



MISSIONS • EVANGELISM • DISCIPLESHIP

**COURSE MANUAL
No. 10**

(From p. 8 in Manual #10)

Course 10

MISSIONS • EVANGELISM • DISCIPLESHIP

Syllabus

Course Description:

This three-part course is designed to ground pastors and church leaders in the basic biblical principles of missions, evangelism, and discipleship so that the church can accomplish its God-given task of bringing lost people to Christ and building them up in Christ.

Course Goals:

1. To teach pastors and church leaders that missions is the main ministry of the church.
2. To instruct pastors and church leaders in the biblical basis, principles, and practice of missions.
3. To assist pastors and church leaders in developing a missions mind-set and ministry in the church.
4. To dispel and deal with common myths, misconceptions, and hindrances to missions.
5. To convince pastors and church leaders that the church is God’s channel for witnessing to Christ in the world.
6. To show that evangelism is the first requirement in fulfilling the Great Commission.
7. To train pastors and church leaders in the content and communication of the true Gospel and to point out false “gospels”.
8. To enable pastors and church leaders to build an evangelistic mind-set and ministry in the church.
9. To provide basic knowledge in how to defend the Christian faith against common challenges, world religions, cults, and the occult.
10. To equip pastors and church leaders to answer contemporary moral and ethical issues from the Bible.
11. To demonstrate that discipleship is the second requirement in fulfilling the Great Commission.
12. To train pastors and church leaders in the biblical principles and practices of discipleship in order to reach the goal of maturity in Christ and making more disciples.

Evangelism and discipleship are what the church does in missions.

(From pp. 12–19 in Manual #10)

Course Outline

Missions • Evangelism • Discipleship

- I. **Missions** – the Church as God’s agent for sending out the Gospel (pp. 20–61)
- A. Introduction—What is missions? p. 20
- B. Biblical basis for missions p. 21
1. God’s commitment to missions p. 22
- In Genesis
In the Law
In Israel’s history
In the Kings
In the Psalms
In the Prophets
In the Gospels
In Acts
In the Epistles
In Revelation
In Christ
2. God’s commands for missions p. 24
- Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
- C. Brief overview of history of missions p. 26
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2. Major historical periods of missions activity p. 30
- 33–70 A.D.
 - 70–100 A.D.

- 100–500 A.D.
 - 500–800 A.D.
 - 800–1200 A.D.
 - 1200–1800 A.D.
 - 1800–1946 A.D.
 - 1946–present
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- D. 15 Reasons the Church has failed in missions p. 34
- E. Basic principles of biblical missions p. 35
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- a. Foundational concepts
 - means
 - message
 - method
 - b. Functional concepts
2. Assumptions of biblical missions p. 37
3. Church planting p. 39
- a. Description of church planting
 - People-groups
 - b. Dynamics of church planting
 - c. Decisive strategies of church planting
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- a. What is culture?
 - b. 25 Key cross-cultural concepts
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b.	hedonism	
c.	materialism	
2.	Religious hindrances	
a.	universalism	
b.	ecumenicalism	
c.	syncretism	
d.	polytheism	
e.	pantheism/new age/eastern mysticism	
f.	liberalism	
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2.	Condition of man	(Lostness of man)
3.	Covenant plan of God	(Promise of God)
4.	Command of Christ	(Obedience to God)

C. Basic content of the Gospel message	p. 65
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b. Requirements for salvation	
c. Reminders about salvation and evangelism	
2. False “gospels”	p. 74
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c. Practical implementation	
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– Cautions about methods	
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2. Confrontational evangelism	
3. Public evangelism crusades and meetings	
4. Local church or associational crusades	
5. Lifestyle or friendship evangelism	
6. Other methods	

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- c. Different ways of presenting the Gospel p. 96
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 2. Using Scripture only
 3. Using audio or video media
 4. Using questions
 5. Other methods of presentation
- d. Different kinds of evangelism training p. 112
1. Developing a personal testimony
 2. Evangelism Explosion
 3. Special seminars
 4. Lifestyle evangelism training
 5. Child evangelism training
 6. Ongoing outreach evangelism
 - Developing basic evangelistic follow-up
 - Defeating typical excuses for not witnessing
 - Results of failing to witness
 - Rewards of witnessing
- E. Defending the Christian faith p. 121
1. The uniqueness of Christianity
 2. Hints for effective apologetics
 - a. Answering 15 common challenges to Christianity p. 124
 1. I don't believe in God.
 2. I don't believe in sin.
 3. My good outweighs my bad.
 4. Aren't there many ways to heaven?
 5. I don't believe in miracles.
 6. How can a loving God allow suffering and evil?
 7. How can a good God send people to hell?
 8. Heaven and hell are not real.
 9. What about those who have never heard?
 10. God will save the elect anyway.
 11. I'll get a second chance after death.
 12. Everybody will be saved in the end.
 13. All Christians are hypocrites.
 14. Isn't believing too easy?
 15. You can lose your salvation anyway.

