

Series Theme: Paul in our text shows the goal for every disciple should be attaining imperishable crown of the kingdom.

**1 Corinthians 9:24–27–24** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. **25** Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. **26** So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **27** But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Focus today: **Crown of Pioneering** - Importance of pioneering / need for pioneers / the blessing of pioneering

**Romans 15:20–21** and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, **21** but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

## I. IMPORTANCE OF PIONEERING

### A. What is pioneering?

1. Definition: the act of being the first to explore, develop, or establish something in a new or uncharted area
2. Context of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry
  - a) We launch couples into new cities to establish a fellowship church
3. Difference between pioneering and a "take-over" or pastoral transition
  - a) Take-over: a pastor comes into an already established work in that city
    - (1) Already have a church building / already have a core of people / church is already known in the area / may already be pastoral housing ready for the new pastor
  - b) Pioneering: nothing has been established before the pastor and family arrives

### B. Biblical Foundation for pioneering

#### 1. Pioneering is Gods idea / His plan from the beginning

a) *Misconception* - The idea of pioneering is just something Pastor Mitchell came up with in the early days

**Genesis 1:28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

b) OT examples: **Adam and Eve** - "fill the earth" move into new territories / don't stay where you are

**Genesis 12:1** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

c) **Abram** - leave your homeland - Go to a place I will show you

#### 2. NT examples: Jesus giving us the pioneering pattern for the early church

**Luke 10:1** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

a) Jesus sends out disciples to go into new places / preach the gospel in different towns where Jesus was unknown

**Mark 16:15** Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone.

b) Our text Paul is clear: His ambition and aim - start new works where the gospel had not been preached before

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#### 3. History of our fellowship and the start of sending out pioneers / launching churches

- a) *Early days / we were connected to a denomination - church planting was not done by the local church but by the headquarters of the denomination (Centralized control) / disciples that felt the call to go - had to go to bible school or seminary / then would be launched into church- often far away from their home church - they would be placed (Church take over)*
- b) Our Church - People getting saved - then have a burden to reach the towns/ cities they were from
- c) Disciples rise up and feel a burden to do something for God / want to reach sinners and make converts
- d) Pastor Mitchell first began to disciple men in the local church then send out and support these churches
- e) First pioneer church - Wickenburg - Ron a Suzzie Burrell - that church become self supporting in 6mo

## II. THE NEED FOR PIONEERS

### A. Kingdom expansion depends on the pioneer

1. Critical dimension needed for the kingdom of God to continue is men willing to go and pioneer
  - a) Paul says - my aim and ambition - Last thing Jesus tells the disciples is to Go - Go to where people have not heard the Gospel
2. New testament churches were founded and established by pioneers
  - a) **Peter** - Jerusalem **Paul** - Antioch, Iconium , Lystra, Derbe / **Philippi**, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, **Ephesus** - **Philip** - Samaria
    - (1) The point- these men went into new places and started churches
3. Our fellowship can only continue growing through the pioneer
  - a) New churches being planted into new cities / nations - GOD WANTS YOU TO BE APART OF THAT

- B. As a Disciple the question is - Where do you start?
  - 1. For disciples - You job is to find out what the will of God is for your life
    - a) Ask God - what do you want me to do b) Pastors job is not to tell you what God wants you to do - have to find that out for your self. c) God is able to make clear His will for your life / pursuing pastoral ministry
  - 2. Disciples need to **be available**
    - a) Have to **Be willing and available to do what ever God wants you to do** - that may be pioneering
    - b) We cant come to a place where think someone else can do it - never mind what other people could or couldn't do - what has God called you to do?
  - 3. Be Flexible
    - a) Preparing to go -When you are called - every decision following calling is a destiny decisions
      - (1) Money/ time/ hobbies/ career/ relationships - *PG. If you are called then its GOD FIRST*
    - b) Pray God makes it clear where you should go - be willing to receive direction from your pastor
      - (1) *My story - Didn't have a strong leading to one specific city / I prayed/ used sanctified logic and talked to my pastor Settled on Denver area - why? God was helping Brandon Pepich - was in Denver for 6mo / was seeing breakthrough / the logic / we could help each other - God was moving in that city / God could help me*

**2 Kings 5:26** *But Elisha said to him, "My spirit was with you. I knew when the man turned from his chariot to meet you. This isn't a time to take money, clothes, olives, grapes, sheep, oxen, male servants, or female servants.*

*(2) Gehazi made himself and his desires the most important thing in life - not the will of God*

- C. Getting Practical - Entering a city: The first few months of pioneering - file this away

**1. Find a place to live: Talk to your pastor**

- a) Reality is you cant live in a hotel for months on end - have to find a home base
  - (1) *How much should I spend on rent? whats the budget? What area should I be in? ASK your Pastor*
  - (2) *Men get into trouble when they fail to talk to their pastor - they assume certain things that are false*
    - (a) *Pastor is too busy / this is dumb question / has more important things to do / I should know how to do this*

**2. Test the waters:**

- a) Right away - begin outreaching and seeing where people are responding

**b) This has two benefits:**

- (1) First you are *able to learn your way around the city* - Where people gather/ where do locals go
- (2) Second: *see where people are most responsive*
- c) **Dont overcomplicate this part** - you don't even need flyers/ you don't need an official event / all you need is to talk to people - meet people - evangelize. building bridges with people and seeing what the city is like

**3. Find a location for a church: Talk to your pastor**

- a) This will depend on where people are responding - in outreaching you find out where the responsive people live and you aim for that area
- b) PG - people will go up they wont go down
  - (1) If you locate in the ghetto you will get ghetto poverty people in your church
  - (2) Find a location on the edge of a nice area that is safe / where people are willing to go to at night
    - (a) *Would a single woman with a baby want to go to your church at night*
  - (3) Find nice area of town - looks clean and safe at 10:30 in the morning - what is it like at night?

**4. Pitfalls of pioneering boils down to one central issue**

- a) Men stop communicating with their pastor / they talk to their pastor when things are going well

### III. THE BLESSING OF PIONEERING

- A. You are blessed because you accomplishing Gods will

- 1. Each man here has an opportunity in this church to step out and do what God has called you to do
  - a) Called men - You will be unsatisfied and frustrated doing anything other than Gods will

- B. Other people are impacted by your obedience

- 1. There are people that are changed for eternity because you did the will God
  - a) There cities/ even nations that are waiting for you to go
  - b) There are places that others have completely written off that are still waiting for you

- C. God is pleased when we help expand His Kingdom

- 1. God is the one who places a crown on pioneering - what He loves is unreached people and cities being impacted with the gospel

- 2. God will bless His will and cause you to be effective

- a) He adds what you lack / supplies what you need / directs and guides/ protects and helps you to be fruitful / not a work of man but a work of God — ***Hudson Taylor - Gods will done Gods way will never lack Gods supply***