

# What is the Church Part IV: The Purpose and Work of the Church

© 2007 Mance J. Davis Jr.

West High Street Church of Christ February 4, 2007 Sunday AM

## ***Introduction***

We have seen the beginning of the Church, the nature of the Church, and the organization of the Church. Today we will consider the purpose of the Church.

## ***The Purpose of the Church***

The manifest purpose of the Church as seen in the New Testament is to glorify God. Within the scope of this purpose, we find that the Church is to uphold his word, to work to save men's souls, and to edify the saved. This is primarily a spiritual mission, not a physical, social, or political mission.

### **A. Ephesians 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.**

- **Romans 15:5-9**

- Both Jew and Gentile together in one Body, the Church, and of one mind to glorify God.

### **B. I Timothy 3:15**

- The way in which the Church glorifies God is by upholding his Word.

### **C. Matthew 28:19-20**

- This command was given to individuals, but it shows the purpose of preaching the Word.
- It is by this Word that man is saved, so we find the salvation of man's soul within the scope of the Church's mission.

### **D. Ephesians 4:16 the body (the Church) is to edify itself.**

# What is the Church Part IV: The Purpose and Work of the Church

© 2007 Mance J. Davis Jr.

West High Street Church of Christ February 4, 2007 Sunday AM

## *The Work of the Church*

The Work of the Church is to accomplish its purpose. The Bible outlines how God would have us to do this. The primary way in which the Church glorifies its Lord is through its worship.

### **A. Worship: The worship and actions of the Church**

- **Acts 2:42**
  - Perhaps all of the acts of New Testament corporate worship can be seen here.
- Assembly: **Hebrews 10:24-25**
  - Preaching: **Acts 20:7**
  - Partaking of the Lord's Supper: **Acts 20:7**
  - Public Prayer: **Acts 2:42**
  - Singing: **Ephesians 5:18-20**
  - Giving: **I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 9:7**

### **B. Teaching**

- **Matthew 28:19-20** The "Great Commission."
  - The Apostles were to teach others to do this as well, therefore this is a great portion of the work of the church.
- **I Timothy 3:15** pillar and ground
- **Acts 20:7** Preaching

# What is the Church Part IV: The Purpose and Work of the Church

© 2007 Mance J. Davis Jr.

West High Street Church of Christ February 4, 2007 Sunday AM

## C. Edification:

- **Ephesians 4:11-12&16**
  - From the works mentioned here, one can readily see that edification is not simply making ourselves and others “feel good” as seems to be the idea in our modern religious world.
  - Rather, Each of these works has to do with teaching and instructing others in the gospel.
  - It is through this teaching and shared faith in the teaching and the Lord who gave it that edification as the Bible speaks of it is accomplished.

## D. Limited Benevolence

- **Romans 15:25-26** Needy Saints
- **I Corinthians 16:1-3** Needy Saints
- **Acts 6:1-3** Widows
- **I Timothy 5:3-10** Widows

## *Conclusion*

We see, then, that the purpose of the Church: **to Glorify God, to uphold his Word, to effect the salvation of man by the preaching of the Word, and the edification of the saints.**

The work of the Church, those things that the Church is to do in order to accomplish its purpose, is fourfold: **Worship, Teaching, Edification, and Limited Benevolence.**

These are **the only things that God has revealed as the work of the Church.** Any other things, such as **schools, dinners, camps, societies and other modern innovations** therefore, **are things**, which he has **not authorized.**

Let us follow the New Testament pattern and it only as we seek to serve Him who bought us.