

THE MISSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

1. Social upheaval is rocking the nations of the earth, and especially the United States.
2. Preachers in some areas, completely out of their place, are leading the parade for what they call social justice
3. It is not the business, if we stick to the New Testament teaching, of the church to be in the midst and thick of some social upheaval. That is not the business of the church.
4. News papers are all filled with speculation concerning certain national political candidates, and the necessity of their being of the Roman Catholic Faith in order to win an election.
 1. Citizens of a government should be interested in good government, but the church is not a political block of votes.
 2. We could not have or find a more certain sign that a church is not of heaven when it becomes mixed up in political block voting and political shenanigans.
 3. The New Testament church is not a religio-political body and must not be used as a tool of any interest, however just that particular interest might be politically.
 4. Individual Christians may be interested in many political areas but the business of the church is to preach the gospel.

THE DIVINE MISSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS TRIUNE: THREE IN ONE. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS:

1. TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, TO EVANGELIZE THE WHOLE WORLD.

1. THE CHURCH OF THE LORD IS THE AGENCY

1. The church is the sending agency. Acts 13:1-3 (Eph.3:21)
2. God to be glorified in the church. "Unto him be glory in the church throughout all ages."

2. LOCAL CONGREGATIONS THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH WORK WAS DONE. NO MISSIONARY SOCIETY. EXAMPLE:

1. Churches of Macedonia (2 Cor. 11:8,9).
2. The church at Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:8).
3. The church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-5). (The church at Antioch already mentioned)

3. PERSONAL EVANGELISM IN THE CHURCH

1. The parable of the talents: Each man made responsible for what he was able to do (Matt. 25:14-30). Means of fulfilling:
 - (1) Teaching and preaching the gospel of Christ to others publicly and privately. (Acts 20:20, 24, 27).
 - (2) Sending others and holding up their hands in such work (Rom. 10:14,15).
 - (3) By the influence of righteous lives and faithful service:
 - A. Our lives are letters read by others. "Ye are our epistles written in our hearts, known and read of all men." 2 Cor. 3:2
 - B. Christ described our Christian influence as the saving power of salt and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).

2. TO EDIFY THE WHOLE CHURCH. We are to grow:

1. We are to grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever (2 Peter 3:18).
2. We are to grow in ability to serve and to sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1,2; Heb. 12:1).
3. AVENUES THROUGH WHICH THIS MAY BE DONE:
 1. Take thought one for another (Phil. 2:1-3; 19-21).
 2. By worship services and teaching programs:
 - (1) Forsake not the assembly, (sing and admonish each other (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:15-16).
 - (2) Feed the church of God (Acts 20:28; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 2:1-8).

3. TO MINISTER TO THE POOR. Examples:

1. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). See Gal. 6:10.
2. Tabitha of Joppa (Acts 9:36-43).
3. The basis upon which this work is done:
 1. Self consecration (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
 2. Love (2 Cor. 8:8).
 3. Proving our love (2 Cor. 8:24).
4. By contributions into a common treasury: Lay by in store, each one, first day of week (1 Cor. 16:1,2)

