

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 the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, **11 according to the eternal purpose** Eph 3:10-12*
- All Good Works that were prepared beforehand and reflect God's Wisdom and not ours **MUST** be found in Scripture.
- If they are not in Scripture they are not the good works God prepared beforehand. If we change the good works, we stop manifesting His wisdom but our own.
- A church doing works not in the Bible are **not** manifesting God's Wisdom. This is not hard to understand!!!

Good Works God Prepared in Eternity

- Under the direction of Jesus as head
- Recorded in Scripture: Works God afore prepared
- Reflect God's manifold wisdom to those in the heavenly places.
- We can't add anything! Anything we add is not God's wisdom.
- Peter said exactly the same thing.
- *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*

In All things God may be Glorified

- All our words and plans found in oracles of God
2Jn 9-11; 1Cor 4:6; Mt 7:21; 15:9
- All our services placed within the limits of the strength which God supplies.
- All 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.
- Some think this is foolish and weak and they despise it in favor of human wisdom and strength.

In All things God is Glorified

- God is testing us to assess our faith in Him.
- God has **chosen the foolish things** of the world to put to **shame the wise**, and God has **chosen the weak things** of the world to put to **shame the things which are mighty**; 28 and the **base things** of the world and the things which are **despised** God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 **that no flesh should glory in His presence.** ... 31 that, as it is written, "**He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.**" 1Cor 1:27-31

Example of Gideon

- *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*
- *Then the Lord said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, Judges 7:7*
- God wanted Israel to know it could not have been by their own power. It was the strength which God supplied that brought victory.

Conquering Canaan

- we were **like grasshoppers** in *our own sight*, and so we were in *their sight*." Num. 13:33
- Why did they feel like this?
- Ten Spies & all Israel saw themselves as alone
- Joshua & Caleb saw God working through them:
- **we are well able** to overcome it." Num. 13:30
- God saw it as rejection and lack of faith.
- "How long will these people **reject** Me? And how long will they **not believe** Me, Num. 14:11
- Those who can't trust God reject and don't believe.

Are We Grasshoppers?

- Church autonomy is the strength God supplies.
- Makes many in the church feel like grasshoppers:
- The world has billions of people!
- Each local church only has own 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!!!!** So says a grasshopper.
- Those who trust in the strength that God supplies:
- Like Joshua and Caleb: **WE ARE WELLABLE.**

What Should we Do?

- *Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**" Mt. 9:37-38*
- *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. 4:11*
- We Pray to the Lord of the Harvest!
- We minister with the strength God supplies.
- We trust in the Lord with all our heart, don't lean on our own understanding and do what we can.

We Are Not Grasshoppers!

- 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, 20 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. Mt 28:19-20
- He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And **they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them** and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. Mark 16:19-20

We Too Work Under God & Christ!

Events in Acts are Fulfilled Prophecy

- *1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, 2 and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, Deut 30:1-6*

Events in Acts are Fulfilled Prophecy

- 3 that ***the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations*** where the Lord your God has scattered you. If any of you are driven out to ***the farthest parts under heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you,*** and from there He will bring you 5 Then the Lord your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. Deut 30:1-5
- There were two gatherings. The first was Babylon

Return from Babylon was 1st Gathering

- *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For **the Gentiles shall seek Him**, And His resting place shall be glorious. " 11 It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, 12 He will set up a banner for the nations, And will **assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.** Isa. 11:10-12*

Acts – Records this Second Gathering

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

God Defines the Time this will Occur.

- *I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them — My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken. Ezek 34:23-24*

When My Servant David is their one shepherd and prince among them. — God has made him both Lord and Christ

Acts 2

This is the Fullness of Time

- *in that day a **Root of Jesse(Jesus)***
- *shall stand as **a banner to the people;***
- *For the **Gentiles shall seek Him,***
- *in that day That the Lord shall set His hand again **the second time To recover the remnant of His people** who are left,*
- *a banner for the nations,*
- *God will **assemble the outcasts of Israel,***
- *And **gather together the dispersed of Judah***
- *From the **four corners of the earth.***

How God Fulfilled this

- God gathered the audience Acts 2
- God gathered the audience Acts 3
- The Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8
- Saul of Tarsus Acts 9
- Cornelius Acts 10

How God Fulfilled This

- *the Holy Spirit said, "Now **separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.**" ... 4 So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit**, Acts 13:2-4*
- *Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported **all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.** Acts 14:27-28*
- This is ministering with the strength God supplies
- There were no human organizations, no human need for funds, they **were well able** through God.

We do our Part & Allow God to do His

- *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but **ministers** through whom you believed, **as the Lord gave to each one**? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the increase**. 7 So then **neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase**. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one **will receive his own reward according to his own labor**. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; 1Cor. 3:5-9*
- The Holy Spirit through Paul made it very clear. We are ministers, but bring very little.
- It is God who gives the increase. God is Glorified!

- *What then is Apollos? and Paul? Ministers through whom ye believed; and each as the Lord gave.*
- *I planted, Apollos watered; but **God gave the increase.***
- *So then neither is he that plants or waters anything; but **God that gives the increase.***
- *Now he that plants and he that waters are one: but each shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.*
- *For we are **God's fellow-workers:** ye are God's husbandry, God's building 1Cor 3:5-9*

Never forget: We Are NEVER ALONE!

- *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. Matt 28:20*
- *He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them Mk. 16:19-20*
- The Lord will work with us always. Even until the end of the age (when eternity begins).
- Is the church really strong enough to do this?
- That is the question of grasshoppers.
- With God bringing them back and Jesus with us always what could we possibly add?

Under The Lord of the Harvest

- *There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest. 36 He that reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit unto life eternal; that **he that sows** and **he that reaps** may rejoice together. 37 For herein is the saying true, **One sows, and another reaps.** 38 **I sent you to reap that whereon ye have not labored: others have labored, and ye are entered into their labor.** Jn 4:34-38*
- *Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; **10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.**" Acts 18:9-10*

The Lord of the Harvest

- *coordinates laborers- Jn. 4:35-38*
- *sends out laborers – Mt. 9:36-38*
- *gives the increase – 1 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*
 - *Saul of Tarsus*
 - *Cornelius*

The Lord of the Harvest

- Gathered audiences
- Sent out the preacher and brought the sinner
 - Philip to the Eunuch
 - Ananias to Saul
 - Peter to Cornelius
 - The First Missionary Journey – Sent Out
 - The Second Missionary Journey –
 - Forbidden, did not permit
 - Called into Macedonia
 - I have many people in this city.

Under The Lord of the Harvest

- Can our own wisdom, our own strength, our own ingenuity improve on this?
- Is there any human organization that can do better than the church with Jesus as its head and God as the Lord of the harvest?
- *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*
- Is a blessing and a portal to the power of God.

Only Grasshoppers Forget

- God rules in the kingdom of men (Dan. 4:17, 25, 32, 5:21),
- God is Lord of the harvest Mt. 9:38
- God brings back the scattered, Deut. 30:1-6
- God is the shepherd who seeks the lost and brings them back. Ezek. 34:11-16; 23-25
- Others have labored and we enter into their labor. Jn. 4:34-38
- We plant and water, but rely upon God to give the increase 1Cor. 3:5-9.