

MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the mission of the local congregation.
2. The word Church in Greek is **"Ekklesia"** "Ek" out of "Klesia" = a calling
 - a. It means = The called out, that group of people called out of the world, assembly
 - b. Two uses of the word "Church" - Universal -Mat. 16:18 Local - Rev.2:1 - Ephesus
3. The Local church has a mission
 - a. Word mission is used often in war
 - b. Definition - a body of persons sent to perform a service or carry on an activity; a task or function assigned or undertaken
 - c. The mission of the local church is not political ! Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world..." John 18:36 - Neither is it like a social club or place of entertainment
 - d. That mission is to save SOULS
 - i. Luke 19:10 - Christ did not come just so He could die and then arise. He came and died so we could be saved.
 - ii. Jesus came to earth for this reason, and this must be the mission of the church for which he died ! John 3:17
4. To accomplish this mission the church engages in:
 - a. Evangelism - teaching the gospel - Mark 16:15-16
 - b. Edification - encouraging, building up - Eph. 4:11-13
 - c. Benevolence - helping others - Gal. 6:10
5. Here are some of the activities in which the church takes part to accomplish this mission of saving souls

Discussion

I. ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP

A. We are commanded to Assemble to worship

1. Heb. 10:25

- a. Nothing is accomplished without assembling
- b. Political men depend upon assemblies for victories
- c. Education depends on regular attendance
- d. The same is true with assembling as a Christian

2. An example - Acts 11:26 = Antioch Acts 20:7 - Troas

B. Why Assemble? To worship God. Ways of Worship - John 4:24 - How does it help in accomplishing the mission of the church.

1. Singing

a. Col. 3:16 - We do two of these things in singing: Evangelism and Edification

(1) Teaching - instruct, to learn

(2) Admonishing - to put in mind, i.e. (by implication) to caution or reprove gently:--admonish, warn.

b. The command is to sing and we only have authority to sing - that is the reason for not using instrumental music.

2. Lord's Supper

a. Example was on the first day of the week - Acts 20:7

b. Partaking the Bread and fruit of the vine each week edifies us by helping us to be reminded of what Christ did for us.

c. "This do in remembrance of me" is what Paul tells us that Christ said. 1 Cor. 11:

24-25

3. Prayer

- a. It is a part of our worship to God
- b. It certainly edifies us as we pray to God with gratitude for the blessings received and make petitions to Him for our needs.

4. Preaching

- a. Acts 20:7 "Paul preached unto them"
- b. Preaching is a way of evangelism and edification.

5. Giving

- a. We give as we have been prospered - 1 Cor. 16:1-2
- b. This demonstrates our love and devotion
- c. When we give liberally and cheerfully it edifies us and we are stronger.

C. Where there is no public worship there is no religion.

1. We assemble to worship God because He has commanded it.
2. It is a part of soul saving and therefore a very important part of the mission of the church.

II. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

A. Deut. 6:6-9 v. 7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

1. God commanded them to teach their children
2. Parents are to guide and train their children in God's message
3. Religious education is to be diligent.

B. New Testament

1. Eph. 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 - a. Bring them up
 - b. Nurture and admonition -training, education
2. II Tim. 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
 - a. Child is undeveloped - untrained
 - b. Childhood is best age for training.
 - c. Great need for Good Bible Classes in our educational program
 - d. Sin on every hand - temptations are great
 - e. Need to teach them the right way to conduct their lives
3. Acts 1:1 "Jesus began both to do and teach"
 - a. Christ is our example - we follow Him
 - b. He taught others about God
4. The early church taught daily
 - a. Peter taught - Acts 5:25-28
 - b. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42
 - c. Paul and Barnabas taught - Acts 11:26 15:35 18:11
5. Paul told Timothy to teach
 - a. 1 Tim. 4:11, 6:2
 - b. Teach others to teach - 2 Tim. 2:2

C. One mission of the Local church is to teach the Bible

1. We teach the Bible in:
 - a. Worship services... preaching
 - b. Bible classes, VBS - Gospel Meetings
 - c. Literature - HOUSE TO HOUSE - Tracts -
 - d. Internet - TV programs
2. Preaching and teaching to save the lost - Evangelism, Edification
 - a. Rom. 1:16
 - b. When we teach the gospel the lost people have an opportunity to learn the truth and be saved from their sins!
3. Teaching the Bible edifies the saved
 - a. Matt. 28:20 - "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:"
 - b. Eph. 4:11-13

III. DISCIPLINE

A. This was practiced in the O.T.

1. Adam & Eve = cast out of the garden
2. Sodom & Gomorrah = destroyed by fire and brimstone
3. Noah and the building of the ark = all the sinful people were destroyed
4. Moses = struck rock - Numbers 20:11-12
5. 1 Cor. 10:11 NKJV "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

B. Discipline is necessary for the N.T. church

1. 1 Cor. 5:5-7 - told to deliver such an one unto Satan = there is reason to believe that the church at Corinth followed the instruction of Paul - 11 Cor. 2:6
2. 11 Thes. 3:6 "But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us."
3. We can and will practice discipline when we realize that God commands it as a mission of the church
4. Discipline is not practiced to hurt, but to save ! - 1 Cor. 5:5 - Edification
5. We can and will practice discipline when we realize that God commands it as a mission of the church.

C. A failure to practice discipline against the ungodly member is a failure to carry out the mission of the N.T. church.

IV. BENEVOLENCE

- A. Gal. 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."
1. Doing good for all men is a work of the church
 2. We are to help anyone in need, when we have the opportunity
- B. Matt. 25:34-35 - "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:"

1. The people on the right hand were those who fed the hungry.
 2. At the judgment our regard for and response to human need will be very important !
 3. We sometimes here the statement - "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."
 4. Several years ago Christians in Ghana West Africa reported that during the food crisis people came to them to ask about Jesus. The Christians asked the people: "Why do you want to hear the gospel from us?" The reply was: "Because we want to know why you shared your food with others when you didn't have enough for yourself."
 5. Christians must be involved in caring for those in need.
- C. Evangelism and Benevolence go together.
1. It opens doors and hearts
 2. Then we have the opportunity to teach them and fill a greater hunger, that spiritual hunger.
 3. When people need help with the necessities of life and we help them, they are more receptive to hearing the gospel.
 4. A person who is physically hungry might be more inclined to eat spiritual food if his stomach is full.
- D. Benevolence is a work of the church in which we are trying to save souls.

CONCLUSION

1. We are in a war:
 - a. Spiritual warfare
 - b. Our enemy is the Devil who is trying to get us to sin so we can be with him in eternity.
2. The Mission of the local church is to Save Souls - get to Heaven - and take as many as we can with us.
3. There is a book entitled: "Making it Hard for People to Go to Hell from Your City" by Ted Haggard
4. We are in the soul saving business - that is the reason we assemble to worship, study the Bible, practice discipline and care for the needs of our fellow man.
5. The mission of the church is the greatest mission in the world.

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