

A biblical philosophy of missions

The purpose of our gathering today is to discuss a biblical philosophy of missions.

Defining our terms:

Biblical: Our divine manual - the instructions for all

A philosophy which comes from our final authority.

Philosophy: Our divine reason - the why behind our what.

A biblical philosophy defines truth.

A biblical philosophy avoids conflict between tradition and truth.

A biblical philosophy obeys the Word of God's precepts.

A biblical philosophy forms principles from the Word of God.

A biblical philosophy establishes our preferences.

A biblical philosophy of missions will eliminate emotional decisions.

Missions: Our divine task - the where and what.

What we say: the plan of the Gospel

Where we take it: the places of the Gospel

What we leave when we are done: The purpose of the Gospel.

A biblical philosophy of missions:

1. Requires an understanding of the Redemptive plan of God.
2. Requires an understanding of the Role of the Local Church.
3. Requires an understanding of the Required Elements of a Missions Program.
4. Requires an understanding of the Requirements of Selecting a Missionary.
5. Requires an understanding of the Responsibilities of taking care of a Missionary.
6. Requires an understanding of the Relationships (Partners) we can utilize in Missions.
7. Requires an understanding of the Regulations we could implement in Missions.

The redemptive plan of God

The Objective of a biblical philosophy of missions

The evangelization of the world has been on the heart of God since the Garden of Eden and the fall of man which brought sin into the world. The Sin of man separated Man from God. In the garden of Eden God made it clear there would be a Seed of the women who would conquer the serpent.

Satan's efforts since that time have been focused on destroying the Seed of the women. Throughout the Old Testament Satan worked to destroy the seed-line of that Redeemer who would come.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law," (Galatians 4:4 KJV)

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" (Ephesians 2:4-6 KJV)

God worked with a Man: Abraham

God worked with a Family: Jacob

God worked with a Nation: Israel

God is working with the Church He started.

Therefore a biblical philosophy of missions must begin with understanding the role of the church in the redemptive plan of God.

The objective of a local church is to carry out the redemptive plan of God.

Requires an understanding of the Role of the Local Church.

The Place from which His work will be done

Christ introduces the word Church in Matthew 16:18

This introduction will reveal the role and responsibility of the New Testament Church.

He makes it abundantly clear that this called out assembly would be the central hub from which He worked. The instructions He gives for this assembly, the local church, are the basis of a biblical philosophy of missions.

We identify ourselves as His Bride, His assembly. His church in its local expression.

Five times He will speak to a Divine task and it's assignment to them. We call this the Great Commission.

- The Great Commission gives our Mandate. Go
- The Great Commission gives our Message. *Gospel, Repentance and Remission*
- The Great Commission gives our Methods. *Preach, Teach, Send, Witness*

- The Great Commission gives our Motivation. *All power, His presence, His promise*
- The Great Commission gives our Map. *All the world, all Nations, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Uttermost part*
- The Great Commission gives our Multitude. *Every Creature,*
- The Great Commission gives our Mission. *Go, I am with you.*

Each Great Commission mention has an emphasis.

1. Notice the emphasis is on the Purpose of Missions.

Matthew 28:19-20 *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

2. Notice the emphasis is on the Preaching of Missions.

Mark 16:15 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

3. Notice the emphasis is on the Proclamation of Missions.

Luke 24:47-49 *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. {48} And ye are witnesses of these things. {49} And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be*

endued with power from on high."

4. Notice the emphasis is on the Power for Missions. John 20:21 *"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*

5. Notice the emphasis is on the Places to do Missions. Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

6. In Summary

- The priority of a church is to evangelize its own community and to evangelize the uttermost parts of the earth.
- A church may have Bible doctrine, Biblical separation, Fundamental positions, and a good ministry program for all ages; but if it does not have a Bible- based Missions ministry, it ceases to be a church. A church must be involved in local and global evangelization.

Requires an understanding of the Required Elements of a Missions Program.

