MINISTERING TO OTHERS


The word minister means "to aid or help others." It has the idea of doing service to others on their behalf. The main purpose of the Christian life is to help or serve others. Jesus came to minister and give His life a ransom for many. He is our example of serving others. Let us notice several questions about the subject.

I. WHO SHOULD MINISTER TO OTHERS?

A. The pastor is a minister.
   1. The pastor is to oversee the work, I Pet. 5:2.
   2. The pastor is to feed the flock, Acts 20:28.
   3. The pastor is to aid the sick, the dying, the lost, the wayward, the troubled, etc.
   4. The people look to him for leadership. They draw strength from him.

B. The deacons are to minister.
   1. The word deacon means "servant or one who renders aid or help to others."
   2. Deacons were chosen in Acts 6 to minister to the widows and help God's men, Acts 6:3-7.

C. All the members of our church.
   1. Paul wrote to all in Rome when he wrote Romans 12:1.
   2. Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "... in that ye have ministered to

II. WHY SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?

A. Because of our Lord, Text.
   1. He washed the disciple's feet in the upper room.
   3. He is our example of ministering. As we serve Him we will help others, I Pet. 2:21.

B. Because of our love.
   1. God's love is shed abroad in

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OUR GOSPEL IS
Joyful in tone,
Earnest in spirit,
Satisfying to the soul,
Uplifting to all,
Sane in its appeal.
our hearts, Romans 5:5.
2. The Lord wants us to express that divine love toward others.
3. God’s love moves us to help others. Man is lost and blind, Rom. 5:8.

C. Because of our light.
1. We are the children of light, I Thess. 5:5.
2. We are to let the light of God shine, Matt. 5:16.
3. Because we are enlightened we can help others find the way.

D. Because of our learning.
1. We are to grow in grace and in knowledge of Jesus, II Pet. 3:18.
2. God’s word furnishes us with the truth which enables us to help others, II Tim. 3:16,17.
3. We are to pass the knowledge we gain about the Lord on. We are to tell others of His wonderful works.
4. The Lord’s Spirit moves on our hearts to say, “Here am I, send me,” Isa. 6:8.

III. HOW SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?

A. Minister in compassion.
1. Jesus is touched or moved by our infirmities, Heb. 4:15.
2. Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the fainting and scattered multitudes, Matthew 9:36.
3. He wept when He saw the Jews mourning over Lazarus who had died, John 11:35.
4. May we be moved about the need of people around us.

B. Minister in care.
3. God help us to care for people around us. We can get so full of ourselves that we lack care for others.

C. Minister in conviction.
1. A conviction for the truth will move us to aid others.
2. The truth about hell will move us to witness, Rom. 1:14-16.
3. The truth about chastisement will move us to admonish our brothers, Heb. 12:6.
4. The reality of the truth and our responsibility will drive us to aid others, Ezek. 33:8,9.

IV. WHEN SHOULD WE MINISTER TO OTHERS?

A. When they are sorrowing.
1. Jesus was present when Mary and Martha and the Jews were grieved and needed comfort, John 11:35.

2. Jesus was present when that widow was following her son’s coffin to the grave.
3. God help us to be there when others are heartbroken and grieved and sorrowing.

B. When they are sick.
1. The Great Physician and Healer was busy healing those sick of body and soul.
2. He listened to the leprous man, Matt. 8:2,3. He healed the sick of the palsy, Matt. 8:2,3.
3. Lord, help us to be there for the sick. Help us to listen, to pray, to love, and to encourage.

C. When they are suffering.
1. To suffer is to endure physical, mental, or emotional pain.
2. Our world is suffering. People are suffering cancer, heart attacks, and various diseases.
3. The nervous, mental and emotional disturbances are increasing alarmingly.
4. We need to help those who suffer. You help by being there and by loving people.

