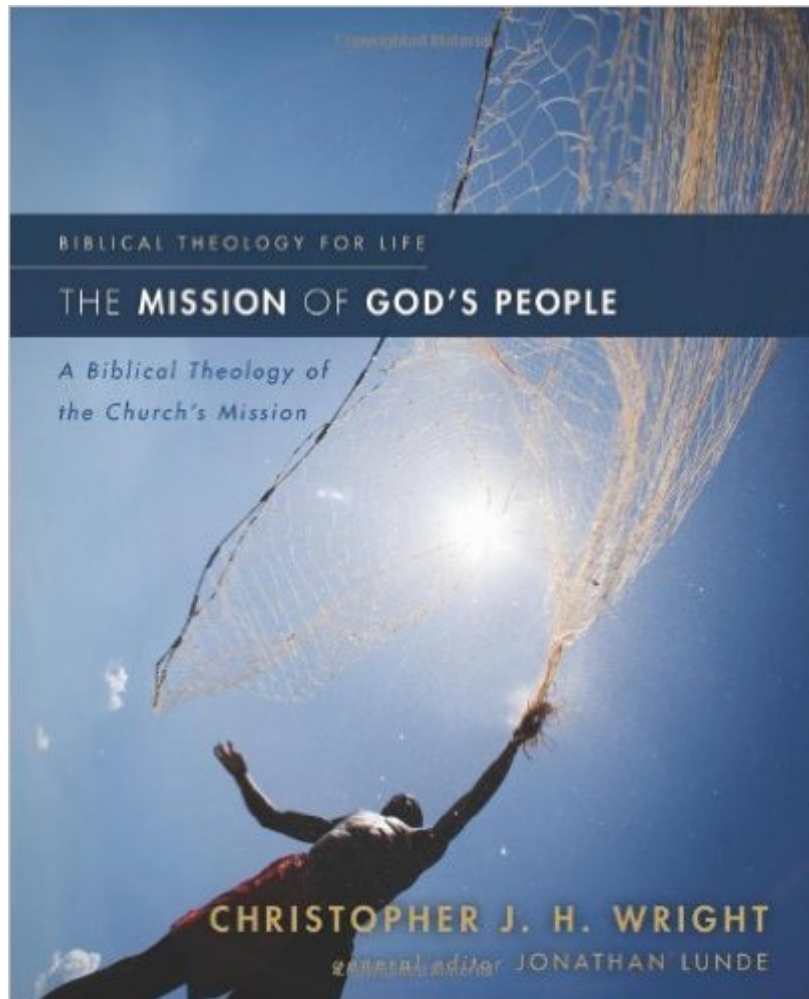


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# The Mission Of God's People: A Biblical Theology Of The Church's Mission (Biblical Theology For Life)



## Synopsis

Chris Wright's pioneering 2006 book, *The Mission of God*, revealed that the typical Christian understanding of God's missions encompasses only a small part of God's overarching mission for the world. God is relentlessly reclaiming the entire world for himself. In *The Mission of God's People*, Wright shows how God's big-picture plan directs the purpose of God's people, the church. Wright emphasizes what the Old Testament teaches Christians about being the people of God. He addresses questions of both ecclesiology and missiology with topics like God's call to care for creation, God's call to bless the nations, God's sending and being sent, and God's rejecting false gods. As part of the Biblical Theology for Life Series, this book provides pastors, teachers and lay learners with first-rate biblical study while at the same time addressing the practical concerns of contemporary ministry. *The Mission of God's People* promises to enliven and refocus the study, teaching, and ministry of those truly committed to joining God's work in the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To say that I was surprised by "The Mission of God's People" (henceforth TMGP) would be an understatement. I had two expectations: 1. That it would not be substantial. 2. That it would be fluff that was simply geared toward social justice sorts of causes. Why? Because I had no idea of the author and his writings. This reviewer was proven to be very, very wrong on both counts. In fact, I

greatly enjoyed the book, because it was substantial, and because it engaged Scripture in a very honest manner. Over and over again as I read this book I found myself nodding in agreement and wanting to scream out "YES!" This guy has nailed it. TMGP is through and through a Biblically based book. It is saturated with Bible. It is thoroughly theological. It is not dull, however. It is theology for living. He says, "No theology without missional impact; no mission without theological foundations." Wright explains to us why we were created, and why we have been re-created in the new birth. There is a goal in it all. That goal is to bring glory to God. From Adam to Abraham to you, and to the ages to come, the mission of God's people is to magnify the greatness of God. Though a very different sort of writer than John Piper, Wright's goal and passion is the same. In fact, I was frequently reminded both of *Desiring God* and *Let The Nations Be Glad* as I read this book. Not only does Wright explain that God's people in all ages have been called to show the glory of God in their lives, but he explains how that is to work out. The Scriptures show us how to shine for Jesus.

The two questions which appear to be inescapable from modern discussions of the church are, *Who are we?* and *Why are we here?* Everyone seems to have a horse in this race, and there is no shortage of answers to this self-imposed query. The fact that many people are asking, however, does not necessarily mean that they are poor questions. In fact, they are vital to the foundation and direction of the church. And it is this set of questions which drives Christopher Wright's latest book forward. *Who are we, the church? Why are we, the church, here?* His answer comes in the focused discussion of missions . . . or missiology, missional, missions-minded, etc . . . that many have spoken of before. What makes this reading unique and worthwhile? My opinion would suggest that this is one of the best and most accessible biblical discussions on the nature of the church that you can pick up today. Although I am by no means an expert on missiology, I do know that the church culture is refocusing on the missional movement of the gospel and that the themes of Scripture are being reread with great vigor to that end. So, this is a relevant book . . . it is timely, thoughtful, and challenging. One of the primary strengths of this book is Wright's constant focus on the hands-on work of the church, never allowing the theory and theology cast a shadow on the importance of the daily life of the believer. Such writing will make this a strong text for classroom and small group, and should now occupy the pastor's shelf. (Although some of the many inset-texts become distracting and bothersome, they hold good content, summary and example for the discussion.) The overall tenor of the book is this: the church has a specific identity, which lends to its mission, which defines its ethic.

Christopher J. H. Wright's *The Mission of God's People* is a book that uncovers the biblical theology of mission and its implication for all Christians. It is a book from Zondervan's *Biblical Theology For Life* series. The book has the stated purpose of uncovering the "so what?" question for all Christians and in Wright's terms, to answer the question, "What does the Bible as a whole in both testaments have to tell us about why the people of God exist and what it is they are supposed to be and do in the world?"<sup>1</sup> Wright's main thrust is that God's mission has a broad redemptive agenda. The simplistic view of mission as just the proclamation of the gospel is tossed out and Wright offers a holistic understanding of the mission of God. This reviewer cannot help but sense Wright's favorable view of holism in the prioritism versus holism debate of approaches to evangelization of the world. Regardless of where we might stand in that debate, Wright's presentation of God's mission in this book deserves mention because it presents biblical evidence for a holistic approach to mission. Whether we are supporters or naysayers of a holistic approach to mission, we have the onus of examining the biblical data that Wright offers and give them due consideration in consolidating our own view of a biblical approach to mission. In the first half of the book, from chapters 1-8, Wright wrestles with what the Bible has to say about who we as God's people and what is our purpose in life as God's people. In the second half of the book, chapters 9-15, the author spells out the terms of what we ought to be doing in light of the biblical understanding of God's mission.

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