

## LESSON 7: THE WORK OF THE CHURCH AND YOU

1. God's plan for man has always included work. This was true in the days of Adam and Eve for they were commanded to dress the garden and keep it (Gen 2:15). It is still true today. Paul indicated the importance of work emphatically when he admonished the Thessalonians: "For that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thess. 3:10).

2. The idea of work, whether physical or spiritual in nature, carries a bad connotation for many people. Too often we fail to realize the importance of spiritual work to our Christian welfare. It's much easier it seems, to recognize the importance of physical work. We must remember that a good balance between the two is imperative for the Christian.

(Question):

A. All Christians realize the importance of work. **True or False**

3. In the previous lessons the author has endeavored to build to a climax in this lesson. The earlier lessons were designed to help you understand 1. Your commitment to Christ, 2. Your new relationship to God and man, 3. The church and its place in the eternal purpose of God, and 4. The organization and worship of the church. In other words, the emphasis was on you and things you, as a young Christian, should know to more effectively worship God. Now we

want to notice what you can do to cause the church to grow.

(Question):

A. Previously the emphasis was upon you; now it is upon your work in the church.  
**True or False**

4. The purpose of this lesson is not to frighten you away from working in the church. Rather, it is to take an objective look at the work of the church and how you fit in it. In other words, what is the work of the church? What can I do to help?

(Question):

A. The purpose of this lesson is to objectively view the church and how I fit in. **True or False**

5. The church where you worship should have an active program of work. And it will have if it is pleasing to God. God has given great challenge and it's up to us to rise up and accept it.

(Question):

A. God expects little of us as Christians.  
**True or False**

6. To answer the Bible questions of number 4, we must consult the Bible for our answers. This is a principle that cannot be overstressed in your young Christian life.

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(Question):

- A. The source of authority in religious matters is the Bible **True or False**

7. Some people are afraid of spiritual work; others are not afraid of it but do not understand the nature of the work of the church. Thus, they are unable to contribute effectively. To properly understand the work of the church, you must realize that the church is a divine institution. Consequently, her mission is divine.

(Question):

- A. The church is a divine institution and has a divine mission **True or False**

8. Let us first look at the mission of the church in a negative way. It is not a political or social mission; it is altogether spiritual. Thus it excludes such things as entertainment, business investments for gain or political activity to influence government action.

(Question):

- A. Three things which are excluded from the mission of the church are:  
entertainment, business investments,  
and politics. **True or False**

9. Many in the denominational world of our day are surely mistaken about what "church" and "religion" is all about. Many have perverted the

gospel to such an extent that it is nothing more than a "social gospel."

(Question):

- A. Denominational people have perverted the gospel and made a "social gospel" out of it. **True or False**

10. Consequently, many religious people are more concerned about correcting social ills, discrimination, birth control, etc, than they are about the soul of the individual. Of course, the Lord's church must never sink to such an extent and forget the value of the soul!

(Question):

- A. The primary concern of Christians should be: saving souls. **True or False**  
B. The primary concern of Christians should be correcting social ills. **True or False**

11. Now, let us view the mission of the church in apposite way. What is the mission of the church? It is to be involved in saving souls. There are three works performed in order to accomplish this mission – 1. Preaching, 2. Edification and 3. Benevolence.

(Question):

- A. The three works involved in this mission of the church are evangelism, edification and benevolence. **True or False**

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12. Perhaps some amplification of each area of activity will aid in a clearer understanding of the mission of the church. Primarily the mission involves evangelism – the teaching and winning of the lost. Jesus' mission in coming to the world was the same. Luke said, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

(Question):

A. The primary mission of the church is evangelism. **True or False**

13. The Savior, being concerned about the lost, gave his followers final instructions – commonly called the Great Commission – prior to His ascension. The instructions are recorded in Matt 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16.

