



# Understanding Mission

with **Langham**  
PARTNERSHIP

## Session 2 - How Does this Impact God's Mission and Ours (Transcript)

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In association with Langham Partnership

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I remember one of our other grandsons and I think he must have only been about five. Because he was only in early in his primary school and they were singing, you know, the song that they sometimes teach kids in primary school, that God's got the whole wide world in his hands, you know?

And, and he even said, well, if God's got the whole world in his hands, what's he standing on? And they said, you better ask Papa. But you know, very good question.

Children are very literalistic in their thinking, you know about things. I can't remember how I answered. No, I think I did. I, I said, well, when you hold your little baby sister in your arms, it's a way of saying you love, you know, you, you're holding something in your arms because you love them.

I think that's satisfied how God holds us, the whole world. He loves us. Something like that. What I'm trying to say is we have worldviews. Now, those questions that are on the screen have been proposed by some scholars who study these things, what worldviews mean.

And they say that all worldviews basically answer at least four questions. One of which is, where are we? What is this world we're in? And different religions answer that different ways.

As I was saying earlier, if you're a Hindu of a certain philosophical Hindu mind, the whole creation is in a sense, it's illusory. It it's not ultimate reality. Reality is spiritual and beyond all of this.

So the fact that we see this, it's, it's there, but it's not really real. Or if you are into a more atheistic, scientific point of view, you say, well, it's, it's all just the product of a chance.

Co-locations of atoms and so on. And you, you build a materialistic theory of it. Uh, whereas as Christians, we say, this world we live in, it's God's creation. It was made by the one true living God. It has value.

Maybe we are, maybe we're not. Only God knows that but he will come back. But somewhere in there is us, like in Mama Mia. You know, somewhere in there is you and me in that story because we are participating in it.

Uh, and that therefore means and this is moving on, that it's not just that I participate in that story by asking how do I apply the Bible to my life?

Now, I don't, I don't want to, I don't want to dismiss that phrase because it's very much how I was brought up. And I'm sure many of us in this room we're taught as young people, if we were Christian when we were young or in Sunday school or whatever, that what you do is you read the Bible and then you ask questions.

What does it tell me about God? Does it tell me anything about sin? Is there an example I should follow or an error I should avoid? How do I apply this passage to my life?

And in a sense, there's nothing wrong with that. It's a very good thing to do. We should be doing that. But one of the problems is that the Bible then becomes very bitty.

You know, you just read this bit, your quiet time, that couple of verse or a chapter or whatever. How does that apply to my life? And my life then in a sense becomes the center of reality to which the Bible has to apply.

So the Bible becomes sort of abject tival, if you understand the meaning. I am the center. My life is here. I've got me, and thank God I've now got God in my life.

And so I need the Bible in my life. So how does the Bible apply to me? Now, again, please don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying we shouldn't be doing that, but what I'm trying to do is wouldn't it also be interesting and possibly a little bit transforming if we thought the other way round and we say, where does my life fit into this story?

It embraces all nations that have ever lived on this planet. And it embraces all God's creation itself. All the physical creation, the heavens, the earth, the skies, the seas, the animals, the plants, the vegetation, the the whole thing, all things in heaven and earth says Paul, are built into this plan.

And so therefore, if this is God's plan and God's purpose, we need to see that God incredibly calls us into this purpose, that His plan, according to Ephesians chapter 1:9-10, which is where I'm going to start this afternoon, but it's a kind of stitching together of the two halves of our day.

Paul says that God has made known to us the mystery of his will. There it is again, that phrase, his will, his plan according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ to be put into effect when the times reached their fulfillment to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth.

The whole creation says Paul is to be unified under Christ. And Paul says, that's what God is doing. That's what he's accomplished actually through the cross and resurrection of Christ and will bring to completion at the end of the year when Christ returns as a new creation.

And so therefore, in that sense, our responsibility is to say, if that is God's mission, how do I participate in it? God, what do you want me to do here?

Am I, you know, get me in. Let me, don't let me miss the party. You know, be part of what God is doing. And so round off then this is where we are in this great story.

It's the Bible story of the mission of God, but it's also the Bible story which incorporates us into the mission of God in terms of our own personal sense of mission and sending and, and calling and as a church, as a community of believers for what it is that God calls us to be and do.

That's where we're going to be going this afternoon. Thinking of what then? How do we integrate our mission around the centrality of this great biblical story, the story of the gospel.

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