The essential elements of a Missions Program based on this philosophy

- ✓ A church
- ✓ A Missionary
- ✓ A Heart of Compassion
- ✓ Money
- ✓ Strategy

I. You will need a Church. Acts 13:1-3

- A. They recognized their Place. 3 times "They" It is "they" work not "I" work.
 1. They were the agency God would use.
 2. They had the ability to handle the task he assigned.
 - a) We are his bride.
 - b) We are his church.
 - c) We are his people.
 3. They had the authority from God to work.
Matthew 28:18
 4. They had the area from God to Work.
 - a) The Home Place. Jerusalem

- b) The Hardened Place. Judea
- c) The Hopeless Place. Samaria
- d) The Hard to reach Place. Uttermost.

B. *They Recognized their Purpose.*

- 1. They were a church that Labored for God. 13:2
Ministered
- 2. They were a church that Looked toward God.
13:2 Fasted.
- 3. They were a church that Listened for God. 13:2
“The HG said”

C. *They Recognized their Partnership.*

- 1. A Partnership of Sacrifice. Fasting.
- 2. A Partnership of Supplicating. Prayed
- 3. A Partnership of Standing. Laid Hands
 - a) Beside
 - b) Behind.
 - c) Before.
- 4. A Partnership of Supporting. Sent them Away.
 - a) Relieve and Release them of their obligations locally for Global.
 - b) Released them with financial backing they would need.

II. You will need a Missionary.

- A. We must first understand who the Missionary is. Acts 13:1
 - 1. He has a calling not a career.
 - 2. He has a Vision not a vocation.
 - 3. He has a Passion not a profession.
- B. We must understand what a missionary does. Romans 10:1
 - 1. A Missionary has an Undeniable Priority.
 - 2. A Missionary has an Undying Passion.
 - 3. A Missionary has an Undiminished Prayer Life.
 - 4. A Missionary has an Understanding of People.
 - 5. A Missionary has an Underlying Purpose.
- C. You will need a criteria of the ministries you will support.
- D. You will need a criteria of the ministries you won't support.
- E. Guidelines to consider:
 - 1. Humanitarian Ministries (locally and internationally)
 - 2. Scripture and Literature Ministries.
 - 3. Academic Ministries.
 - 4. Church Planting ministries.
 - 5. Widows

III. You will need **Compassion**.

- A. Will allow itself to feel the need of others. Phil 4:14
- B. Is willing to do what no other church is willing to do.
Phil 4:15
- C. Is willing to be faithful. Phil 4:16
- D. Know its giving smells pleasant to God. Phil 4:17
- E. Knows that God will supply its needs as it supplies the needs of others. Phil 4:19

IV. You will need **Finances**.

- A. This may come from the General Fund.
 - 1. Some churches choose to deduct a set amount from their General Fund for Missions.
- B. This may come from designated offerings.
 - 1. Some Churches allow members who feel led of the Lord to designate in their weekly giving an amount to be given to Missions.
- C. This may come from Faith Promise.
 - 1. This is a Biblical method of giving that comes from the pattern of the Corinthian Church. Fellow believers were faced with a famine in Jerusalem.
 - 2. Paul instructed them to promise by faith an amount that they would give in one year's time.
 - 3. This principle seeks to involve the membership in

a direct way.

V. You will need a Strategy.

- A. The **Jerusalem Phase**: Your church should be evangelizing the community around you.
- B. The **Judaea Phase**: Your church should be evangelizing the state.
- C. The **Samaria Phase**: Your church should be evangelizing the neighboring countries.
- D. The **Uttermost Phase**: Your church should be actively reaching out to areas around the world.
- E. Practical Strategy Questions:
 1. Where will you focus the most?
 2. Scripture divides the world into four regional views.
 3. Will you focus on only unreached areas?
 4. How long will you support a missionary?
 - Medical how will you support? less missionaries more money? more missionaries, less money
 - Widows
 5. How often will you evaluate support needs?
 6. How much will your support amount be?
 7. Will you support your own church members a different amount?
 8. What will be your ratio of church planters to no

church planters?