(Question):

A. Christ's final instructions to His followers are known as the Limited Commission. **True or False**

14. Notice Matthew's account of the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..."

(Question):

A. The Great Commission involves teaching and baptizing. **True or False**

15. Surely there can be no doubt about the need of salvation since "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). There is, then, a universal need for salvation. Notice that the charge given in the Great Commission is that it be preached to all nations. Thus the solutions to man's problem – the gospel – is as great as a need.

(Question):

A. Since all have sinned, the gospel must be preached to everyone. **True or False**

16. "Through the foolishness of preaching" it pleased God to "save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). Paul stated it liked this: "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first and also the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

(Question):

A. The gospel is God's power to save **True or False**

17. In previous lessons you studied about the church in the eternal purpose of God. You learned how Christ founded it and chose it as an avenue of salvation. Those who are washed by His blood are added to it. Now if God's power to save is in the gospel and the saved are in the church, does it not follow naturally that the

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church should be engaged in the preaching of the gospel.

(Question):

- A. Whose responsibility is it to preach the gospel? **The church or individual Christians**

18. Indeed, the church must be involved in evangelistic endeavors! Paul instructed Timothy (1 Tim. 3:14, 15) that the church is the pillar of the truth, i.e., it supports and upholds the truth. The first century church is an excellent example of evangelism (read the following: Acts 2; Acts 8:4, 5, 26-40; 20:20, 24, 27; Phil. 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 1:2-8).

(Question):

- A. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. **True or False**

19. But who makes up the church? Readily you answer, Christians, and correctly so. It is the individual's responsibility of Christians to proclaim the "good news" of the Savior..

(Question):

- A. Who bears the responsibility of proclaiming the gospel to the world?  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Someone stated this responsibility as follows: Christ has not hands but our hands to do

His work today; He has not tongue but our tongue to tell men how he died. He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.

21. God has entrusted the gospel to "earthen vessels" (2 Cor. 4:7) with the idea that Christians will tell the story to others. The fact that man has the responsibility to preach the gospel to the whole world does not limit God's power, however. This is simply the way God has chosen and promised to save men, and if any limitation has been placed on His power, it is a self-imposed one.

(Question):

- A. Has God promised to save man without hearing the gospel? **Yes or No**

22. As a new convert, you may feel that your knowledge of the Bible is not sufficient for you to begin teaching others. This may be true but after a short period of intensive Bible study, you should be able to teach others. Paul instructed Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

(Question):

- A. You should be able to teach others the Bible in a reasonable period of time.  
**True or False**

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23. Another important area of the work of the church is edification. What does the word "edify" mean?

24. The principle of edification is contained in the last part of the Great Commission as recorded by Matthew (Matt. 28:20): "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." In verse 19, he said, "Go...teach...baptize..." Now he says teach further or "edify."

(Question):

A. Thus far two parts of the three-fold mission of the church have been discussed. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

25. Just as the responsibility to teach is individual, so is the responsibility to edify one another.

(Question):

A. The responsibility to teach God's word and edify is \_\_\_\_\_

26. Admonitions regarding edification abound in the New Testament, e.g., "Be rooted and established in the faith" (Col. 2:6,7); "edify one another" (1 Thess. 5:11); "be strong in Lord" (Eph. 6:10), etc. All of these indicate the need of

instruction or improvement. In a later lesson, "Going on unto perfection", you will learn some of the specific things in which you should grow.

(Question):

A. Edification is a little discussed topic in the New Testament. **True or False**

27. Edification includes not only instruction and teaching but also any method of causing improvement in the Christian's life, such as, admonition, encouragement and fellowship. Even as a new Christian you can teach others in the church by faithful attendance at and participation in all the services of the church.

(Question):

A. Edification is limited to verbal teaching. **True or False**

28. Edification, then, is concerned with improving the new babe in Christ. It is concerned with the progress from milk to meat. It differs from evangelism only in the class of people dealt with. Evangelism deals with the alien sinner (one who has never been saved) while edification involves the Christian. However, the ultimate goal, salvation, is the same in each area.

