

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH *Eph. 4:1-16*

I. Evangelism

A. The Great Commission. Mt. 28:18-20

B. The importance of Foreign Missions

1. The command of Christ

2. The needy world -- China, Fr. Ind. Chi.

(Dr. Snead in Bangkok, Siam)

C. Encouraging signs of progress - Alliance Fields ¹⁴⁸

D. Jesus Christ alone can meet the needy nations.

1. The Chinese symbol used to denote the word "righteousness" consists of two characters combined: the lower one being the first personal pronoun, while the upper one is the word for a sheep or a lamb. A lamb covering me makes me righteous!

2. You and I are the channels through which Jesus reaches out to a lost world.

Paul says "I am debtor, ready."

E. Personal Evangelism

1. Andrew brought his own brother to Jesus. Jno. 1:4

2. Philip won Nathaniel to Christ. Jno. 1:43-51

3. We should each one be successful soul winners.

II. Edification

A. In what respects are we to grow as christians?

1. In grace & knowledge of the truth. 2 Pet. 3:18

2. In Christlikeness (Eph. 4:15)

3. In faith & love 2 Thes. 1:3

4. Adding christian graces 2 Pet. 1:4-13

5. Ability to resist temptation Jude 17-23, James ^{4:7}
I Pet. 5:8-10

6. Ability to serve & sacrifice Rom. 12:1-2

B. Things that hinder growth

1. Wickedness, guile, hypocrisy, envies, evil speakings, I Pet. 2:1-2

2. Dullness of hearing Heb. 5:11

3. Love of money I Tim. 6:10, 17-19

C. Things that promote spiritual growth

1. Spiritual appetite I Pet. 2:2

2. Exercise Heb. 5:13-14; I Tim. 4:7-8

3. Heeding what we hear Heb. 2:1-3

4. Diligence and active service I Tim. 4:13-16

5. Right spiritual diet I Tim. 6:3; I Pet. 2:2

6. Prayer & communion with the Lord. Phil. 4:5-7
Heb. 4:16

D. Avenues through which the church may encourage this growth.

1. Exhort each other Heb. 3:12-14; 10:24-25
2. Encourage the faint hearted, support the weak admonish the disorderly, be long-suffering toward all. I Thes. 5:12-14
3. By its worship services Heb. 10:25, Col. 3:15-16
4. By its teaching program "Feed the Church of God." Acts 20:28; II Tim. 2:2