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## This Month's Focus:

Last week, we mentioned the idea of missions in the church. In Romans 1:5, Paul emphasizes his calling to the Gentiles. Paul wants to see obedient people among all the nations. I have been looking at Paul's method for making this happen in scripture. The book of Acts gives us a good overview of Paul's life. His missionary strategy was to go from city to city and plant a church. From that church then, the surrounding areas were evangelized. In Acts 19:10, we learn that Paul spent two years in Ephesus preaching to the church he planted there, but in those two years, all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord. When Paul went to a new area, he would strategically pick a city to start evangelizing and get a small group or church. That church would then be a hub of evangelism for the surrounding cities. Think of Acts 16, where Paul is instructed to go to Macedonia with the gospel. Acts 16:10-12 explains how he goes specifically to Philippi, the leading city in Macedonia. He plans to do mission work in Macedonia, planting a church and then that church will evangelize the surrounding areas. That's exactly what happens as Paul meets Lydia, then a slave girl is converted, then the Philippian jailer along with his family. We know that the church continues to grow and Paul later writes to them from prison in Rome encouraging them for being a church that supports him. This was all part of what he is talking about in Romans 1:5, of seeing the obedience of faith among the nations. We need to follow in that mission and partner in getting the gospel to unreached people groups and places.

**Pastor's Note:** Pizza with the pastor will be happening on March 10th this month. We are pushing it back one week because of the annual meeting that will occur on March 3rd. So anyone interested in membership at North Street, please plan to stay on March 10th for pizza and an opportunity to ask any questions that you might have.