(Question):

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- A. Edification is more concerned with improving the Christian or converting the alien sinner?

29. The third important area of the work of the church is benevolence. Benevolence means, "Disposition to do good." Thus, this phase of the work of the church concerns doing good to others.

(Question):

- A. What does benevolence mean?
- 

30. Earlier in this lesson you noted that God has always placed work in His plan for man. Christians are commanded to work today. Paul states one purpose of working in Ephesians 4:28: "Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

(Question):

- A. Why did Paul say we should work?

31. Pure religion, according to James, includes "visiting the widows and orphans in their affliction" (James 1:27). "Visiting" as used here means more than a social visit; it means to supply the needs of the widows and orphans. Christians are to practice pure religion; consequently they should be engaged in benevolence.

(Question):

- A. Pure religion includes benevolence. **True or False.**

32. New Testament churches practiced benevolence (see Acts 2:45; 4:34,35; 11:27-30; 1 Co. 8:1-5; 16:1-5). These congregations were actively engaged in supplying the needs of people. It is important to remember that benevolence can be practiced on an individual basis as well as a congregational basis.

(Question):

- A. Benevolence is the only area of work that cannot be done on an individual basis. **True or False.**

33. Our first responsibility regarding benevolence is to follow Christians; however, it is not limited to them. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10).

(Question):

- A. Our responsibility is to help people; the order in which we do it is unimportant. **True or False**

34. Benevolence should be aimed at a two-fold improvement in the life of the recipient in both physical and spiritual areas. The immediate

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needs must first be filled, then the weightier matters of the spiritual condition should be considered.

(Question):

A. Successful benevolence will fill the need in both the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ areas.

35. If our benevolence does not include the spiritual factor, it will fail because Jesus taught that the soul of man is most important.

(Question):

A. Why must successful benevolence include the spiritual as well as the physical? **Because the soul is so valuable or because the physical cannot be separated from the spirit.**

36. What is the three fold work of the church?

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

37. All three areas of the work are aimed at a common and ultimate goal – salvation.

(Question):

A. **True or False**

38. With this understanding of the work of the church, let us ask the all important question, "How do I fit in?" A proper understanding and practice of the answer to this question could well determine where you spend eternity.

(Question):

A. How important is it to answer correctly the question, how do I fit in? **Slightly or very important.**

39. Evangelism, you remember, involves teaching the gospel to the lost (Matt. 28:19, 20). By now you are thinking that you cannot possibly teach others since you are young and immature; however, as indicated in frame 22, you should begin studying for great work of teaching before you.

(Question):

A. What is evangelism? **Saving the church or teaching the gospel to the lost.**

40. Even though you may not be able to use the Word of God skillfully (and you do have that responsibility after a period of time; see Hebrews 5:12 – 14), there are things you can do. For example, you can interest a friend or loved one in the gospel.

(Question):

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- A. New converts are relieved of the responsibility to teach since they cannot handle the word skillfully. **True or False**

41. One very important thing to remember about when you should begin to work for the Saviour is this: start while you are still enthused about your salvation. Continue to ask yourself, "Isn't there someone with whom I can share the good news of Jesus today?"

(Question):

- A. When should you begin to work for the Saviour – **Immediately after conversion or while you still are enthused about your salvation or both?**

42. Another thing you can do to help evangelize the world is to set up and conduct home Bible studies. There are many willing brothers or sisters who would come into your home and share the gospel with those in your household.

(Question):

- A. You can teach the gospel. **True or False**

43. In these first bold moves, don't be too concerned about minor efforts or the lack of knowledge. You will never grow to the point that you know it all. The best thing to do is to indicate

to the inquirer that you will learn the answer and discuss it with him later.

(Question):

- A. What is a good way to handle a question if you are unsure of the answer?
- 

44. Teaching in the home, though generally the most effective method, is not the only method you can use to teach others. Normally, a good set of tracts is available to hand out to friends and relatives.