D. When they are stressed and strained.
1. The end time is described as a disturbing time. Distress of nations and perplexity will prevail, Luke 21:25.
2. One can readily see the pressure the sinfulness and economical condition of our world is putting on man.
3. The threat of war, crime, natural elements, loss of jobs, etc., will bring about harm of body and mind.
4. Isaiah tells us how to be kept sane, safe, and serene, Isa. 26:3.

E. When a service needs to be rendered.
1. The work is great and the laborers are few, Matt. 9:37,38.
2. Find a field or area of service in our church and serve with all of your might.
II. THE GREATNESS OF THE GREAT HOUSE.
A. The Lord's House is great because it belongs to a great person. Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 1:22-23
B. The Lord's church is great because of the purchase price! Titus 2:14; Acts 20:28
C. The Lord's Great House is great because of her nature! Eph. 2:21-22; II Chron. 7:16
D. The Lord's great church is great because of her great assignment and position in the world.
1. Light of the world. Matt. 5:14a
2. God's messenger with God's message to a lost world. Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15
4. God's hospital to minister to heart-broken, burdened sorrowing, and sin-sick. Heb. 12:12; I Thess. 4:18; I Tim. 5:20; Gal. 6:1

III. THE LORD'S GREAT HOUSE IS SUBJECT TO MANY STORMS, TEMPLINGS, AND TESTS!
A. The purpose of the light house is to withstand the storms and darkness and beam a light for struggling, wayward souls in sin's darkness. Matt. 5:16; Heb. 10:24-25
B. The finest houses are to withstand hurricanes, mildew, rust, termites which are seldom seen.
1. This is why God said to us. Eph. 6:11, 16
C. Remember the things mentioned in our lesson that come to test, try, hinder, disturb the fellowship and influence of the Lord's Great House.
1. Babbings (Childish, foolish, indistinct prattle)
2. Foolish questions
3. False Teachings
4. Iniquity
5. Snare of the devil
6. Lusts

IV. REVIVAL COMES TO THE LORD'S GREAT HOUSE AS A RESULT OF ANSWERING THE LORD'S CALL TO PERSONAL PURGING.
A. Note the call is from God. II Tim. 3:16
B. Note the call is to persons.
C. Note examples of the Lord's call to purging.
1. To the house of Israel. Isa. 55:6-7
2. To the church of God at Corinth, Greece: II Cor. 6:17-18; I Cor. 5:7
D. Note God's plan and power for purging! I John 1:7-9; James 5:16; Isa. 1:18; I Cor. 11:31-32
E. Useableness and influence for good comes as a result of purging. V 21
   Isa. 6:5-7
SOME THINGS TO REJOICE OVER


INTRODUCTION:
In this chapter Jesus sends other 70 into other cities with great powers over evil spirits or demons.

A. They have returned to give an account to Him.
   1. They have healed the sick, literally so- not a case of "you'll get better gradually, etc."
   2. They had literally cast out demons - we are not told just exactly what kind of effects the demons had had upon their victims - but that doesn't matter.
   3. Well, then, doesn't Jesus have power today to cast out demons & heal the sick - He sure does but YOU DON'T.

B. Jesus record for us an historical event.
   V 18
   1. Lucifer was one time an arch angel of God - serving God in the material realm - here on a perfect earth.
   2. He attempted to overthrow God and become ruler of heaven and earth. Isa. 14
   3. He was cast out of heaven no doubt by Michael & his angels- and Jesus saw that.

C. The Disciples were rejoicing in the wrong thing.
   1. They were rejoicing in the things seen and missing the greatest blessing - the things unseen - Names written
   2. We are still human - many times rejoice in the wrong things - but let us hear "Somethings to rejoice over";

I. REJOICE OVER HAPPY HOMES DOING THE WILL OF GOD.
A. The unhappy, broken, wrecked & ruined ones get public attention.
   1. This world seems to rejoice over the like
   2. Even on holidays, the wrecked automobiles get publicity.
B. But there are homes today that are Christ honoring.
   1. His name is revered - never used in vain.
   2. His word is honored and respected - companions love each other in the Lord - faithful to God's house and service.

