

**Lecture 15- Urban Missions (30); St. Louis (31)**

*As the United States moves into the twenty-first century, it moves toward the future of what Time magazine calls 'the world's first multicultural society.' Sometime during the second half of that coming century, the white community, 'the arbiters of the core national culture for most of its existence, are likely to slip into minority status....More than one sign says that assimilation...is now also becoming the calling of the dwindling white majority....And behind this new shape to assimilation in a multicultural society is a new direction for the city.'...Neal Peirce suggests that we are returning to something resembling the old age of the city-state. 'Great metropolitan regions – not cities, not states, not even the nation states – are starting to emerge as the world's most influential players.'*  
-Conn, p. 182

*The secular prophets have called St. Louis 'the most dying city in the nation.' Similar comments are made of urban centers around the country. However, the city is being repopulated by immigrants and refugees making it one of the most diverse and colorful mission fields of the region.*  
-Bill Yarbrough

**Key Terms**

Urban eyes; rural eyes; syncretism; kingdom of God; the alien; diversity; law & righteousness

**Lecture Objectives**

- Briefly describe the place of the cities in a biblical-theological understanding.
- Identify key issues related to the place of cities in an understanding of world mission.
- Identify implications of this discussion for your own call.
- Describe the demographic characteristics of the St. Louis area in relation to a biblical understanding of God's world mission.
- Compare and contrast your location with St. Louis relative to God's world mission.
- Identify implications of today's discussion for the work to which you have been called in God's world mission.

*This introduction is not included in the lecture.*

Intro: Reading the Bible with Both Urban and Rural Eyes (See Appendix I for related reading)

<http://www.gospelcom.net/lcwe/LOP/lop09.htm>

I. Harvey Conn on "The American City and the Evangelical Church"

A. Challenges and questions

B. Anti-urban "syncretism" (193-194)

II. "Don't be an urban missionary unless ..." (Roger Greenway)

**Urban Missions**

Guest speaker is Reverend Barry Henning from New City Fellowship Central.

I. God's Purposes

II. God's Justice

III. God's Reconciliation

**St. Louis**

Guest speaker is Reverend Bill Yarbrough from New City Fellowship Central.

I. St. Louis Seen in World Mission Perspective