

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH



Surely there is purpose involved in the existence of the church. There must be a function, or a work, to do. Yes indeed. However, is the work of the church to go into business, thus buying and selling for profit? The work of the church does not consist of entering the employment business. The church is not in the business of giving away everything it can obtain just for the sake of giving it away. It is not the work of the church to go into the "education" business, thus operating institutions of learning throughout the world. These things mentioned are certainly important and they must be considered to be done, but they are not the first obligation of the Lord's body. Yes, the church has work to do, but it may not be exactly what we think it is.

We should seriously consider the work of the church as the greatest work in all the world. It is the only institution that can do it, and, as a result, glorify God. The work the Lord commissioned is that which the church must do. To do so in harmony with the will of God results in His approval. Yes, there is work to do.

The work of the church is really twofold. First, the church is to preach the gospel of Christ that souls may be saved, and second the church is to help the poor and those in need. Aside from these two functions, the church is not *primarily* obligated.

Christ said "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16 NKJV). Matthew records these words, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20). Thus we see that the primary work of the church is to "go." Are we going as Christ commanded? The Lord didn't specify *how* we should go, but He did say to go. We might consider the phrase "as you are going" to be more appropriate to the way we live our life. He didn't give a particular method of preaching the gospel, but we are not to teach "opinions" as the gospel. We may preach using a pulpit, by radio, or television, the internet, etc. Paul said "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). Preach what? The Word of God!

Everything the church does, every good work performed, every sermon, every song, yes everything, is done with the purpose of saving souls (and keeping saved souls saved). We work to save souls so that saved souls may seek and save other souls. What is the greatest *need* a person could ever truly possess? The saving of their soul!

The church is to be the instrument of helping those in need. When Jesus Christ was on earth He was continually concerned about the poor and those in need of help. If we ever develop the attitude that we do not care about others or that we are not concerned about their needs, then surely we should repent and reexamine our life.

When helping others, the church must strive to help those who are in need and those who are deserving (see 1 Timothy 5). Otherwise, it is possible to spend much time helping those who are not worthy, for some people are too willing to take advantage of the benevolence of the church. James has written "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

Each person should remember their obligation before God to provide the best they are able to provide for themselves and for their family. If help must be received, the church can supplement what is lacking (1 Timothy 5:8). Someone has observed the tendency of human beings and remarked "You can't provide help in spiritual matters when a person is hungry, cold, or in dire need of material things." Yes, the church is deeply concerned about the spiritual needs of the world, but if the physical needs are not addressed, then the spiritual may not be of any concern to any needy person.

Remember, the Lord is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). A person can be saved only as they have the opportunity to hear the Word of God and obey it. Whether it be through preaching the word of helping the poor, the truth must be proclaimed. This is the work of the church.

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Where in the Bible is a "doctor" first mentioned? Bonus: why was this person mentioned?

Birthday/Anniversary Lunch: 2nd Sunday of the month...

NMCCH: Zip Lock Bags (all sizes) & Fabric Softener Sheets (**10/19** pick up)

Friday Bible Study: 7PM to 8PM yes, here every Friday... Lord willing!

Woman2Woman: at Lewisville, Saturday 8AM (**10/6**) "Life is like a Box of Chocolates." Meet at 7AM.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING: at Tom Bean, Sunday thru Wednesday (**10/7-10**) "6 Qualities of God that help us know Him better" Randy Gray, see posted flyer.

FALL GOSPEL MEETING: Here, Sunday thru Tuesday, (**10/14-16**) "UNITY" Jess Whitlock, please see our WEBSITE or posted flyer for times to attend.