August-September

3. Homes where children mind their parents in the Lord.
4. Do you know of such a home? Rejoice in it!
C. The broken homes that have been mended by the grace of God is another thing to rejoice over.
   1. Have you seen drunken or even drinking husbands sober up and love their wives children?
   2. The grace of God can make a wretch of man or woman to become honorable and respectable and decent.
   3. Reform and promises will not mend a broken home nor feed and clothe hungry children - God's grace will.
D. Look at the prodigal's home for a different angle.
   1. He left home, bag and baggage, and spent all bag and baggage in the far country and found he lived in a land whose dictionary did not contain the word "grace" for no man.
   2. He came to himself- repented- returned received and there was rejoicing. HAD SOMETHING TO REJOICE OVER

II. REJOICE OVER A CHURCH THAT STANDS FOR RIGHT.
A. Right division of the Word of God.
   II Tim. 2:15
   1. Not trying to build an ark like Noah that was his commitment.
   2. Not trying to build a temple like Solomon - that was his task.
   3. Not trying to cast out demons - nor raise the dead - that was the commissions of the early church - ceased when the Bible was complete - now we study His Word.
B. Right program of spreading the Gospel.
   1. We are not to let the gospel stop here at this place.
   2. We are to preach the gospel to "regions beyond."
   3. We can rejoice each time a sermon is preached in each place we are giving to "missions."
C. Right fellowship among ourselves.
   1. Rejoice that there are those who are still faithful to church.
   2. Rejoice that when sinners decided to get right with God and backslider had all the chastisement and missed all the blessings they want to miss - still find a loving, forgiving God and forgiving spirit among His people.

III. SOMEWHERE IN THAT REJOICING, LET US REJOICE FOR OUR OWNSELVES.
A. Rejoice that your name is written in Heaven.
   1. The world, sin or Satan did not write it there and they cannot take it away.
   2. Jesus used a term that said to those disciples - your name is written in Heaven and cannot be erased.
   3. Casting out demons will cease- healing
August-September
the sick will come to an end- and then what would you rejoice over?
B. Rejoice of the One who wrote it there.
   1. Christ suffered, the just for the un-
      just that He might write our name in
      Heaven rejoice over that.
   2. Christ suffered, literally so, that
      He might bring us to God. Rejoice
      over that.
   3. Christ suffered, that we might pass
      from this suffering world to a place
      where there is no more pain, nor sor-
      row, nor crying. Rejoice over that.
C. And now SINNER FRIEND, what do you have to
   rejoice over? What has the world, the
   flesh and the Devil ever done for you
   that makes you rejoice?

UNCONCERN

Sammy Eldredge

Text: Rev. 3:19
Intro. The church that we have read about is
an example of what we should not be.
I. UNCONCERN IS DANGEROUS.
   A. Look at Lot's unconcern for his family.
   B. David's unconcern for God's Word.
   C. Each of us are sitting on the edge of
      eternity. Are you concerned?
II. UNCONCERN DARKENS (The spiritual sight).
   A. Spiritual sight is the sight that causes
      us to know God's will and carry the
      gospel to a lost world.
   B. When we get unconcerned we get to the
      point that we forget that our children
      are eternal beings also.
   C. Unconcern causes us to forget that we
      also will stand before the judgment.
   D. It causes us to stand by and see a church
      destroyed by trouble makers.
   E. It will cause us to sit back and not ask
      forgiveness for personal sin, while there
      are those who are lost around us.
III. UNCONCERN IS THE DAUGHTER OF DISBELIEF.
   A. (Def.) Taking up some of the same
      characteristics.
   B. One who is unconcerned is one who really
      doesn't believe that the Lord is coming
      back as a thief in the night.
   C. Unconcern doesn't believe that God will
      send a son or daughter to hell for un-
      belief.
D. Unconcern doesn't believe in getting up
   on Sunday morning and going to church
   even if the Bible does teach it.
IV. UNCONCERN IS DEAF TO THE WORD.
   A. I have stood many Sundays and preached to
      people about God and have seen the faces
      of unconcern.
   B. On business meeting night, talk to people
      about how God's will works and see them
      get mad and go away swelled up.
   C. They did not hear a word of what God
      wanted or said.
   D. The word is important, the most important
      thing we have in our lives in our time.
V. UNCONCERN IS DEGENERATION.
   A. This means to undergo progressive
deterioration.
   B. I have seen people who at their conver-
      sion were sincere, and zealous, become
cold and indifferent, and then mean and
      vindictive.
   C. Then finally they are filled with the hate
      and self pity that Christ has no place in
      their lives.
      1. The danger in this is that they usually
         drag their family and close friends down
         with them.
      2. Their family and friends will take their
         part and end up in the same action.
   D. Remember it all started with unconcern.
      1. Most of them want what the church can do
         for them, instead of what they can do
         for the church.
      2. And they destroy the church fellowship
         and progress.

