

Handling Accurately The Word Of GOD

Lesson 6

Topic For This Lesson → THE CHURCH (*WORK*)

Biblical Points Of Emphasis

- ◆ Initial points to be remembered...
 - The church of the Lord is a Divine institution
 - Prophesied (**Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:31-44; Joel 2:28-32**)
 - Promised (**Mt. 16:18**)
 - Brought into existence (**Acts 2:1-47**)
 - Therefore, the church's work ("mission") must also be Divine
 - It is not *political* or *social*...it is entirely a *spiritual* organization (**Jn. 18:36**)
 - The aim is not the entertainment or physical needs of people
 - The objective is the saving of souls through preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ
- ◆ The church's work can be outlined in 3 main points
 - **EVANGELISM OF THE LOST** (*primary work*)
 - A universal need (**Rom. 3:9-10, 23; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:1-3, 12**)
 - God supplies the "power" to save us (**Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:1-4; Jn. 8:31-34**)
 - The church supports the truth by faithfully proclaiming it (**1 Tim. 3:15**)
 - A local church supports gospel preaching for its own members (**1 Cor. 9:3-18**)
 - Even though Paul had the right to such support, he chose not to receive it (**Acts 18:1-3**)
 - A local church supports gospel preaching elsewhere (**2 Cor. 11:7-9; Phil. 1:3-5; 4:10-16**)
 - Financial support is sent *directly* to the evangelist
 - There is no other organization between the church sending the funds & the evangelist
 - An evangelist may be supported in his work by more than one local church (**2 Cor. 11:8**)
 - **EDIFICATION OF ITS MEMBERS**
 - To "edify" = to build up; to establish; to instruct and improve [*Webster's*]
 - The root word = "edifice" (*a structure; something that is built*)
 - The church is "edified" when Christians...
 - ...use the "gifts" (*functions*) God gave for the church's benefit (**Eph. 4:11-16**)
 - ...use their "gifts" (*talents*) God gave them in worship (**1 Cor. 14:2-5, 12-19, 26**)
 - ...give up their personal liberties (*rights*) to help weaker brethren (**Rom. 14:19 – 15:2**)
 - ...encourage each other daily (**1 Thess. 5:11**)
 - **BENEVOLENCE TOWARDS ITS MEMBERS**
 - "Benevolent" = a disposition to do good; an act of kindness; a generous gift [*Webster's*]
 - The church may only help (*assist*) from its treasury 2 groups of people:
 - Members of the same local church (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:3-16**)
 - Members of other local churches (**Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-31; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:4; 9:1, 12-13**)
 - Local churches may not send funds to man-made benevolent organizations

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Indicate How Each Of The Following Do Not Agree With The Points On The Previous Page

- ◆ The Sponsoring Church
- ◆ The Missionary Society
- ◆ Denominational "Cooperative" Organizations
- ◆ Secular activities churches use for "evangelism" (*Boy Scouts, car washes, clown & puppet ministries, etc.*)
- ◆ Gymnasiums, "Family Life Centers"
- ◆ Fellowship halls, kitchens, etc.
- ◆ Ball teams, hay rides, cookouts, lock-ins, etc.
- ◆ Church-supported religious schools & colleges
- ◆ Orphan homes, old folk's homes
- ◆ Food pantries or closets
- ◆ Seasonal denominational offerings (Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.)