

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