

Mission/Purpose of Church

- *Jesus is head over all things to the church, His body 1:22*
- *we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in THEM. Eph. 2:10*
- *to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to...powers in the heavenly places, **11 according to the eternal purpose** Eph 3:10-12*
- All Good Works prepared beforehand reflecting God's Wisdom and not ours **MUST** be found in Scripture.
- If they are not in Scripture they can't be the good works God prepared beforehand.
- When doing our own good works we no longer manifest His wisdom but our own.
- A church doing works not in the Bible is **not** manifesting God's Wisdom.

The Strength God Supplies

- Under Jesus as head, doing the works God prepared beforehand we reflect **only** God's manifold wisdom
- All summed up:
- *If anyone **speaks**, let him speak **as the oracles of God**. If anyone ministers, let him do it **as with the ability which God supplies**, that in all things **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, 1Pet. 4:10-11*
- Every thought/word/idea spoken in oracles of God.
- If it's not in God's word – Don't Speak/Propose it!
- All ministry (doing good works God prepared) must be done with the ability/strength God supplies.
- If God doesn't give a way to do it ... Don't do it!

In All things God may be Glorified

- All words and plans must be found in oracles of God. If they are not: 2 Jn 9-11; 1Cor 4:6; Mt 7:21; 15:9
- Service to God is limited to the strength God gave.
- Money collected under the limited resources of 1st day of the week contributions. 1Cor 16:1-2
- All ministering within the church must be done under the limitations of church autonomy.
- It is a lack of faith in our heart that lead us to think obeying what God has commanded is weak & foolish.
- *Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1Cor. 1:25*

Examples Of Strength God Supplies

- *And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel **CLAIM GLORY FOR ITSELF** against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Judges 7:2-3*
- The strength God supplied brought victory.
- *we were **like grasshoppers** in **our own sight**, and so we were in **their sight**." Num. 13:33*
- ***we are well able** to overcome it." Num. 13:30*
- *"How long will these people **reject** Me? And how long will they **not believe** Me, Num. 14:11*
- God sees any need for more strength a faith problem

Are We Grasshoppers?

- Church autonomy is the strength God supplies
- Makes many feel like grasshoppers:
- World has billions of people!
- Each local church extremely limited resources.
 - The money raised by brethren as prospered – 1st day.
 - The people attending that one local church.
- How can any one local church go into all the world and preach to every creature and every nation?
- **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!!!!** says the grasshopper.
- Those who trust in the strength that God supplies:
- As Joshua and Caleb: **WE ARE WELLABLE.**

As God Helped Joshua / Gideon

- *'For thus says the Lord God: "Indeed **I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.** 12 **As a shepherd seeks out his flock** on the day he is among his scattered sheep, **so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them** from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. 13 **And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries,** and will bring them to their own land; Ezek. 34:11-13*

God Helps the Church

The Lord of the Harvest

- *Coordinates those who sow / reap* *Jn. 4:35-38*
- *sends out laborers* – *Mt. 9:36-38*
- *gives the increase* – *I Cor. 3:5-7*
- *No matter where they are scattered He knows where they are.* *Deut; Isa; Ezek*
- *When time is right we enter into the Labor:*
 - *Ethiopian Eunuch* *Sent out 1st journey*
 - *Saul of Tarsus* *Holy Spirit directed 2nd*
 - *Cornelius* *Called to Macedonia*
 - *In Corinth: I have many people in this city.*

The Ability God Supplies

- The Good Works God prepared Beforehand are:
- Evangelism
- Benevolence of Needy Saints 1Cor 16:1-2
- Edification (Building up the Body of Christ in knowledge, spiritual growth and godliness) Eph. 4:11
- Worship Jn 4:23-24
- In all these things we must stay within His limits:
- *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how **you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth** 1Tim. 3:15*
- This is God's house and church. He told us how to conduct ourselves. Then it's the pillar and ground.

The Fruit God Wants Produced

- *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:1-3*
- **Fruit God Doesn't Want Produced**
- *in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' " ... Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" 13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." Mt. 15:9, 2-14*

Good Works ARE Good Fruits

- God designed the church to produce the good works he prepared beforehand.
- God designed the vine to produce the fruit after it's kind.
- When the fruit is not what God planned for it to be will He be pleased or will He be angry?
- *Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. Mt 7:17-20*
- Every Tree that doesn't bear good fruit...

When Israel failed to Produce His Fruit

- *Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. ... 4 What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? Isa 5:1-2*
- When the fruits are not what God wanted or intended He sees it as wild grapes.

When Israel failed to Produce His Fruit

- *And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; And break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it." 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help. Isa 5:4-7*
- *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight! Isa. 5:20-21*

By Their Fruits You Will Know...

- God wants us to trust Him.
- He wants us to do what He has revealed as His will
- He wants us to do the good works He prepared beforehand with the strength He supplied.
- He want us to conduct ourselves in the house of God becoming the pillar and ground of the truth.
- He also revealed that these good works He prepared beforehand are the fruits He planned to be produced
- Not producing fruit or producing the wrong fruit works out to be the exact same thing.
- If the fruit is wrong ... the plant that produced it will be rooted up.