Con. It is not the Lord that is slack in saving
or hearing the need of the lost sinner. It is
unconcern. Your unconcern may be what is keeping
someone from being saved.

"Unto Him Be Glory In
The Church By
Christ Jesus." Eph. 3:21

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THE BENEFICIAL TEACHINGS OF CHRIST (PART 27)

Subject: THE TEACHING CONCERNING THE CHURCH

Text: Matthew 16:17-19

The term church in the original language means a called out assembly. When we study the concept of the church as given in the New Testament, we come up with the truth that a New Testament Church is a called out assembly of baptized believers who have covenanted together to carry out His commission. The term, church, in the New Testament scriptures, always referred to a local, visible, body of baptized believers. The term is also used in the plural sense. There is a difference between the family of God and the New Testament Church. You can be a member of the family of God and not be a member of a New Testament Church. One is born into the family of God through repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ. One is added to the church after they're saved through their obedience to the Lord's command. Acts 2.

Now, let us focus our attention on some truths relative to the church.

I. THE CHURCH'S FOUNDER.

The preparer of some of the material was John the Baptist. Notice Isa. 40:3 and Matt. 3:1-3. The founder of the church was Jesus Christ. In our text verse Jesus said to Peter that He was the "Little Rock", but I'll build my church upon the "Big Rock." The "Big Rock" referred to Jesus Himself. The Church was not built upon Peter as some erroneously teach, but rather upon Christ. Keeping in mind the meaning of the term, study Matt. 4:18-20 and Luke 6:12-17.

A great host of present day believers believe that the church was started on the Day of Pentecost. The Bible, I believe, very emphatically declares that the church was started during the earthly ministry of our Lord on the shores of Galilee. I will concur with the opinion that the church did not really function as a church until she was endowed with power from on high on the Day of Pentecost, but she was in existence prior to that day.

Let me share with you some reasons why we believe that the church started before the Day of Pentecost.

(1) Before Pentecost - they had authority to baptize. Matt. 28:18-20
(2) Before Pentecost - the church had a law of discipline. Matt. 18:15-17.
(4) Before Pentecost - they heard Jesus sing in it. Hebs. 2:12.

II. THE CHURCH'S HEAD.

The head of the church is Jesus Christ. Col. 1:18 The head of the church is not some preacher, Board of Deacons, family, or some select group. It's Jesus. However, a correct understanding of the Lordship of Jesus Christ will cause us to respect not only His authority but the delegated authority that He gives. This respect for authority must be given by the body. It cannot or must not be demanded, for in doing this in the delegated area, we would violate other Biblical truths. If all the members would yield and submit to the Head, Jesus, then every thing else would take care of itself. The key to it all is the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

II. THE CHURCH'S TEXTBOOK.

The church's textbook is the Bible - God's Holy Word. Notice II Tim. 3:16,17. All that we need to make us what God wants us to be is found in the Bible. Surely we can use other books and literature to help us understand more clearly and vividly God's Word, but the final rule book is the Bible. It's my personal, unsolicited opinion, that we need more verse by verse exposition of the scriptures being taught and preached in our churches. Paul, by inspiration instructed Timothy to preach the Lord - not worldly philosophies or humanistic rationalities.

