

## **The Mission Of God**

### **Richard L. Smith**

At the beginning of this year it is important to think about our goals and motivations. The apostle John helps us to think about what is most important. John 20:21-22 declares that

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, *even* so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

It is evident from this passage that God has a redemptive mission. Jesus was sent to fulfill that mission. Jesus sent His disciples on that mission and He empowered them by the Holy Spirit. The Father's mission was Jesus' mission. And, the Father and Son's mission was the Holy Spirit's mission. And, the disciples' mission was the Trinitarian mission of God. As the spiritual descendents of the disciples, we share this mission of God.

What is that mission?

God's mission is the same as it was in the beginning. Because of His great love and glory, God created a physical environment in which to tabernacle with the crown of creation, mankind. Humanity's great reward and goal was the presence of God, Himself. Ever since the entrance of sin, all that God does is redemptive and re-creative to that end: to make us holy so that we can dwell with Him in a holy environment forever. The incarnation, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ enable this plan to succeed, because Christ will finish the work that Adam and Israel failed to do. The project manager, so to speak, is the Holy Spirit, who will bring about the "renewal of all things" in a "new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells" to use the words of 2 Peter 3:13. To put it simply, God is in the process of populating His church and one day He will dwell with us forever in His kingdom: the everlasting tabernacle, the entire earth, the renewed creation. In this eternal temple all of creation will flourish to the everlasting glory of God. In the words of the Shorter Catechism, humankind will achieve its "chief end": "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

So, what is your mission? Do your goals and motivations support God's great mission for creation? Or, are your plans different? Have you asked yourself: How do I function in God's mission in the world?