



GRACE COMMUNITY

CHURCH

h u n t s v i l l e

Cultivating a Missions Mindset

Conviction 1: Redemption is a necessary, gracious initiative of the Triune God.

God created man and woman in His image, privileging them with the capacity to enjoy His glory and to have fellowship with Him (Gen 1:26–28; 3:8). Friendship with God was irreparably shattered by Adam’s rebellion, and alienation from God left the soul hopelessly pursuing spiritual rest apart from God (Gen 3:1–24; Ecc 2:25; 3:11). From Eden onward, all have spurned God’s glory by withholding due gratitude, honor, and submission to their Creator (Rom 1:18–23; 3:9–18, 23; 5:12). God’s righteousness necessitates punishment for sin; consequently, the human race is liable to an eternal judgment from which it is incapable of liberating itself, making God’s initiative in salvation both necessary and gracious (Rom 2:4–6; 3:19; 6:23; 11:32).

Conviction 2: God ardently desires to rescue people from judgment and to restore relationship with them.

God demonstrates His profound love and missionary zeal by enacting a plan to save through a promised deliverer who would conquer Satan, bless all the nations of the earth, liberate those under the dominion of sin, preserve people from eschatological judgment, and bring myriads of people into fellowship with Himself (Gen 3:15; Rom 5:6–11; Rev 21:22–27).

Conviction 3: Salvation will be extended to all the nations of the earth to the praise of God's glory.

God's mercy is vast, incorporating all people groups of the world (Gen 12:1–3). God will save scores from every tribe, tongue, and nation. In Isaiah 66:19, God promises He will send messengers "to the coastlands afar off that have not heard [His] fame or seen [His] glory; and they will declare [His] glory among the nations." To the Romans, Paul declares that God has saved Israel that His name "may be proclaimed in all the earth" (Rom 9:17). Paul understood his apostolic commission to be for the purpose of bringing about the obedience of faith "for the sake of [Christ's] name among all the nations" (Rom 1:5), and he later states that Christ came "that the nations might glorify God for his mercy" (Rom 15:9). The goal of salvation is the glorification of God through the happy exaltation of the Lord by all nations: "Let the peoples praise You, O God / Let all the peoples praise You / Let the nations be glad and sing for joy / For You will judge the peoples with uprightness / And guide the nations on the earth" (Ps 67:3–4; cf. Rev 5:9).

Conviction 4: God's sovereignty ensures the accomplishment of His redemptive purposes.

God's missionary objectives are unfailing. No intention of God will be thwarted (Jb 42:2). Contrasting the power of God from the impotence of idols, the Psalmist rightly declares that God alone is in the heavens doing what pleases Him (Ps 115:3). The Lord's faithfulness obligates Him to fulfill His promises, and His sovereignty ensures the accomplishment of every word He speaks. The Lord's promises are more sure than the constancy of the cosmos (Matt 24:35), and He will build his church, and all the forces of darkness are impotent to impede His purposes (Matt 16:18).