the History and Work of the Church
The Work of the Church

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Church of God is a Place of Work**
  - *"It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch."* (**Mark 13:34**)
  - "God *will render to each one according to his deeds"* (**Romans 2:6**)
- **'Fighting the Good Fight of Faith'** – 1 Tim 6:12
  - Preaching the Gospel
  - Teaching its own members
  - Caring for needy saints

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Church Must Have Authority**
  - *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* (**Colossians 3:17**)
- **We Must Glorify God as the Church**
  - *"to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."* (**Ephesians 3:21**)

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Work of the Church is *NOT***
  - Involved in political action or lobbying groups
  - Going into business to make money
  - To promote secular education by building schools or supporting them from the church treasury
  - To provide recreational or family life centers
  - To cure society of its social ills
- **Where is the scripture for such work?**
  - *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for* ***every good work****."* (**2 Timothy 3:16–17**)

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Work of the Church is to <u>Preach the Gospel</u>**
  - Preachers must be sent – Rom 10:14-15
  - Only local congregations were the medium through which this work was accomplished
  - It was their primary responsibility
    - **Macedonia** – 2 Cor 11:8-9
    - **Thessalonica** – 1 Thess 1:2-8
    - **Philippi** – Phil 4:14-20

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Work of the Church is to <u>Edify its Members</u>**
  - Churches were focused on Spiritual Growth
    - Putting on the Whole Armor – Eph 6:10-18
    - "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (**2 Peter 3:18**)
  - The elders are charged with feeding the flock
    - Bible classes, special studies, men's classes, ladies classes, teachers classes, gospel meetings
- **The Church <u>Must Grow</u>**

  "*… grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ …*" (**Ephesians 4:12–16**)

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **The Work of the Church is to <u>Minister to Poor Saints</u>**
  - The Greek Widows – Acts 6:1-3
  - Sending Aid to Other Churches – Acts 11:27-30; Rom 15:25-27
- **The Church Can Only Aid Needy <u>Saints</u>**
  - Since we have no other example – 2 Cor 9:1; Rom 12:13; 15:25-26; 1 Tim 5:16
  - We still have **individual obligations** to unbelievers
    - *"Let us do good to **all** …"* (**Gal 6:10**)
    - *"… visit orphans and widows …"* (**James 1:27**)