

Appendix II: Biblical Basis for Philosophy of Missions

This document establishes the biblical context for the MSI, Philosophy of Missions statement. It is designed for those who desire a deeper study of the subject. Though the salient points correlate well, it is not meant to correspond exactly with the missions document.

1. God is sovereign over all material and spiritual dimensions of the universe

1 Samuel. 2:2, 7-8

2 There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

7 The Lord sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. 8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's. Upon them he has set the world.

Psalms 24:1

1 The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Matthew 28:18

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Colossians. 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

2. Transformation is God's work

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Galations 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. *2* Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. God is at work to make Himself known

Acts 14:17

17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

Romans 1:19-20

19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. *20* For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

James 1:16-17

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. *17* Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

4. God is at work on behalf of the poor

Psalms 35:10

10 My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, O Lord
You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor
and needy from those who rob them."

Psalms 68:5-6

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. *6* God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

Psalms 113:7-9

7 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; *8* he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. *9* He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the Lord.

Isaiah 11:4

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

5. God expresses a preference for the poor in the building of His kingdom

James 2:5-7

5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

Luke 6:20-26

20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. 24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

Luke 4:18-19

18."The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, *2* to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, *3* and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

6. The establishment of the new order of justice for the poor has already begun

Luke 7:20-23

20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" *21* At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. *22* So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. *23* Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

I John 2: 8

8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

Colossians 3:10-11

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. *11* Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Hebrews 2:8

8 You have put everything under His feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

7. We are blessed to be a blessing

Genesis 12:1-3

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will

show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing, ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Isaiah 42:6-7

⁶ I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people and as a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and to those who dwell in darkness.

Galatians 3:8

⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham, saying, "All the nations shall be blessed in you."

8. Our response to the poor

James 1:27

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Proverbs 22:22-23

²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court ²³ for the Lord will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

⁷ If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. ⁸ Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. ⁹ Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the Lord against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. ¹⁰ Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Psalms 82:3-4

³ Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Isaiah 58:6-7

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke to set the

oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Hebrews 13:3

3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Matthew 5:43-48

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Proverbs 29:7

7 The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.

Romans 12:13

13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Galations 2:10

10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Luke 10:25-37- the good Samaritan

I Timothy 5:3

3 Honor widows who are widows indeed.

9. The biblical priority of making disciples

Matthew 7:21

21 Not every one who says to me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

10. The biblical challenge to the rich

I Timothy 6:17-19

17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. *18* Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. *19* In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Matthew 26:7-13

7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. *8* When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. *9* "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." *10* Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. *11* The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. *12* When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. *13* I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

I Corinthians 9:19-23

19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. *20* To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. *21* To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. *22* To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. *23* I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Matthew 10:42

42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward."

Matthew 25:37-40

37 Then the righteous will answer Him saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger and invite you in, or naked and clothe You? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and come to You? 40 And the King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."

11. Practicing justice, humility, and love in our charity

Micah 6:8

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 6:1-4

1 Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. 2 When therefore you give alms, do not sound the trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you they have their reward in full. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing 4 that your alms may be in secret; and your heavenly father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven

I John 4:7-9

7 Beloved, let us love on another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him

I John 3:16-18

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue but in deed and in truth.

Philippians 2:1-4

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, *2* then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. *3* Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. *4* Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Ephesians 5:8-11

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light *9* (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) *10* and find out what pleases the Lord. *11* Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

12. Godly perspective on neediness and contentment

Philippians 4:11-13

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. *12* I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. *13* I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

I Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. *7* For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. *8* But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. *9* People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. *10* For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

13. The scope of our charge extends to all men

I Timothy 2:4

4(God) desires all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth.

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Philippians 2:9-11

9 Therefore God also highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name *10* that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, *11* and

that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of
God the Father.

Revelation 14:6

6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to
preach to those who live on the earth, and to every tribe and tongue and
people.

Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations,