

The Right Hand

Reaching Out to Others: Missions (Acts 10)

The third constituent topic within the second subsection (“Reaching Out to Others”) of this superb LifeGuide Bible Studies booklet (*Christian Disciplines*) I am reviewing is entitled “Missions” (see headline above). The precise meaning of the word “mission” is “*a particular task or goal assigned to a group or a person.*” That’s us....

The French have a wonderful phrase – “*raison d’être*” – which translates exactly as “*reason for being.*” It is both an existential and a moral question. It is the most reasonable, and responsible, question that any group, or person, could consider. Our friend Socrates (ca 400 BC) once declared that “*The unexamined life is not worth living.*” I fully agree.

If our principal reason for being is affiliation or fellowship, then we are little better than a social club or a service organization, despite our noble aspirations. Clubs and organizations come and go, but Christ’s church was made and will be for eternity. And He who founded the church has assigned His disciples clear and unmistakable marching orders (see Mt 28:16-20).

Every outpost of God’s kingdom must make a crucial and foundational decision: Do we exist for maintenance or for mission? The decision is crucial and definitive; it shapes our being. Either we are an instrument of the Lord’s, or we are a manifestation of the culture; there is no middle ground. Either we are for Christ or eternity, or we are perishable. It’s our choice!

“May God keep us from complacency, and may we press on to know Him more deeply and obey Him more fully.” More next week! In Deo speramus.

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