9. What portion of your missions budget will be reserved for emergencies?
10. What portion of your budget will be reserved for missions trips?

A Biblical Strategy is a must for a biblical philosophy of missions.

What will you do tomorrow do in the nursery, elementary, teens, college and adult classes that will produce a missionary?

As a church, our strategy must include producing, training, supplying, sustaining, and strengthening missionaries.

Requires an understanding of the Requirements of Selecting a Missionary

Acts 13 teaches a local church that it is our job is to send the missionaries away.

Sending them away can have a negative or positive impact.

You can meet a missionary and say, "I sure would like to send him **away**. (Along with a few other people too!)" or you "I sure would like to **send** him away!"

Selecting our Missionaries must always be driven by our philosophy:

A biblical philosophy of missions must replicate the church at Antioch.

We, the Grace Baptist Church, driven by the redemptive plan of God for the entire world will carry out the work of bringing the Gospel to the world.

We will do so by following the Antioch model.

We commit to being a church who labors, looks and listens to the Lord

We commit to looking for those to whom He's extended His call

to do a work whereunto He's called them.

What makes me connect with one missionary and not another?

Sometimes it is ME.

Sometimes it is the MISSIONARY.

Sometimes it is the MATERIAL PRESENTED.

It must always be in line with the GBC philosophy.

1. Sometimes it Me:

Sometimes the inability to connect with a missionary comes from OUR internals more than THEIR externals. When a missionary comes in to our church we begin to develop our minds based upon our perceptions. Our perceptions are formed on three levels.

1. Our minds receive input.

2. Our minds process that input.

3. We make judgments based on the context of our experiences.

The last time a missionary came in dressed like that...

The last time a missionary spoke with an accent like that...

The last time a missionary's wife did that ...

4. Our perceptions are also influenced by our own feelings at the moment.

If we are tired, angry, harboring hurt feelings, anxious, disappointed, distracted by the immediate elements it affects our perception of the missionary. (I am tired, so everybody seems tired. I am hungry, so everyone must be hungry.)

2. Sometimes it's their Message:

Getting into the mind of a missionary is a portrait of God doing a work in someone's heart and them surrendering to his will. This sometimes makes us ashamed and we do not connect.

What kills a Presentation?

- o Poorly Prepared Presenter.
- o An over tired Presenter.
- o A distracted Presenter.
- o A poorly dressed Presenter.
- o A presenter who doesn't seem interested in what they are saying.
- o A wife who doesn't listen.
- o Kids who are a distraction.
- o An emotional-less delivery.
- o Boring Statistics.

- o Disorganized presentation.
- o No sense of urgency.
- o A Presentation that doesn't end.
- o A presentation that does not give me something to do with what I have heard.

Sometimes it's the Missionary:

1. The Personality Connection

You meet the missionary. You like his style of communication, interaction, and his message, providing it was not too convicting. Your mind is impressed and that influences every other aspect of the decision process.

2. The Geographical Connection

You always wanted to support a missionary going to that place. Your affection for the missionary's personality, family and mission's agency is overshadowed by the fact that you like where he is going.

3. The Social Connection

In a time of fellowship you find the missionary shares the same preferences in sports, vehicles, restaurants, and activities. These factors begin to drive you to consider the family's worthiness of support.

4. The Ministry Connection

You like what he is doing. You connect with his purpose of

ministry and his goals in getting the gospel out through the manner he described. Your heart is driven by the method of ministry and therefore you initiate his support.

5. The Spiritual Connection

You listen to his words but you see his heart. You are able to just sense in your heart, God has His hand upon this man and on your heart and he is binding them together with every word spoken.

Requires an understanding of the Responsibilities of taking care of a Missionary.

The New Testament is replete with examples of how a church can support its Missionaries.

- 1.** They offered **Prayer Support** to their Missionaries. Acts 4:29
 - A. Prayed for boldness for the servants.
 - B. Prayed for power for ministry.
 - C. Prayed for fruits for their work.