- b. Responding to major world religions p. 134
 - Introduction and focus
 - Judaism
 - Roman Catholicism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Animism and primitive religions

- c. Confronting the main cults p. 167
 - Introduction and emphasis
 - Definition of cults
 - Common characteristics of cults
 - Mormonism
 - Hints for witnessing to cults
 - Jehovah's Witnesses
 - Moonies (The Unification Church)
 - World Wide Church of God (Armstrongism)
 - Christian Science
 - Hare Krishna
 - Summary of cults

- d. Dealing with the occult p. 194
 - Definition
 - Common list of occult practices
 - Description of specific occult practices
 1. Satanism (devil worship)
 2. Spiritism (necromancy)
 3. Witchcraft (sorcery, magic arts)
 4. Astrology and horoscopes
 5. Divination/soothsaying (fortune-telling/palm reading)
 6. Superstition
 7. Ghosts
 - Summary and suggestions

e. Addressing contemporary moral and ethical issues p. 206

- Introduction and guidelines
 1. Abortion
 2. AIDS
 3. Alcoholic beverages
 4. Birth control
 5. Capital punishment
 6. Civil disobedience
 7. Drugs
 8. Environmental abuse
 9. Euthanasia
 10. Homosexuality
 11. Liberation theology
 12. New Age movement
 13. Polygamy
 14. Racial prejudice
 15. Rock music
 16. “Social” gospel
 17. War
- Summary on contemporary issues

III. **Discipleship** – the Church as God’s instrument for establishing, multiplying and building up believers in the faith (pp. 252–284)

- A. Introduction and purpose p. 252
- B. Biblical principles of discipleship p. 252
 1. The command to make disciples
 2. The concept of discipleship
 3. The characteristics of discipleship
 4. The conditions of discipleship
 5. The call and aim of discipleship
- C. Biblical practice of discipleship p. 256
 1. Building a discipleship mind-set in the local church p. 256
 2. Building a discipleship ministry in the local church p. 258
 - a. Methods of discipleship training
 - One on one
 - Small groups
 - Large groups

- Other methods of discipleship
 - Requirements for leaders
 - Curriculum of discipleship training
3. Biblical curriculum for discipleship p. 263
- a. Objectives of discipleship
 - b. Curriculum for new believers
 - 7 Essential subjects
 1. Understanding salvation
 2. Living the Christian life
 3. Studying and obeying the Word of God
 4. Prayer and devotional life
 5. Dealing with sin and temptation
 6. Fellowship and church involvement
 7. Sharing the Gospel
 - c. Curriculum for maturing believers
 - 3 Broad categories
 1. Personal spiritual life
 2. Practical skill in handling the Word of God
 3. Participation in service for God in the Church
 - Specific suggestions for maturing believers
4. Biblical purpose of discipleship p. 283
- a. Spiritual barometer for disciples
 - b. Summary

(From pp. 35–36 in Manual #10)

D. **15 Reasons The Church Has Failed In Missions** (*continued*)

The result has been

Too few missionaries ministering the Gospel to too few people in too few places.

This fact, coupled with the **failure to make disciples who could reproduce themselves**, has doomed missions to its present day condition.

Assignment: Of these 15 reasons, which 3 are the most significant? Why?

E. **Basic Principles Of Biblical Missions**

Both **Acts** and Church history seem to make it quite clear what should be the **means**, the **message**, and **method** of missions:

1. Concepts of biblical missions

a. **Foundational concepts**

– **means**

- prayer
- power of Holy Spirit
Lk. 24:46-49

Missions will never be accomplished unless it is done with God's enablement.

Missions done in **man's strength produces man-made institutions.**

Missions done in **God's strength produces spiritual fruit.**

– **message**

Ro. 10:6-17

- preach the Gospel
Mk. 16:15
- proclaim the truth by teaching all of Scripture, emphasizing obedience
Mt. 28:20

– **method**

- The **plan** of God is for His people to make disciples of the lost.
Mt. 28:19
- The **purpose** of God is accomplished through the principle of multiplication of disciples (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32...).
2 Ti. 2:1-2
- The **pattern** for missions is seen in the New Testament Church:
 - prayer, praise, teaching, fellowship, worship
Ac. 2:37-47
 - preaching despite persecution
Ac. 5:25-41
 - participation in ministry by all
Ac. 6:1-7
 - personal encouragement, training, and strengthening
Ac. 11:19-30
 - prerogative of the Holy Spirit in calling and the part of the Church in confirming
Ac. 13:1-5
 - practice of making disciples and putting leaders in place
Ac. 14:21-27
- The **preparation** and equipping of people is essential.
Col. 1:28-29

(From p. 11 in Manual #10)

Suggestions For Teaching Course 10

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Pages: 286

Hours required: 60

Class sessions: 30

Pace and schedule: about 9-1/2 pages per 2 hour class session, adjusted for natural divisions in the material. Another approach is to divide the course into 3 units with a specified number of sessions allocated to each. For example:

Missions

61 pages

6 sessions

Evangelism

190 pages

20 sessions

Discipleship

33 pages

4 sessions

Hints and approach

- This course is a great way to conclude the **BTCP/BTCL** General Curriculum. In a positive way it is a survey of what the church should be doing as its primary focus—fulfilling The Great Commission and glorifying God.
- All 3 sections contain a great deal of Scripture references and significant class time will need to be spent in the text.
- The material is well designed for good discussion and interaction. But not everyone will agree with all the conclusions and statements.
- The section on Evangelism will generate all kinds of lively discussion—e.g. on false gospels, world religions, cults, common objections, contemporary issues, etc. Be sensitive and tolerant but don't compromise the truth.
- On controversial, debatable issues emphasize the process, not the specific conclusion.
- Use the course to motivate students to make personal application and practical implementation in their churches.
- The questions and assignments are designed to cause the students to think carefully and biblically and to motivate them to obedience.