

Mission of the Local Church

Int.

1. Aim: To Discuss some of the missions that the local congregation must accomplish.
2. Church
 - a. Ekklesia = the called out, that group of people called out of the world - 1 Cor. 1:2
 - b. Two uses of the word "church"
 - i. Universal - Matt. 16:18
 - ii. Local - specific group - Rev. 2:1 Ephesus
3. The Local church has a mission
 - a. It is not political - John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world..."
 - b. It is not a social club or place of entertainment - Mark 12:17 "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
 - c. The mission is first, last and always to save SOULS
 - i. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - ii. Jesus came to earth for this reason, and this must be the mission of the church for which he died
4. To accomplish this work the church engages in:
 - a. Evangelism - teaching - Mark 16:15-16
 - b. Benevolence - helping - Gal. 6:10
 - c. Edification - encouraging - building up - Eph. 4:11-13
5. The church is divine - therefore its mission is divine
 - a. It is the greatest institution in the world
 - b. It's mission is the greatest in the world

Discussion

I. PROVIDE FACILITIES

- A. What is the scriptural authority for having a church building
 - 1. Heb. 10:25 - is a command to assemble "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." NKJV
 - 2. Necessity demands a place to assemble
 - a. The devil will not provide a place to meet and worship God, neither will the people of the world.
 - b. We as the children of God are to provide such a place.
 - 3. The work and worship of the church can be accomplished much better when we have an adequate building.

- B. Thoughts about a church building
 - 1. Good location - growing part of community
 - 2. Economical - not too expensive
 - 3. Attractive but not extravagant
 - 4. We should care for these facilities, not destroy or fail to keep in good state of repair

- C. Can the building be used for purposes other than worship?
 - 1. Is it all right to use our building for fellowships, get togethers, even to eat a meal together? Yes

2. Reason why we can
 - a. We have weddings & funerals - could we have a cemetery on the church property ?
 - b. If we can't eat then we can't drink water in the building, therefore we would be required to remove the water fountain.
 - c. I Cor. 11:22 was not condemning the practice of eating in the building but the practice of making a feast of the Lord's Supper
 - d. If we can't eat in the building then what about feeding babies in the building?
 - e. If it is wrong to eat in the building which has been purchased with the Lord's money then it would be wrong to eat on the grounds. What about eating in the preachers home purchased with the lord's money?
 - f. Eating during the Bible Class or the Worship service would be out of place.
 - g. 1 Cor. 14:40 "Let all things be done decently and in order."
- D. One of the missions of the local church is to provide the facilities for the congregation in which we can worship God!

II. PROVIDE FOR BIBLE STUDY

- A. Reasons why we should study the Bible.
 1. We are commanded to study the Bible
 - a. II Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
 - b. God wants us to be taught and to teach others His will
 - c. There is No way to learn except by study

2. Because of the curse of Ignorance

- a. Ignorance causes man to err Matt. 22:29 NKJV "Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."
- b. People will be lost because of ignorance Acts 17:30 "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,"
- c. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."Hos.4:6

3. It supplies every need

- a. II Pet. 1:3 "all things that pertain unto life and godliness"
- b. It instructs us in every relationship
- c. II Tim. 3:16-17 thoroughly furnished

4. It will judge us in the last day

- a. John 12:48 b NKJV "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
- b. James 2:12
- c. God's word will be the standard for judging all men!

B. Ways of studying the Bible

1. Private

- a. Each individual should do this
- b. II Tim. 2:15
 - (1) Systematic
 - (2) Regular
 - (3) Quantity as well as Quality

2. Public

- a. Elders are to feed the flock Acts 20:28
- b. They cannot do all the teaching personally themselves
- c. Arrangements for studying the Bible have been made
 - (1) Bible classes - Sunday and Wednesday
 - (2) V.B.S.
 - (3) Gospel meetings
 - (4) Weekly sermons
 - (5) Special lecture's, workshops, services
- d. Other means of public teaching outside the building,
 - (1) Radio
 - (2) Internet
 - (3) T.V. program
 - (4) Bible Correspondence Courses
 - (5) Tracts
 - (6) Periodicals

C. Edified

1. Studying the Bible - learning the word of God is one way we are edified
2. Acts 9:31 NKJV "Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied."
3. Edified - from the same word that means a house builder, so it means to build up construct

III. PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST

A. Those out of Christ are lost

1. Mark 16:16 damned = condemned "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." NKJV
2. II Thes. 1:7-9 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"
3. ESV " and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8. in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, "

B. Many lost souls today

1. All lost placed in single file it would circle the world 30 times — and would get 20 miles longer every day.
2. More people alive today who have never heard the gospel than the total population of the whole earth when Jesus commanded the early Christians to preach the gospel to every creature.
3. World Population is 6.6 Billion - the USA has over 303 million
4. About 150,000 will die within 24 hours and most of these will be lost

5. There will be about 56 million more lost souls at the end of this year than when it started

6. There are lost and dying souls all about us.

C. Our mission is to save souls

1. We have the command to preach the gospel to every creature in our area

2. That is our mission, our reason for existence and our reason for everything that we do in this local congregation

3. We can help support mission work in other parts of the world - Jim Waldron is helping in India with a population of 1.1 Billion

CONCLUSION

1. The Local church

a. Is not the building or property

b. It is the people called out of sin to live for God.

2. Our mission is to save the world by

a. Evangelizing - proclaiming the good news

b. Benevolence - helping those in need

c. Edification - encouraging Christians to remain faithful

3. We have discussed basically how we are to evangelize this part of the world.

4. This church has a great work to do.

5. 1 Cor. 15:58 NKJV "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."