

# **A Study of the Church: Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry**

- **What is the church?**
  - Community of believers
    - Indwelt by the Holy Spirit
    - United with Christ
    - Began on the Day of Pentecost
  - Local community of believers – the functional unit
- **What is the church suppose to be doing?**
  - A living organism with function as well as form
  - Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry
- **How does the church equip the saints?**
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Preaching
  - Praying
- **How is the church organized for this work?**
  - Elders and deacons
  - Discipline – moral and doctrinal purity

## What is the work of the ministry?

- **Worship**
  - Adoration of God
  - Serving God
  - Holiness
  - Spiritual
- **Singing**
  - Sing to the LORD
  - Sing praises
  - Sing the Word
  - A new song – an old song
- **Giving/stewardship**
  - Edify the giver and the recipient
  - Support ministers
  - Provide for believers in need
- **Following Jesus**
  - Servants
  - Hopeful waiting
- **Love one another**
- **Serving the weaker brother**
- **Others**
  - teaching
  - witnessing
  - praying
  - helping . . .

# Servants of Jesus Christ

## The Christian paradox

- The incredible blessings of salvation  
Luke 1:67-75
- The reality of adversity, affliction and death  
Acts 14:19-22

## The Christian paradigm

- A daily cross  
Luke 9:23-27
- A faithful servant  
Luke 12:35-53
- A costly endeavor  
Luke 14:25-35

## **Take up your cross daily**

### **Luke 9:23-27**

- **The ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14-19:27)**
  - The Galilean ministry (4:14-9:17).
  - The Retirement/Perean ministry (9:18-19:27)
  
- **The confession of Peter (9:18-20)**
  - Who is Jesus?
  - Peter: “The Christ of God.”
  
- **The response of Jesus (9:21-22)**
  - First of 3 announcements of His death
    - First (9:21-22)
    - Second (9:43b-45)
    - Third (18:31-34)
  
- **The application to the disciples of Christ**
  - Deny yourself
    - Proverbs 14:12; 16:25
    - Isaiah 55:8-9
    - Luke 9:24-25
  - Take up your cross daily
    - The way of the cross – suffering and death
    - A daily task – normal experience
  - Follow Jesus Christ
    - 1 Peter 4:12-13
    - Colossians 1:24.
  
- **No shame in Christ and His words**
  - Deny Christ v. deny yourself
  - Future joy (Hebrews 12:1-2)

## **A faithful servant**

### **Luke 12:35-53**

- **The faithful servant**
  - He is “dressed for action”
  - Waiting for the Master
  - A “surprise ending”
  
- **Peter’s question**
  - Is this for us (disciples) or for all?
  
- **Two kinds of servants and two outcomes**
  - A faithful and wise servant.
    - Serves the household as the master expects.
    - Receives dominion in the age to come.
  - An unfaithful servant
    - Abuses the household and himself.
    - Receives punishment
  - Punishment
    - Cut in pieces and placed with the unfaithful.
    - A severe beating
    - A light beating
  
- **The coming fire and the current distress**
  - Final wrath
  - Family division

## **A costly endeavor**

### **Luke 14:25-35**

- **Three requirements for discipleship**
  - Hate family and your own life
  - Must bear our cross and follow Jesus
  - Must renounce all to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
- **Two parables**
  - Prepare to build a tower
  - Prepare for war
- **Two metaphors**
  - Salt to savor
  - Ears to hear

# Servants of Jesus Christ

- **The Christian paradox**
  - incredible blessing
  - Intense affliction
- **The Christian paradigm**
  - The cross
  - The servant
  - The cost
- **Common errors**
  - Denial – health, wealth and prosperity
  - Corruption #1 – saving faith and discipleship divided
  - Corruption #2 – saving faith and discipleship combined
- **The answer of Scripture**
  - Justification is by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)
  - Saving faith looks to the reward (Hebrews 11:6)
  - The saved will follow Christ as increasingly faithful servants