

john piper let the nations be glad

John Piper's "Let the Nations Be Glad!" is a seminal work that explores the intersection of missions, worship, and the glory of God. Published in 1993, this book has profoundly impacted evangelical thought about the purpose of the church and the role of believers in global missions. Piper, a well-known pastor, theologian, and founder of Desiring God Ministries, emphasizes that the ultimate goal of missions is not merely to save souls but to glorify God by making His name known among all nations. This article delves into the key themes, arguments, and implications of Piper's work, providing insights into its significance within the evangelical community and the broader context of Christian missions.

The Central Thesis of "Let the Nations Be Glad!"

Piper's central thesis is encapsulated in the idea that "missions exists because worship doesn't." This statement underscores the belief that the primary objective of missions is to draw people into a relationship of worship with the living God. For Piper, the glory of God is the ultimate aim of all creation, and therefore, all evangelistic efforts should be directed towards magnifying His greatness.

The Glory of God as the Ultimate Goal

1. God's Sovereignty: Piper argues that God's glory is revealed through His sovereignty over all creation. He emphasizes the importance of understanding God's attributes, particularly His holiness, justice, mercy, and love, as foundational for worship.
2. Worship as the Response: Worship is not merely a ritualistic practice but a heartfelt response to God's revelation of Himself. True worship leads to a life that reflects God's character and seeks to glorify Him in all aspects.
3. The Role of the Church: The church is seen as the primary instrument through which God's glory is manifested. Piper challenges believers to recognize their role in proclaiming the glory of God to the nations.

The Biblical Basis for Missions

Piper grounds his arguments in extensive biblical theology, drawing from both the Old and New Testaments to illustrate God's heart for the nations.