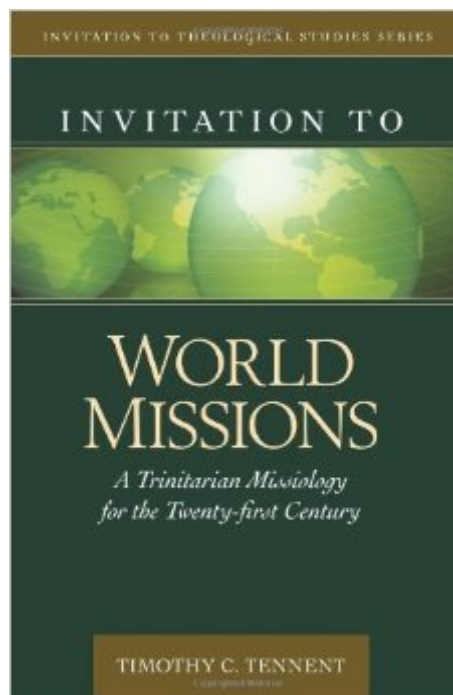


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Invitation To World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology For The Twenty-first Century (Invitation To Theological Studies Series)



Synopsis

Invitation to World Missions combines a strong biblical anchor with practical suggestions. This unique text is arranged in three parts according to the Trinity's roles, relationships, and activity. Tennent questions whether missions as currently conceptualized is adequate and he challenges the reader by building the book around key theological foundations such as the "mission of God" and the "new creation" vision for the global church. This volume will call and enable the reader to understand how missions is biblically and theologically basic to Christianity, and how missions is essential to living out an abundant and impassioned life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an evangelical book on global christian mission in the 21st century written from a western perspective. It begins with an observation of the major trends in the global mission field today, namely the shift of the Christian center of gravity from the West to the majority world, the influx of multiple religious truth claims in the West today, urbanization and technology (esp internet connectivity) and the emergence of the 'fourth branch' of Christianity - the independent churches. The author seeks to ground missiology in the mission of the triune God (what the early Christians called the 'missio dei') : the Father is the source and goal of mission, the Son is the embodiment of God's redemptive presence and the Spirit is God's empowering presence that brings forth the new creation. This is quite basic but often neglected when pragmatism and secularism sets in. He gives an overview of the mission of God through the whole bible beginning with the call of

Abraham, moving through the salvation history of Israel through to the life, death and resurrection of Christ and Pentecost. It is in the light of this 'creation, fall, redemption, new creation' grand narrative that we should understand what mission is about. Ultimately mission has as its goal the worship of God. Mission will end when eschatology is consummated and God's glory fully revealed. Tennent also surveys the history and development of christian mission understanding through the centuries. It is interesting to see how the church has not always understood or valued christian mission in the same way.

Timothy Tennent, President of Asbury Seminary and former professor of world missions at Gordon-Conwell has written a monumental and masterful work entitled *Invitation to World Missions* that is aimed at the concerns of 21st century missionaries, students, and teachers. The result of this book is a vast amount of ground covered: from building a theological basis for missiology, to Trinitarian thinking on missions, to an evangelical theology of religions, and then onto a history of missions. What was very alarming to me in reading this great book is that every time I would be thinking of a mission situation or problem in a chapter, Tennent answered my question before I was able to formulate it. This work gives much attention to the theological trajectory of the Bible and how God is ever at work from the beginning to end in missions. I hope to offer a few highlights of the book followed with a criticism and a conclusion here in my review. Highlights Capturing the narrative flow of the Bible Tennent does an amazing job at focusing in on the narrative flow of the Bible and incorporating this into the role of mission thinking. As God reveals himself in the Old Testament, he does so by calling Abraham to be the father of many nations and accomplishing his covenant promises even thru perilous situations. God providentially enacts his missional plan and carries it forth powerfully. Tennent writes, "Because God already has ordained the final goal, He actually confirms it with an oath, swearing by His own self that all nations will be blessed through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:16-18)" (110). As Tennent sees God as both the source and initiator of mission, he also sees the providential hand of God upon all the affairs that take place with Abraham.

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