

The work of the church

- See the divinely-appointed work given to the church so that we will be zealous for doing it and doing it in God's way.

What is the mission and work of the church?

- We are speaking in this lesson about the work assigned by God to the local church
- There is no collective functioning of the church universally
- We will see there are 3 main areas of work divinely-assigned to the church
 - Evangelizing
 - Edifying itself
 - Relieving its own needy

- The church has been assigned the work of relieving its own needy saints
 - The local church relieved its own needy saints
 - Acts 2:44-45
 - Acts 4:32-35
 - Acts 6:1-6
 - When a church could not relieve its own, another church or churches sent to the needy church
 - Acts 11:27-30
 - 2 Corinthians 8, 9
 - That there may be equality of need
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1-3
 - Romans 15:25-26
 - The church did not collect funds for benevolence for non-saints
 - Acts 11:27-30
 - Benevolence is not a means to propagate the gospel; it was a work of the church for saints
 - Christians individually also have a work to do in this (and their benevolence extends beyond just saints)
 - 1 John 3:17
 - Galatians 6:10
 - James 1:27
 - Matthew 25:31-46
 - Luke 10:25-37

- No other work than those works found in the New Testament
 - Preaching the word
 - Edifying itself
 - Benevolence for its own
- To add any other work not found in the New Testament is to go beyond what is written
 - 2 John 9
- We saw different patterns in finances for support of preaching vs. benevolence
 - When a church sent money to a preacher, it was sent to him
 - When a church sent money to another church for relieving its needy saints, it was sent to that church
- Without authority:
 - For a church to be an intermediary or sponsoring church for the work of the local church
 - For another organization to be created to coordinate or execute the work of the local church