

THE THREE GREAT WORKS OF THE CHURCH

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The local church (or congregation) is to be organized for work and worship.
- B. Three main works are:
 1. The work of **evangelism** (winning souls).
 2. The work of **edification** (teaching).
 3. The work of **benevolence** (relief).
- C. And, a fourth work, the work of discipline and restitution (correction).

II. THE WORK OF EVANGELISM.

- A. Some scriptures on evangelism:
 1. Matthew 28:18-20 make disciples by teaching, baptizing, & teaching
 2. Mark 16:15,16 teach every person
 3. Ephesians 3:10 make known the manifold wisdom of God
 4. Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek and save the lost
 5. Acts 5:42 publicly (in the temple) and privately (house to house)
 6. Acts 8:4 when scattered, went everywhere preaching the word
 7. Acts 17:6 turning the world upside down--actually right side up!
 8. 1Thessalonians 1:8 the word of the Lord is to go forth from every place
- B. The word *evangelism* means "to announce glad tidings, to preach good news."
- C. Three things about evangelism:
 1. The great commission. It is a command to disciple (teach) all nations. Converts are to teach others just as they have been taught.
 Matthew 28:18-20 not the great suggestion--a command to be followed
 Mark 16:15,16 no one is to be overlooked or ignored
 2. Accomplished by the apostles. The apostles covered the known world with the gospel. We need to do the same.
 Acts 5:42 people were taught publicly and privately
 Mark 16:20 the apostles preached everywhere they went
 Colossians 1:23 the gospel had been proclaimed to the whole creation in 1st century
 3. Accomplished by the early church. Notice again in Ac. 8:4 how all the brethren used their opportunities to preach the good news.
 Acts 8:4 they went everywhere, as they were scattered, preaching the word
 Acts 4:23-31 even after being released from prison, the continued to preach
 Acts 15:35 some went some stayed, but all continued preaching and teaching
 Acts 19:9,10 a disciple's training is learn how to preach and teach

III. THE WORK OF EDIFICATION.

- A. Scriptures on teaching:
 1. Romans 12:7 if your gift is teaching, use it for doing just that
 2. Ephesians 4:11-15 teaching is to build up the body, a defense against false doctrine
 3. 1Corinthians 4:17 teach the same things in every church, every place
 4. Colossians 1:28 teach Christ to present everyone as spiritually mature
 5. Colossians 3:16 let the word dwell in you richly--in song and word and deed
 6. 1Timothy 2:12 only men are to teach in the assemblies of the church

- 7. 2Timothy 2:2 teach so that your students can teach others also
- 8. Hebrews 5:12 learn the "milk" teachings so you can move on to "meat"
- B. The word *edification* was originally used in the building of a house. The assembly of the saints is for edification.
1Corinthians 14:26 all things in the assembly should be done for edification
- C. It is sometimes difficult to separate teaching from evangelism.

IV. THE WORK OF BENEVOLENCE.

- A. Scriptures on giving relief:
 - 1. 1Timothy 5:16 family is to take of family so the church is not burdened
 - 2. Galatians 6:10 do good (provide for) unto all people, especially fellow Christians
 - 3. Romans 15:26,27 if you share in spiritual blessings, be ready to give materially
 - 4. James 1:27 visit the widows and orphans in their distress
 - 5. Acts 2:44,45 meet the needs of fellow Christians
 - 6. Acts 4:32-35 contributions are not to be "ear marked" but for the common good
 - 7. Acts 6:1-6 the appointment of "deacons" is to meet benevolent needs
 - 8. Acts 11:27-30 support the brethren in other places and congregations
- B. The early church was very zealous in meeting the physical needs of those around them.
- C. Benevolence can be used to further the teaching and evangelistic works of the church.

V. MATCHING.

Based on this lesson and the scriptures discussed match the following phrase or central idea on the left with the appropriate scripture on the right. You may wish to review all the scriptures listed above before taking this test.

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| <u>J</u> | 1. Teach everywhere in every church. | A. Mt. 28:18-20. |
| <u>I</u> | 2. Seven men chosen for relief. | B. Rom. 12:7. |
| <u>H</u> | 3. Teach so they can teach others also. | C. Gal. 6:10. |
| <u>G</u> | 4. Jesus came to seek and save. | D. Eph. 3:10. |
| <u>F</u> | 5. Benevolence to orphans and widows. | E. Col. 1:28. |
| <u>E</u> | 6. Teach to mature every person. | F. Jas. 1:27. |
| <u>D</u> | 7. Make known God's manifold wisdom. | G. Lk. 19:10. |
| <u>C</u> | 8. Do good unto all men. | H. 2Tim. 2:2. |
| <u>B</u> | 9. Exercise the gift of teaching. | I. Acts 6:1-6. |
| <u>A</u> | 10. Make disciples of all nations. | J. 1Cor. 4:17. |

VII. NEXT LESSON.

The next lesson is entitled, "New Testament Worship." Specific subjects to be studied are; preaching, giving, the Lord's Supper, singing, prayer and fellowship.

VIII. NOTES.
