

And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:60

The Church's Purpose

Bill Hall

Store In My Heart

Zechariah 1:2-3

The Lord was very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

While Haggai urged the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after captivity to build the temple, Zechariah told them to return to the Lord.

The Jews were sent into exile because they had turned away from God. Those who had returned were still not focusing on God. Zechariah's message promised peace and prosperity if they would commit themselves to truly serve the Lord with their hearts and actions. True judgments with kindness and mercy toward the needy among them was needed.

We do well to consider our devotion to the Lord, lest we find ourselves cast from Him.

What is the purpose of the Lord's church? Is it to eradicate poverty, disease, social injustice, illiteracy from among men? Is it to bring about a cessation of war and conflict? Is it to campaign for a temptation-free society for Christians to live in?

If the church had as one of its great goals the eradication of disease, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish that goal. Could not the same power that enabled one blind man to see have enabled all blind men to see; that enabled one lame man to walk have enabled all lame people to walk; that cured many people of varied diseases have cured all people of all diseases? And could not this same power have been given to the church in all generations?

If the church has as one of its great goals the eradication of poverty, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish this purpose. After all, He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. He similarly fed four thousand on another occasion. Could not He who did these marvelous works have enabled His church in all generations to feed, clothe, and shelter the impoverished masses of the world through miraculous powers?

If the Lord had wanted His church to become a lobbyist group to apply political pressure toward a temptation and persecution-free society in which to live, He would have given instructions in that direction. He did not even lead His church into a direct effort to destroy slavery, but taught the



Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is in St Vincent's in Hot Springs. She is still having issues with blood pressure and stomach issues. She is in a regular room as of this writing.

John Jackson is on a antibiotics for Rocky Mountain tick fever.

Amy Simpson's father, Artie Tucker, has a stint put in last week.

Amy Simpson is out of town for work this week.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Christian slave to be a better slave and the Christian master to treat his slaves as he would have his heavenly Master treat him (Col. 3:22-4:1).

The church's purpose is to save souls and prepare people for eternity -- It holds out to the impoverished the hope of some day walking a street of gold; to the suffering a time when there will be no pain; to the sorrowing a moment when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." It tells the tempted and persecuted that there is value in these afflictions that the testing of their faith is "more precious than of gold," and to rejoice -- It tells all to live godly lives in whatever environment they find themselves. It seeks not to change people through the coercion of legislators -- Its weapons "are not carnal, but are mighty through God." Its motivating theme: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

When churches become involved in hospital and health clinic work, or when they build schools for the education of their children, or when they see as one of their great missions to provide for the world's poverty, or when they feel obligated to create social upheaval and campaign for human rights, or when they feel called upon to express their views on the government's use of nuclear armaments or whatever, they have a distorted view of the purpose of the church.

(This article goes well with our current Sunday classes. Once we begin to focus on the purpose of the church we can easily see were these other areas of concern should be left to the individual Christian. The spiritual nature of the work Jesus has given to those who follow Him leads us to souls and hearts. All the good deeds in the world will not be sufficient to meet the spiritual needs of mankind. We need to let "the dead bury their dead" and focus on the work God has given to us. The kindness and concern of our actions as individuals will be sufficient to handle the physical needs of those around us. Our work as the Body of our Lord must focus on the spiritual needs of our friends, family and neighbors. There is no greater goal for the church than to hold the Word up before the world. Study, Meditate, Apply, Pray, Repeat! DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!