

THE GOD OF MISSIONS

(Part One)

TEXT: Acts 17:22-31

INTRODUCTION: In evangelical circles much emphasis is placed today on the **need** of man as the great compelling reason for missionary outreach. It is certainly true that the sight of the *“fields white unto harvest”* but wasting away should move our hearts with compassion, even as it did Jesus’ (Matt. 9:36). Yet there is a higher motive for missions than the need of man. That motive is **God Himself**. He is worthy to be known and proclaimed for Who He is.

The glory of God is the only adequate motive for sending missionaries and for going as a missionary. Neither response to human need nor the lure of exotic places nor the “spirit of adventure” will be enough to keep the missionary at the post of duty when trials come and converts turn back to the world. It will all come down to the simple matter of God’s call and command. The character and glory of God is all that matters.

OUTLINE: What bearing does a correct view of God have on missions?

I. God, the Self-sufficient Creator (vv. 24, 25)

- A. Our motive must not be pity for God.
- B. Our message must not reflect a frustrated God.

II. God, the Sovereign Ruler (vv. 26-28, 30)

- A. All races of men come from Adam (this rules out racism).
- B. All men’s times and places are pre-determined.
- C. God is not unjust to withhold the full revelation of the gospel for a time.
- D. God is now commanding *“all men everywhere to repent.”*

III. Christ, the Resurrected Judge (v. 31)

- A. His resurrection is the pledge of the accountability of all men.
- B. His resurrection is the authority for our obedience to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

CONCLUSION: Yes, the need of a world lost in sin is great and calls for our heartfelt, Christ-like compassion. But the God we serve is even greater and call forth our worship and our earnest endeavors to *“make him known among the heathen.”* God is worthy to be known and proclaimed for Who He is. His honor is at stake in this matter of missions. Will we obey His Great Commission, trusting His all-sufficiency to sustain and enable us?

