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.*
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


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

3. Status of missions in the world today p. 33

D. 15 Reasons the Church has failed in missions p. 34

E. Basic principles of biblical missions p. 35

1. Concepts of biblical missions p. 35
   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

4. Cultural considerations p. 44
   a. What is culture?
   b. 25 Key cross-cultural concepts

5. Characteristics of an effective missionary p. 52
F. Building a missions mind-set and ministry in the local church (p. 53)
   1. Building a missions mind-set
   2. Building a missions ministry

G. Common misconceptions and myths about missions (p. 57)

H. Obstacles to world missions (p. 60)
   1. Philosophical hindrances
      a. humanism
      b. hedonism
      c. materialism
   2. Religious hindrances
      a. universalism
      b. ecumenicalism
      c. syncretism
      d. polytheism
      e. pantheism/new age/eastern mysticism
      f. liberalism
   3. Political hindrances
      a. communism
      b. naturalism
      c. liberation theology

II. Evangelism—the Church as God’s channel for witnessing for Jesus Christ (pp. 62–251)

   A. Introduction (p. 62)
      1. Definitions of key terms

   B. Biblical basis of evangelism (p. 63)
      1. Character of God (Love of God)
      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  
   1. The True Gospel  
      a. Real message of the Gospel of salvation  
      b. Requirements for salvation  
      c. Reminders about salvation and evangelism  
   2. False “gospels”  
      a. False “gospels” don’t match up with Scripture  
      b. 7 Specific kinds of false gospels  
      c. 18 Other examples of false gospels  

D. Building an evangelistic mind-set and ministry in the local church  
   1. Building an evangelistic mind-set  
      a. Priority of evangelism  
      b. Pre-suppositions of biblical evangelism  
      c. Practical implementation  
   2. Building an evangelistic ministry  
      a. Key concepts  
      b. Different methods of evangelism  
         – Cautions about methods  
         1. Personal testimony  
         2. Confrontational evangelism  
         3. Public evangelism crusades and meetings  
         4. Local church or associational crusades  
         5. Lifestyle or friendship evangelism  
         6. Other methods
c. Different ways of presenting the Gospel p. 96
   1. Using a tract
   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
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**
MISSIONS • EVANGELISM • DISCIPLESHIP

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missions</th>
<th>Evangelism</th>
<th>Discipleship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61 pages</td>
<td>190 pages</td>
<td>33 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 sessions</td>
<td>20 sessions</td>
<td>4 sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.