(Question):

- A. In addition to private home teaching, you teach God's Word by
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45. Tracts can be handed out almost any time and placed at many locations. Don't hesitate to place a tract where it can be read by others

(Question):

- A. Tracts can be distributed at many places, in a variety of ways and at all times. **True or False**

46. There are others things you can do to help evangelize the world: 1. enroll people in correspondence courses and 2. invite friends, relatives, newcomers to town, etc. to the services of the church.

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(Question):

- A. What are two other important ways that a new Christian can help evangelize the world?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

47. If the church where you worship does not offer a free correspondence course, don't give up! There are other congregations which will gladly assist you if no active program can be developed where you worship.

(Question):

- A. There are only a few options for a new convert in sharing the gospel. **True or False**

48. The importance of you inviting your friends and relatives to study and worship cannot be overstressed. It is very likely that you may be the only person in the world who can influence them for good. Thus, you see the responsibility you have assumed. Let me encourage you not to shirk it.

(Question):

- A. There are people in the world that only you can influence for good. **True or False**

49. The above listing is by no means a complete one. It is merely intended to show you some important things you can do to help evangelize the world.

(Question):

- A. List three things that you can do to help evangelize the world.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

50. Now, how do you fit into the work of edification? Perhaps there are fewer activities for you in this area than in the realm of evangelism. Nevertheless there are several important things the author would like to suggest.

(Question):

- A. There are several things a new convert can do to edify older Christians. **True or False**

51. First, set the proper example by attending the services of the church regularly. By faithfully attending the services of the church, you will edify many in the church (both old and young in the faith). Without doubt you will edify those who were instrumental in your conversion.

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(Question):

- A. Name one thing you can do to edify fellow Christians.

\_\_\_\_\_

52. This edification can be greater if the regular attendance is accompanied by a good Christian life. One of the surest ways to kill your influence is to be hypocritical in your living.

(Question):

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ living is a sure way to kill your influence.

53. Another way to edify fellow Christians is to properly teach and lead your family in the way of God. In most areas of religious activity, if not all, your responsibility begins at home. It is extremely difficult for one to edify another unless he first "sets his house in order."

(Question):

- A. Thus far you have noted that you can edify others by regular attendance at worship services, Christian living, and leading the family in the way of God.  
**True or False**

54. Surely all Christians, regardless of spiritual age, can participate in the benevolent work of the church. A basic awareness of the needs of others

and action based on this awareness are the prerequisites.

(Question):

- A. All Christians can participate in benevolent work. **True or False**

55. This benevolent work should be done to relieve the physical need immediately with a view of improving the spiritual side of the recipient's life. It is useless to go to talk to a man about his soul if he is hungry. You must first satisfy his physical hunger then you can fill his soul with the Word of God.

(Question):

- A. Benevolent work concerns fulfilling physical hunger. **True or False**

56. A very good place to begin benevolent work and edification is with the sick, the widows, the orphans and those bereaved by death of a loved one. What could have more impression on someone that a visit from you when he is ill? Thus, you see how basic awareness can help you to be effective in the work of the church.

(Question):

List three classes of people with whom effective benevolent work can normally be done:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

57. So you see there are several ways you can help in the work of the church, even though you are but a babe in Christ. Discouragement will come frequently as you work for the Lord. To minimize this, I suggest that you choose someone where you worship who is more mature and work closely with him. It will help you immeasurably to keep you strong.

(Question):

A. What is a good way to minimize discouragement?

\_\_\_\_\_

58. As you grow older in the church, remember to help younger Christians. This sharing and support will make you even stronger.

(Question):

A. What is the work of the church?

\_\_\_\_\_

59. A good, simple way to motivate someone to greater work is to show interest in him. This includes fellowship, praise and recognition. Everyone likes to receive attention, so why not use this attribute to advantage for God?

(Question):

A. You can motivate fellow Christians by showing \_\_\_\_\_ in them.