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 . . .
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
- A faithful servant
- A costly endeavor
Take up your cross daily

• The ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:14-19:27)
  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

• 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

• **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