

Lecture 12- Mission Theory (22, cont.); Strategies & Technology (23)

There has always been a certain fuzziness surrounding the concept of mission theory. The key idea in mission theory after 1850 was the concept of the indigenous church, but the supporting theoretical substructure has remained incomplete. Was this because it was simply assumed that the meaning was self-evident and therefore did not require further clarification? Anyone studying the debates of this period cannot escape the impression that there is a great deal concerning mission that remains undeveloped and unresolved.

-Shenk, p.34

The modern mission project has been a special locus of the larger confrontation among modernity, the Christian faith, and world cultures.

-Shenk, p.154

Key Terms

“Mission theory;” “three eras;” evaluation; goals; theory; “put in our place;” our history; our context; corporate identity; “before God;” “ten epochs;” enlightenment; deism; pietism; Great Awakening; culture & church theology; western; “strategy;” technology; financial support

Lecture Objectives

- Identify key themes in the current discussion regarding missions
- Identify and describe at least one theme in today's discussion that will be helpful for you to consider more fully as you develop your philosophy of ministry (regardless of cultural context.)
- Outline and describe the dynamic relationship among modernity, Christian faith, and world cultures.
- Identify key issues in the areas of strategy, technology, and finances that face the modern missions project.
- Identify initial biblical and pastoral approaches to these issues.

Mission Theory (cont.)

Continued from lecture 11

I. Modern Mission Theory (see Appendix H for charts)

A. German – 26-28

B. Dutch – 35-52

C. English – 52 (Cf. Thomas, 206-208), 53 (Thomas, 82-84), -59

D. Scandinavian – 59

E. U.S. – 64-65 (Thomas, 68-70), 66-70

F. Non-Western (71ff.)

Other Figures – Cf. Thomas, 70-77

II. “Three Eras” (see Appendix H)

A. Evaluation of goals, theorizing

1. Verkuyl, 176-204

2. Shenk

a. Historical context (35)

b. Nevius (42)

c. Conclusion (47)

III. “Putting Us in Our Place”

A. In history

1. Within history

2. For our identity – vs. historical amnesia
 3. For humility in light of vast reality
 - B. Within our particular contexts
 1. Learn from God's people in different historico-cultural contexts
 2. See the often complicated and multi-faceted nature of events
 - C. Putting us in our place
 1. Corporate identity universally
 2. Corporate identity locally
 - D. Before God
 1. See His workings
 2. Grow in trust in His commitment to redeem His world.
- IV. "Ten Epochs" (see Appendix H)

Mission Strategies & Technology

- I. Western (U.S.) Missions
 - A. Overview – Shenk, 153-165
 - B. MTW, International Mission Board, etc.
 1. <http://www.pcanet.org/mtw/>
 2. <http://www.imb.org/>
- II. Strategies & Technology (some of the following points have been incorporated into the discussion of prior points.)
 - A. Overview- Shenk, 103-114; Bonk, 70-76

The topic of Mission Strategies & Technology is concluded in Lecture 13.