- 2.** They offered **Sacrificial Support** to their Missionaries. Acts 4:34
 - A. Needs were met by the selling of houses.
 - B. Needs were met by the selling of property.

- 3.** They offered **Survey trip support**. Acts 8:14
 - A. In this setting the church at Jerusalem gets word about the work of Phillip in Samaria, so they send Peter and John to check on things and report back so as what they could do.

- 4.** They offered **Accountability Support**. 8:14
 - A. When the believers heard that the Samaritans had gotten the gospel, they sent Peter and John to validate and authenticate the ministry of Phillip. This accountability established the ministry of Phillip in the hearts of the Samaritans and Phillip.

5. They DID NOT offer **encouragement to Missionaries**. (*At first, the church DID NOT do right here.*) How can a church blow it when a missionary comes to their church? Acts 9:26
 - A. They discouraged themselves about him by what they had heard.
 - B. They distanced himself from him because of their fears.
 - C. They Doubted Him, His calling and His salvation.

6. They offered **Travel Support**. 9:30
 - A. They lead him down to his place of departure. -
Friendship
 - B. Then they provided him a means of getting there. -
Finances

7. They offered **Hospitality Support**. Acts 9:43
 - A. We will to unite ourselves to support a missionary (Peter) by opening his home and allowing them to stay there.

8. They offered **Ambassadorial Support**. Acts 11:22
 - A. They were interested in the spread of the gospel among the Grecians.
 - B. They sent sending ambassadors to see the extent of the field of God's Calling and how we can help.
Evangelistic and Exhortation
 - C. They gave him the mission to accomplish.
 - D. They gave him the money to accomplish it.

9. They offered to send **Relief Support** for a physical need of brethren. Acts 11:29
 - A. Sent it by the elders.
 - B. They were reaching into Judaea.

10. They offered **Intercessory Prayer** support. Acts 12:5
 - A. Pray for our Missionaries when in trouble.
 - B. When the early church learned that one of one of their missionaries of their church was in trouble, offered 24 hour a day prayer vigil for him.

11. They offered times of **prayer and fasting support** for Missions. Acts 13:3
 - A. The early church in obedience to the Lord, prayed and fasted when releasing Barnabas and Saul to work for the Lord.
 - B. This sending away was a freeing up to go.
 - C. Perhaps even a making it possible for them to go.

12. They offered **Refreshing Support**. Acts 13:52
 - A. Provide times of Refreshing for our Missionaries.
 - B. A church in Iconium providing a unique kind of support. They provided a place for the missionaries to come to and find the power of God.
 - C. Note that they were filled with Joy.
 - D. Note that they were filled with the Holy Ghost
 - E. Imagine if a church could be a place that when the missionary comes they can find their needed

refreshing after having been through an emotionally tough time.

- 13.** They offered **Circle Support**. Acts 14:20
- A. Encircle our Missionaries when in need.
 - B. A missionary has been stoned and we see the church providing a different kind of support.
 - C. A missionary has just been stoned notice how they encircled him in his time of crisis.
 - D. They form a circle around him.
 - 1. A circle of Concern.
 - 2. A circle of Compassion
 - 3. A circle of Calling on God.
 - 4. A circle of Faith. - Conviction
 - 5. A circle of Strength - Courage
- 14.** They offered **Long Term support**. Acts 14:28
- A. Provide Housing for a Missionary.
 - B. In this setting we see the church at Antioch providing lodging and meals on a long term basis to Paul and Barnabas.
 - C. This support was given for a specific period.
 - D. This support was given for the servants who had traveled.
- 15.** They offered **Recommendation Support**. Acts 15:40
- A. Recommend our Missionaries to other churches.
 - B. The church at Antioch involved in a special support ministry.