IV. THE CHURCH'S GOVERNMENT.

There are 4 different practices today in regards to this area. They are as follows: (1) Papal, (2) Episcopal, (3) Presbyterian, (4) Congregational. Which one of these is Biblical? The congregational form. Study the following verses for the validity of this declaration. Matt. 20:25-27, Acts 1:26, Matt. 18:15-18, and Acts 6:1-7.

V. THE CHURCH MEMBERS.

The members of the church should be individuals which have been saved (born again) and have scriptural baptism.

VI. THE CHURCH ORDINANCES.

There are two church ordinances. There is baptism which depicts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also depicts the death of the old man, the burial of the old man, and the raising of a new man to walk in newness of life. Matt. 28:19,20; Rom. 6. The second ordinance is the Lord's Supper. This is a memorial service whereby we are reminded of the cost of our salvation. We remember the
August-September
broken body evidenced in the
breaking of the unleavened
bread and the blood shed for
the remission of our sins as
depicted in the fruit of the
vine. We are not told how often
that we are to observe this
supper. We are instructed that
as often as we do observe it
to do it in remembrance of
Him. (Our Lord Jesus)

VII. THE CHURCH OFFICERS.
The two church officers
mentioned in the scriptures
are the pastor, who deals in
the spiritual ministry of the
body, and the deacons, which
deal with the material ministry
within the body. (I Tim.
3:1-7 and Acts 6:1-7) Certain-
ly there are needs within the
church that necessitate differ-
ent functions by other in-
dividuals and this shared
ministry on the part of the
whole body can be accomplished
successfully and effectively
when there is a Biblical un-
derstanding of the Lordship of
Jesus in His authority and His
delegated authority. Problems
arise when the members of the
body fail to understand or
submit to the Lordship of
Jesus as outlined in the
scriptures.

VIII. THE CHURCH'S JOB. Matt.
28:19,20
The church's job could be
listed into 3 categories:
(1) Evangelize the world.
(2) Enlist the saved into a
New Testament Church.
(3) Equip the saints.

IX. THE CHURCH’S FINANCIAL
PLAN.
The church and her varied
ministries should be supported
by the tithes and offerings of
her membership. Study the
following verses of scripture
in connection with this area.
II Cor. 8:12-15, II Cor. 9:6,7

X. THE CHURCH’S INDEPENDENCY.
This area needs to be un-
derstood in the light of
Biblical perspectives. I mean
by this, that in utilizing
only the definition of terms
involved that a person could
arrive at a most devastating
conclusion. For instance, some
believe that the church is
totally independent and can do
anything that she desires.
This is totally absurd. We're
DEPENDENT on God in the Father,
God the Son, God the Holy
Spirit, and the Holy Word of
God. We are independent in the
sense that the church is not
answerable to any man, con-
vention, board, association,
or any group over the church,
but don't get to the place
where you think that you can
do just anything you want to
do!

A GLORIOUS PROMISE
By Muncy Harris

Text: Jude 24

I. THE PROMISED PERSON.
"Now unto him that is able...."
A. He is our GUIDE. Psa. 48:14
B. He is our GUARD. I Pet. 3:12
C. He is our GARMENT. Rom. 13:14
D. He is our GENERAL. Josh. 5:13-15

II. THE PROMISED POWER.
"able to keep...."
A. His power can keep us from falling.
1. As a result of ungodly influences.
2. As a result of unyielding hearts.
Example: A mother of younger learn-
ing to talk. She is watchful and uses
all her resources to prevent him from
falling. Psa. 116:8 We must allow Him
to help us.
B. His power can keep us faultless.
1. The reason for this promise. Heb. 12:2
It will be a JOY to Him to present us
faultless.
2. The resource of this promise. I Pet.
1:18-19 His precious blood, covering
out sins, is the resource.

