
X. WHY DO SOME PEOPLE OPPOSE MISSIONS?

A. Practical Calvinism

1. Comes from an attitude that if God wants to save the heathen, He will do it Himself
2. Caused by a misunderstanding in how God works

B. General Apathy

1. Comes from a “*who cares*” attitude
2. Caused by a carnal mind

C. Biblical Ignorance

1. Comes from no teaching on the importance of missions
2. Caused by church leaders failing to fulfill their role

D. Selfish Interest

1. Comes from a desire to keep the money close to home or opposition to giving money at all
2. Caused by ungodly selfishness

E. Lack of Faith

1. Comes from doubt that God will use missionaries or that God will provide the money to give to missions
2. Caused by a carnal, materialistic view of life

XI. HOW IS ONE CALLED TO BE A MISSIONARY?

A. The Different Biblical Calls

1. The general call to salvation (1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 3:9)
2. The effectual call to salvation (Romans 1:6-7; Romans 8:28, 30; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 9, 24, 26; Galatians 1:6)
3. The general call to service (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:11)
4. The specific call to service
 - a. The disciples of Christ (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 6:12-16)
 - b. Paul (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:13-16)
 - c. Others (Acts 13:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:8-11)
5. The call to a specific field (Acts 16:6-10; Hebrews 11:8)

B. Biblical Teaching Concerning God's Callings

1. God's callings cannot be self-generated (Hebrews 5:4)
2. God's callings can be rejected (Matthew 20:16; Matthew 22:14)
3. God's callings are without repentance (Romans 11:29)

C. Questions Concerning a Call to Specific Ministry (for the student to answer)

1. How does a person know when he is called to a specific ministry?
2. Is it alright for the call to come in stages? (For example, a call to full-time service followed by a call to missions followed by a call to the country of Mexico.)
3. Can a man disqualify himself from being a missionary? If so, how? What does it mean to be a castaway (1Cor.9:27)?
4. Is the calling of a missionary to a specific field different from the calling of a pastor to a specific church? Why or why not?
5. Is a calling different from divine guidance or leadership? If so, how? If not, why not?
6. Does God take volunteers to specific work like the missionary field? See Isaiah 6:8 and I Timothy 3:1. If so, how does this compare with the teaching of Hebrews 5:4 (that callings are from God alone).
7. What is the value of a specific and special calling to be a missionary?
8. If a man is already called to preach, does he need an additional specific calling in order to go to a foreign field? Does he need an additional specific calling to go to another state? Does he need an additional specific calling to go to another church across town?