- C. This is a special support for the church to give a missionary.
 - 1. Let it not be thought that this is reserved only for the missionary's home sending church.
 - 2. This is a ministry for every church.
 - 3. Each church that involves itself in a missionary's ministry should involve it self in this support for it truly is a blessing to the missionary.
- D. This support is the unified effort made by the church on the missionary's behalf to God.
 - 1. It is similar to the act of turning in someone to the police for incarceration.
 - 2. The missionary, by an act of prayer, is turned over to God's grace on their behalf and the missionary in turn is blessed and encouraged by it.

16. They offered **Security Support**. Acts 17:9

- A. They provided security for their Missionaries when in Danger.
- B. In this setting we see a church during a life threatening situation in their missionaries life, their placing their own life in danger and making sure he is secure.
- C. Jason made his missionaries feel safe, at the risk of his own safety and security.

17. They offered **Sending Support**. Acts 17

- A. Several churches got involved themselves in the area of Sending Support.

- B. v.10 The church at Berea sent them on their way.
 - C. v.14-15 The church at Thessalonica sent away Paul.
 - 1. It even recorded that they conducted him.
 - 2. It seems that the word when it is translated carries with it that the one being sent is being dispatched to carry out an assignment as spelled out by the church.
 - D. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them tools they need to do it.
 - E. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them funds they need to carry out the job we are sending them to do.
 - F. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them the authority to get the job done.
 - G. When we send somebody to do something for us we give them the mission they are to carry out for us.
- 18.** They offered **Referral Support**. Acts 18:27
- A. In this setting we see the church at Corinth involved themselves in Referral Support.
 - B. Because Paul, their missionary, had proven himself the church upon learning that Paul had the desire to go to Achaia wrote to the people they knew and put their reputation on the line for Paul, because Paul was God's man
- 19.** They offered **Protective Support**. Acts 19:30
- A. The church at Ephesus was found offering security support for Paul in their city.

- B. Paul expressed a desire to do one thing yet the disciples at Ephesus expressed their concern.
- 20.** They offered **Friendship Support.** Acts 20:38
- A. Paul was leaving and they saw themselves as losing a friend.
 - B. They went with them to see them off.
- 21.** They offered **Companionship Support.** Acts 21:16
- A. The church at Caesarea had some people take off from their jobs and homes and went with the missionaries.
 - B. They were not content to just let him go away.
 - C. They offered companionship, comfort and credibility.
- 22.** They offered their **Caring Support.** Acts 23:23
- A. The church at Caesarea was known to be a caring church.
 - B. For Felix said to allow Paul to be cared for.
 - C. The believers responded and were cared for him.
 - 1. They cared for him as a Preacher.
 - 2. They cared for him as a Prisoner.
 - 3. They cared for him as their Partner.
- 23.** They offered **Partnership Support.** Acts 27:2
- A. Aristarchus came with Paul. He was from Thessalonica, but Macedonian born.
 - B. Wherever Paul was going, he would be there.
 - C. Whatever Paul needed he was going to supply.

- 24.** They offered **“Things Necessary” Support.** Acts 28:10
- A. The Barbarians at Malta apparently became believers.
 - B. They honored him with honors for his message of hope and peace.
 - C. They loaded him down with everything he would need to go on his journey.
- 25.** They offered **Provision Support.** Acts 28:13
- A. The Believers at Puteoli responded to Paul’s needs for Lodging.
 - B. The Believers at Puteoli responded to Paul’s needs for Love.
 - C. The Believers at Puteoli responded to Paul’s needs for Lifting up.
- 26.** They offered **Courage Support.** Acts 28:14
- A. The last 50 miles of Paul’s journey from Puteoli to Rome brought him Believers who offered him Encouragement as he came on his way to Rome.
 - 1. The Forum of Appius was a traveler’s stop on the Appian Way, forty-three miles south of Rome.
 - 2. “The Three Taverns,” which actually were three shops, ten miles closer to Rome.
 - B. They heard of Paul’s arrival and went to meet him and walk with him into the city.
- 27.** They offered **Faith Support.** 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- A. Their work of faith.

