

# *The Work of the Church*

*A Mark That Matters*

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Nature of the Lord's Work

1 Cor 15:58

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58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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Authority for the Lord's Work

Matt 7:21-23

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## Matt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

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- Old Testament examples  
Ex 26:30; Heb 8:5-6

# Ex 26:30 & Heb 8:5-6

Ex 26:30: 30 "Set up the tabernacle according to the plan shown you on the mountain."

Heb 8:5-6: 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6 But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

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16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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Ex 26:61
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Matt 7:21-23
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John 8:44

# John 8:44

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

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## The Work of the Church

- Preach the gospel: Mark 16:15-16; Matt 28:19; Eph 3:10; 2 Tim 4:2

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2 Tim 4:2-3: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

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- Edify and teach the church members: Eph 4:11-12; Tit 2:1-15

# Edify and Teach the Members

Eph 4:11-13: 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. . .

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Titus 2:1: 1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. . .

2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith. . .

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. . .

9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them. . .

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation . . . teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

15 These, then, are the things you should teach.

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- Edify and teach the church members: Eph 4:12; Tit 2:1-15
- Benevolent work: Acts 2, 6, 11; 1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8, 9; 1 Tim 5:9

# Acts 2; 6; & 11

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Acts 6:1-4: . . . their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

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Acts 11:28-30: 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



# 1 Cor 16:1-4

6 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem.

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2 Cor 8:10-12: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11 Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. 12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

# 1 Cor 8 & 9

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2 Cor 9:6-9: 6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever."

# 1 Tim 5:9-10

9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

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**Beware the social gospel with its good works label!**

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