III. THE PROMISED PRODUCT.
"to present you faultless before the pres-
ence of His glory with exceeding joy."
A. To produce praise of his glory. Eph.
1:3-12
B. To produce a church without spot or
blemish. Eph. 5:25-27

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Upward Life
1. Treasure LAID UP--Matt. 6:20
2. Faith LOOKING UP--Psa. 5:3
3. Love BUILDING UP--Jude 20
4. Life SPRINGING UP--John 4:14
5. Power LIFTING UP--Acts 3:7-9
6. Believer MOUNTING UP--Isa. 11:31
7. CAUGHT UP to meet Christ. I Thess. 4:17
PERSONAL CONVERSION OF ISRAEL

Text: Romans 11:1-10

Maxie Haynes

INTRODUCTION.

A. ELECTED.
B. REJECTED.

I. THE MINORITY WHO ACCEPTED. Vs 1-5
A. Specifically Illustrated. Vs 1,2
   1. Exceptional conversion.
   2. Exemplary conversion.
B. Historically Demonstrated. Vs 2-4
   1. Elijah's Day.
C. Numerically Estimated. Vs5
   1. Early Church

II. THE MAJORITY WHO REJECTED. Vs 6-10
A. Plight of Spiritual Stubborness. V7
B. Plight of Spiritual Senselessness. V8
C. Plight of Spiritual Shamelessness. V9
D. Plight of Spiritual Slavishness. V10

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JESUS IS THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

August-September

Steve Westbrook

Text: Mark 2:14-17

Intro. The best news this world has ever heard is this: Jesus Christ is the Friend of sinners. This He has proven beyond doubt.

I. BY THE ASSOCIATIONS OF HIS LIFE.
A. Born in poverty, He spent His first night in a hay trough.
B. During His ministry He spent much time with those society considered sinners.
C. Mark 2:14-17, an event early in His ministry.
   1. Called Matthew, a hated publican, as a disciple.
   2. Freely associated with Matthew's "sinner" friends. They sensed His love. They followed Him.
D. Jesus absorbed and answered sharp criticism. Vs. 16,17
E. Jesus still yearns to share His love with sinners.
F. If we follow His lead we will seek them - even the most unlovely.

II. BY THE AGONY OF HIS DEATH.
A. I Peter 3:18. It is impossible for us to comprehend all Jesus suffered.
   1. The same, spitting, beating, mocking, whipping, nakedness, humiliation, piercing, fear, darkness, and curse.
   2. He went to the cross out of love for sinners. Rom. 5:8
B. God's unchangeable law demanded payment of death. Rom. 6:23
   1. What if you and I had to pay it?
   2. Thank God WE HAVE A FRIEND IN JESUS. John 15:13
C. Jesus is the Friend of sinners. PRAISE GOD, HE DIED FOR ME!

III. BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RESURRECTION.
A. Jesus wasn't content to rise from the dead in secret and quiet.
B. He wanted this victory announced so sinners could receive it.
   1. He had announced it before His death.
      Matt. 16:21
   2. He had it announced on Resurrection Morning. Matt. 18:1-7
   3. He gave the world infallible proof and commanded the disciples to announce it throughout the earth and they did. Acts 2:22-24,32: 3:14,15
   4. I tell you today. HE HAS RISEN! HE LIVES TO SET SINNERS FREE! Rev. 1:18

IV. BY THE ASSURANCE OF HIS INTERCESSION.
A. Hebrews 7:25 He has given absolute assurance that if we come to God by Him, He will save completely and eternally.
B. How can Jesus save sinners to the uttermost?
   1. He serves as our High Priest. Hebs. 9:11,12,24 "Now to appear" - "Ever lives to make intercession."
   2. He is our Advocate - one who pleads another's cause before a judge. I John 2:1