1. This is giving support.
2. This is something they committed to do and completed it for him.
3. Believing they would see what they did not see now.

28. They offered **Love Support.** 1 Thessalonians 1:3

- A. Their labour of Love.
 1. Deeds performed solely because of their love for the Lord.
 2. This could have been traveling companionship.
 3. This could have been sacrificial involvement in his ministry.

29. They offered **Hope Support.** 1 Thessalonians 1:3

- A. They had believed as they had been taught.
- B. They had behaved as they had been taught.
- C. They had bonded as they had been taught.

Requires an understanding of the Relationships (Partners) we can utilize in Missions.

We can be our own Sender.

We can retain authority and outsource the clerical.

We can surrender authority and outsource the whole process.

Understanding Missions Agencies and Boards.

A. Missions and The Mission Board -

1. From the late 1800's until the present Missionaries applied to a board for approval.
2. The board chooses to send the Missionary to where there is a need.
3. People support the board and the missionary to send them out to fields of service.
4. All matters of operation belong to a stateside council or field councils.
5. This type of Missions Board is typified in Wycliffe Bible Translators, New Tribes, etc.

B. The Mission Agency -

1. The Mission Agencies came to being as churches grew weary of being servant to the boards.
2. Pastors began to feel the frustration of sending their missionaries and money but felt they had no control of the missionary.
3. A scriptural relationship between Sending Church and Supporting Church and Missionaries must be one as follows.

- a. The Spirit calls out the missionary. Acts 13
 - b. The congregation sends out the missionary. Acts 13
 - c. The church is the authority over the missionary. Acts 13.
 - d. A Missions Agency can exist only as a helper to the church.
 - (1) It can help in the recognition of National Identification for sister churches.
 - (2) It can help in the logistics of handling gifts, receipting churches and conducting business for missionaries.
 - (3) It can help in the international identification to foreign governments.
 - (4) It can help with a network of churches of like faith and order.
 - (5) It can help with having a representative visit the field on behalf of churches.
 - e. It serves in areas of accountability.
- C. The Local Church -
- 1. The church must be the boss in missions.
 - 2. If the church abdicates its responsibility to a board/agency it is wrong.
 - 3. The church must have the final say so in the missionary's ministry.
 - a. In support.
 - b. In supporting churches.

- c. In service on the field.
- d. In discipline.

Requires an understanding of the Regulations we could implement in Missions.

Sample Guidelines for a Church to select its missionaries:

The _____ Baptist Church will prayerfully determine to support a Missionary or Ministry with the following guidelines.

1. The Missionary or Ministry is **sound in Doctrine**. They should read and agree with our Statement of Faith. *Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
2. The Missionary or Ministry is **Separated**. They do not and will not fellowship with those that compromise the truth of the Word of God and with those that are liberal in doctrine. *Romans 1:1 "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"*
There should be personal separation.

*There should be ecclesiastical separation.
There should be spiritual separation.*

3. The Missionary or Ministry **agrees with our Expectations** of their Ministry. *Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*
4. We desire that each Missionary or Ministry will **Perform Mark 16:15** in their work. *(Mark 16:15) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*
5. We desire that each Missionary or Ministry will **do** what they presented and promised. *(1 Timothy 3:2) "A bishop then must be blameless, ...of good behaviour, ..."*
6. We desire that each Missionary or Ministry will **report** monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly to _____ Baptist Church of their activities in the work. *(Acts 14:27) "And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles."*

7. We desire that each Missionary or Ministry will **serve** on the field performing their work or at least _____% of the year. (except in cases of scheduled furloughs, medical or emergency furloughs) *(2 Timothy 4:5) "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

8. The Missionary or Ministry **understands** that when there is no longer a doctrinal and or philosophical agreement between our church and a Missionary or Ministry, our church will cease supporting that Missionary or Ministry. *(Romans 16:17) "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."*

Therefore a biblical philosophy of missions:

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2. Requires an understanding of the Role of the Local Church.
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