



LET THE NATIONS BE GLAD BY JOHN PIPER

Piper, John. Let the Nations be Glad. Baker Book House Company, Grand Rapids, 2007.

Let the Nations be Glad is one of many truth-filled novels written by the highly esteemed author John Piper. Piper has served as the main preaching Pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis since 1980. Let the Nations be Glad is a call for worshippers to take the gospel to their unsaved family, friends, neighbors, and even to the uttermost parts of the earth. The book is dissected into three main parts adequately defining the task of making God supreme in missions. Part one speaks on the purpose, the power and the price of missions. Part two strives to define the nature of the task. As the book moves into part three, Piper depicts the practical outworking of compassion and worship, which is the goal of missions!

John Piper has a great deal of biblical knowledge and understanding and it is clearly presented within the pages of this book. He has communicated the theme of a Christian's life, to make God supreme, and how that is lived out in missions. He clearly states that disciples of Christ are not just called to worship, but also called to share the gospel.

Worship is the ultimate goal of the church. "Missions exists because worship doesn't." It is in this application of the Great Commission that missionaries leave everything for the sake of the call. We see both young and old serving in countries that persecute those who follow Christ and preach the gospel. They travel willingly to the uttermost ends of the earth for the sake of Jesus' name. It is a joy for them to proclaim the good news of the gospel and take their rightful place as workers in the harvest. Romans 10:15 declares, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Piper exhorts us as westernized "Christians" to see God exalted among the nations by responding to the call of missions. The first part of Let the Nations Be Glad, presents the truth that God is supreme in missions as it is worked out through worship, prayer and suffering. Piper includes various illustrations that adequately show that all of life, even pain and suffering are used for the glory of God. God desires us to be satisfied in Him above all other things, even life itself. Within this lies the calling of some to be martyred for their faith. Whether it is a mortification of self-daily, or physically dying for His Name, all of it is for His glory and His renown.

The second part of Piper's novel hits on the defining truth of Christ being "the way, the truth, and the life" and shows that God is glorified in that "no one comes to the Father except through me (Jesus Christ). With this declaration, he sets out to show that the gospel is and should be preached among all the nations and people. He more clearly defines people as "unreached persons" and not just territories. He argues the point that God is not calling us just to maximize the number of people from the most responsive groups but to maximize the number of people who receive the gospel from all nations around the world.

The last part of the book is dedicated to show how the Lord is made supreme through the outworking of man's compassion and his everyday worship. Jonathan Edwards stated why worship is ultimate in regards to missions. "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever."

With that said, I feel this book isn't just for the man or woman, guy or girl called to full-time missions. This book clearly defines the necessity for missions both near and far while we have life and breath. We should be missionaries in our jobs, in our homes, at our schools and wherever we go. We are ministers of the ministry of reconciliation Paul lays out for us in 2 Corinthians chapter five. The more deeply we understand our calling to be missionaries, the greater God is glorified. It is my hope that in the reading of this novel many will feel the calling on their hearts to be missions minded both in their home town and to the uttermost ends of the earth!