

WORKS OF THE CHURCH

INTRO: Scripture makes clear that the Church of our Lord should be engaged in works for a purpose. It's important that we understand the church has responsibility and its members should be involved towards those purposes. Eph 4:11-13

I. The Church was created for good works.

- a) **Eph 2:10** We were created in Christ to perform good
- b) **Tit 2:14** We should be eager for good works because Christ gave Himself for us
- c) **Tit 3:1-8, Col 1:10** The works we engage in are an important part of our Christian conduct
- d) **Tit 1:16** A simple profession of knowing God is empty without faithful works.
- e) **Js 2:21-24, 2Jn 1:8** Our faith is judged by and eternal reward secured by our works.
- f) **Lk 2:49, Jn 21:25** Jesus left an example of works for us follow
- g) **Mt 5:16, 1Pet 2:12** Our works glorify God before men.

II. The works of the Church are supported by its structure.

- a) **Mt 16:18** Christ built only one Church in which we are to work.
- b) **Eph 1:20-22, Col 1:18** Christ is the head of and has authority over the Church.
- c) **1Pet 5:1-3, Tit 1:5, 17** Christ gave instruction for elders to be appointed in every Church to serve as overseers over the local congregation.
- d) **Acts 6:1-3** The early Church placed men in positions to ensure the needs of the Church were being met. We commonly call them deacons – Phil 1:1, 1Tim 3:8.
- e) **Eph 4:11-13** God has put these roles into place to serve the Church and support its charge to work.
- f) **Rev 2:1-3, 8-9, 12-14, 18-20, 3:1-2, 7-8, 14-16** Christ addressed the seven Churches of Asia individually regarding their works. He knows Hiram's works just the same.
- g) **Phil 4:14-17** Paul spoke to the brethren at Philippi about a work that would abound to their account. Do we have works that are doing the same for us?

III. The works of the Church.

- a) **Eph 4:12** The works of the Church can be summed up in this passage.
- b) **Eph 4:16, 1Cor 12:12** The success of every congregation's works are dependant upon the participation of every member.
- c) **2Cor 8:1-5** We will not fulfill the works of the Church if we have not first given ourselves completely to the Lord.

CONC: Congregational works are critical to maintaining a pleasing faith to the Lord and that these works go a long way in creating a foundation for us to lay hold of eternal life
– **1Tim 6:18-19**