

WHY DOES RAYMOND ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH EXIST?
WHO ARE WE?
WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

RRBC is here for 5 purposes
from Great Commandment (Matt 22:37-40)
and Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)

- “The purpose of Raymond Road Baptist Church is to help every person reach MATURITY in Christ. This purpose is to be accomplished
 - by valuing and embracing MEMBERSHIP in God’s Kingdom and in the church,
 - by faithfully participating in such activities that MAGNIFY God,
 - by actively engaging in MINISTRY for the benefit of others, and
 - by answering God’s call to join him in his MISSION of redemption.”
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- MAGNIFY – Worship (“Love the Lord with all your heart”)
 - MINISTRY – Ministry (“Love your neighbor as yourself”)
 - MISSION – Evangelism (“Go and make disciples”)
 - MEMBERSHIP – Fellowship (“Baptizing them”)
 - MATURITY – Discipleship (“Teaching them to obey”)

EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION

- Nice shoes!
 - Over lifetime, Americans spend \$14,000 on shoes and buy 250 pairs.
 - The average American currently owns 12 pairs of shoes.
 - Annually, we spend an average of \$250 per year and buy 4 pair
- God: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!”

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

WE CAN HELP

- God has good news, and He wants it told. We can join him, or not.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14–21
 - 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

THE WORLD NEEDS IT.

- Why is it so important?
 - Matthew 9:35–38

- 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

IF NOT US, THEN WHO?

- God gave US this job.
 - Romans 10:8–17
 - 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

THERE IS NO SHAME IN IT.

- Be BOLD
 - Romans 1:16

- 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

WE STRUGGLE WITH THIS.

- Why do we NOT share the gospel?
 - "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, ...missions will be no more. It is temporary... . But worship abides forever."
 - Where passion for God is weak, zeal for missions will be weak.
 - "As we seek to find out why, with such millions of Christians, the real army of God that is fighting the hosts of darkness is so small, the only answer is--lack of heart. The enthusiasm of the kingdom is missing. And that is because there is so little enthusiasm for the KING." Andrew Murray
 - We actually are really good evangelists for things we love!
- Be READY
 - 1 Peter 3:15–16
 - 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

GOD HAS GOOD NEWS

HIS GOSPEL IS:

- CREATION / FALL / RECONCILIATION / CONSUMMATION
 - Creation
 - I will be their God, and they will be my people.
 - Fall
 - They have rebelled against me. Punishment is the consequence.
 - Reconciliation
 - I will not give up on them. I will provide a way to save them from punishment.
 - Consummation

- I will bring things back to where they are supposed to be.
- Share the gospel. It will be like this:
 - An old-fashioned town crier: Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! All rebels, insurgents, dissidents, and protesters against the King! Hear the royal decree! A great day of reckoning is coming, a day of justice and vengeance. But now hear this, all inhabitants of the King's realm! Amnesty is herewith published by the mercy of your Sovereign. A price has been paid. All debts may be forgiven. All rebellion absolved. All dishonor pardoned. None is excluded from this offer. Lay down the weapons of rebellion, kneel in submission, receive the royal amnesty as a gift of imperial love, swear fealty to your sovereign, and rise a free and happy subject of your King. (From John Piper, *God is the Gospel*)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- God's evangelistic strategy is this: mankind is full of evil and sin, but he will hold back his punishment because of his loving covenant with us. And he will show us the way to come back to Him.
- Throughout all of history, redemption has ALWAYS been the mission of God, a mission to bring the world back into relationship with Himself.
- Adam and Eve
 - Don't eat, or you'll die, eat, animal was killed and its skin covered their nakedness. They lived for many more years, but they no longer could live forever. Death did come.
- Noah
 - "Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." God said he will erase mankind and its evil. But... God liked what he saw in Noah. God made a covenant: I will save Noah and family in the ark, and I will never again destroy all mankind in a flood (rainbow).
- Abraham
 - God takes him to the promised land. God makes a covenant that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars. He said that through Abraham every nation in the world will be blessed.
- Isaac
 - God renews covenant: multiply your offspring, give you the land, bless the world through you
- Jacob / Israel
 - He wrestles with God, who blesses him. God changes his name and renews the covenant: multiply your offspring, give you the land, bless the world through you
- 12 Sons of Jacob / 12 tribes of Israel
 - Joseph sold into Egyptian slavery
 - Joseph rises to power in Egypt
 - Israel's family moves to Egypt
 - Change in Egyptian monarchy, tribes of Israel made slaves
 - 400 years of slavery
 - God calls Moses to rescue Israel
- Moses
 - My name is Yahweh (the I AM), and I am sending you to rescue my people from slavery.
 - Plagues against the false gods of Egypt, split Red Sea to rescue Israelites
 - Even during 40 years in wilderness, they were led by God Himself as pillar of fire at night and pillar of cloud by day. They were fed manna bread every single day.
- Joshua, then the Judges

- God brought them into the land he had promised to them. Every time they faced an impossible enemy, God provided a leader to save them.
- The cycle was disobedience, punishment, salvation, and peace.
- Kings, then divided Kingdom
 - Even though God was their king, he gave them the king they had been asking for. The kings let them down, but God kept his covenant with them.
- Exile
 - God sent foreign armies to conquer them and take them prisoner into exile, but he sent them home to rebuild. He never left them, always keeping his covenant.
- Jesus
 - Luke 2:10-11, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
 - Ephesians 1:7–10, “In [JESUS] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”
 - Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Disciples and Paul
 - Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “But you [disciples] will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Acts 2:38, And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - Acts 4:19–20, But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
 - Acts 8:35, Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.
 - Acts 9:15–16, But the Lord said, “[Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”
- The End (John’s vision)

- Revelation 1:5-7, To [Jesus] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
- God has always offered redemption to **THE NATIONS**.
 - Genesis 18:18, Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty NATION, and ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH shall be blessed in him.
 - Psalm 67:3-5, Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the NATIONS be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the NATIONS upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
 - Psalm 98:2, The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the NATIONS.
 - Isaiah 52:10, The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of ALL THE NATIONS, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
 - Isaiah 56:7, [God says,] “these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL PEOPLES.”
 - Isaiah 66:18-19 [God says,] “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather ALL NATIONS AND TONGUES. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors TO THE NATIONS, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory AMONG THE NATIONS.”
 - Jeremiah 16:19-21, O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall THE NATIONS come from the ENDS OF THE EARTH and say: “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!” Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and THEY SHALL KNOW that my name is the LORD.
 - Luke 24:47, Jesus explains Old Testament Scriptures and notes that they prophesied... “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to ALL NATIONS, beginning in Jerusalem.”
 - Mark 11:15-17, And they came to Jerusalem. And [Jesus] entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry

anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL THE NATIONS'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

- Matthew 28:19-20, And Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of ALL NATIONS..."
- Acts 1:8, [Jesus said,] "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the END OF THE EARTH."
- Romans 1:5, "[Jesus Christ our Lord,] through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among ALL THE NATIONS"
- Romans 16:25b-26, "the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to ALL NATIONS, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith"
- Galatians 3:7-9, [Paul], "Know then that it is **THOSE OF FAITH** who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, 'In you shall ALL THE NATIONS be blessed.' So then, those who are OF FAITH are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."
- Revelation 15:3-4, And they [who had conquered the beast] sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the NATIONS! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. ALL NATIONS will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."
- Revelation 5:9-10, And they [24 elders and 4 living creatures] sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every TRIBE and LANGUAGE and PEOPLE and NATION, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
- Revelation 7:9-10, After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from EVERY NATION, from ALL TRIBES and PEOPLES and LANGUAGES, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"