Personal Evangelism, Mark Dever

The Privilege Promise Power and Peril of Doctrinal Preaching by Tom Nettles

Toward the Golden Shore, Courtney Anderson

Nine Marks of a Healthy Church, Mark Dever

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and Peter T. O'Brien. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1982.

Spurgeon, Charles. *The Soul Winner*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1963.

WRITING – (60% of course grade) The four writing assignments for this course are listed below and must be double-spaced, 12pt New Times Roman font, with a title page, and bibliography:

a) REFLECTION PAPER – (10% of course grade) Students will write a 1,500 word paper reflecting on their own personal experience with missions. Include a brief personal assessment of your strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, choose someone who has observed your life and work as it relates to missions and ask them provide you with a brief assessment of your strengths, as well as suggestions for improving. Describe what you've learned about your own theology and practice of missions and the biggest challenges you face.

b) PHILOSOPHY OF MISSIONS PAPER – (30% of course grade) Students will write a 5,000 word paper on their personal philosophy of missions. Students must engage Scripture and a minimum of 10 sources to develop this paper.

BOOK REVIEWS – (20% of course grade) Students will write a 700 word review of each book in the required reading. The first half of this paper should summarize the work while the last half should be a critical evaluation, demonstrating the biblical fidelity of the work along with its strengths and weaknesses.

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COURSE PARTICIPATION — (20% of course grade) The study guide for each session will include discussion questions over the reading and lecture(s). Please complete all the readings for the session and print out a hard copy of your answers to the discussion questions so you are prepared for your meetings with your mentor. You will receive credit for doing your weekly assignments once you have met and covered the material with your mentor.

The student is expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours per week completing work outside of class for every 1 credit hour of this class. The requirements (i.e., reading, writing, evangelism, etc.) of this class are planned according to this expectation. All course work must be completed to the satisfaction of your mentor by the final week of the course.

GRADING

A	=	95-100
B	=	87-94
C	=	77-86
D	=	70-76
F	=	0-69

- (1) The student is expected to spend no less than 2 hours of out-of-class work per credit hour in this class.
- (2) This syllabus is meant to accurately reflect all expectations and assignments for this course. However, the professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus at his discretion.
- (3) Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an immediate failing grade on the assignment with no chance for resubmission. The professor does have the option either to allow the student to remain in and complete the course or to dismiss the student from the course completely.

TOPICS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Class</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
1	Biblical and Theological Foundations for Missions (Part 1: Old Testament)		Discussion Questions (from lecture 1)
2	Biblical and Theological Foundations for Missions (Part 2: New Testament)		Discussion Questions (from lecture 2)
3	What is the Church?		Discussion Questions (from lecture 3)
4	Missions and Reformation		Discussion Questions (from lecture 4) Reflection Paper Due
5	The Necessity of Scripture and Missions	Begin Piper: <i>Let the Nations Be Glad</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 5)
6	Scripture and Missions (Authority and Sufficiency)	Complete Piper: <i>Let the Nations Be Glad</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 6) Book Review 1 Due
7	How the Apostles Understood the Great Commission	Begin Mathison: <i>From Age to Age</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 7)
8	Paul's Frontier Missionary Work	Complete Mathison: <i>From Age to Age</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 8) Book Review 2 Due
9	What is the Mission of the Church?	Begin Piper: <i>Filling Up the Afflictions of Christ</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 9)
10 *	Models for Church Planting in Missions	Complete Piper: <i>Filling Up the Afflictions of Christ</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 10) Book Review 3 Due
11	The Characteristics and Responsibilities of the Sending Church	Begin George: <i>Faithful Witness</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 11)

12	The Characteristics and Training of a Missionary	Complete George: <i>Faithful Witness</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 12) Book Review 4 Due
13 *	Finishing Well: The Buser Story	Begin Paton: <i>Missionary to the New Hebrides</i>	Discussion Questions (from lecture 15) Philosophy of Missions Paper Due
14	Course Wrap Up	Complete Paton: <i>Missionary to the New Hebrides</i>	Complete Student Course Evaluation Book Review 5 Due

*Extended Sessions