

YOKEFELLOW

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Scriptural Applications Of The Treasury

Bobby Liddell

What Is The Work Of The Church?

How can we use the treasury to do what God intended the church to do if we do not know what the work of the church is? Too many church members (and elders) have failed to learn, or have forgotten just what the mission of the church is.

"What is the basic purpose of the Christian Church?" It is important that Church leaders spend as much time as may be necessary on this question, for a program founded upon an inadequate theology of the Church will be a house built upon sand.¹³

The mission of the saved (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23) is to save (Mark 16:15-16). The work of the church is the work of Christ--to save souls (Luke 19:10), and this work the church does through evangelism, edification, and benevolence.

Instead of affirming that there are three separate but equal works of the church—evangelism, edification, and benevolence—would it not be truer to the Book to say that the church has only one mission—and that mission is to save souls—and with this mission in mind, the gospel is proclaimed, the saints are edified, and the needy are helped?...In all that the church does there must be this desire to save men and women, and the works of edification and benevolence must really serve this purpose.¹⁴

To edify means to strengthen, or build up, and refers to the building up of church members (1 Cor. 14:12; 1 The. 5:14). Benevolence means helping those in need by doing good (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 4:28; Acts 10:38). Evangelism means preaching the Gospel, heralding the good news, to every creature in the whole world (Mat. 28:18-20).

The church must do right in the realm which God has authorized. Brother V.P. Black wrote: "Almost everything the church spends money for comes under four headings. 1. Preaching the gospel. 2. Benevolence. 3. Operational expense. 4. Self-edification."¹⁵ To further the cause of Christ, in providing for these expenses, the giver gives to the Lord, not to the preacher, the elders, or himself. The church's work, so important and needed, demands generous, liberal, sacrificial support. Covetousness (Col. 3:5; Luke 12:15), perennially prevalent among too many brethren, prevents the church from doing its work.

Rex A. Turner, Sr., wrote:

Such a tremendous program of work as rests upon every local church requires money. The greater the financial ability of a church, the greater the work of the church can be, all things being equal.¹⁶

Leon C. Burns gave these motivating comments.

Any congregation that is content to do no more than keep its doors open is completely void of leadership and unworthy of the name of Christ. Any congregation that can do no more than pull its own weight (unless it be a mission point itself) is not a New Testament church, and members of such a congregation who are content to do no more than this can hardly be called Christians.¹⁷

As elders oversee the church (Acts 20:28), so they are to oversee the use of the treasury to accomplish its work.

Many members of the Lord's church have the mistaken impression that an elder is to concern himself with only the spiritual needs of the congregation and therefore should not worry about the fundamental responsibilities of keeping up with the financial assets of the church. This doctrine is not to be found in the New Testament.... Elders certainly have the right to delegate the time-consuming functions of counting, depositing, and record keeping, but cannot escape the responsibility to make sure that these delegated functions are properly carried out.... Elders, therefore, in addition to the responsibility to give as prospered have the tremendous added responsibility of providing good stewardship for the entire contributions of the church.¹⁸

How Can We Know What God Authorizes To Be Done With The Church Treasury?

We may ascertain Bible authority by observing from God's Word: (1) Example, (2) Implication, (3) Direct Statement, and (4) Expediency. While the first three might be more easily discerned, obviously some uses of the church treasury are in the realm of expediency. To circumvent the need for divine authority, some have made disbursements from the church treasury for actions they have falsely declared to be in the realm of expediency. Brother Roy Deaver defined expediency.

Expediency is that which expedites. There is no expediency where there is no advantage. So far as concerns obligations of the local church, an expedient is that which is in harmony with the Scriptures, in which there is an inherent advantage, and which may be selected by the elders in carrying out any obligation of the church—that obligation growing out of that for which there is approved example, an implication, or a direct statement.¹⁹

(Continued Next Month)

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“To Seek And To Save”
MSOP LECTURES
March 29-April 2, 2009
 Live Broadcast, Archived, and Pod cast -- www.msop.org

Make Your Plans Now To Attend The Annual YOUTH DAY FOREST HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, March 28, 2009

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"TO SEEK AND TO SAVE"

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To order MSOP lectureship books, past and present, please call **1-800-782-8175**, or contact **tyromw@comcast.net**. We will no longer be selling MSOP books through the School bookstore. We will continue to produce annual lectureship books and CDs as in the past, and we hope you will still take advantage of the opportunity to obtain these useful volumes--not only for yourself, but as welcomed and beneficial gifts to others.

LOCAL MOTELS

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS, CALL THE NUMBERS LISTED. You must ask for MSOP Rates. Add tax to all rates.

CANDLEWOOD SUITES--7950 Centennial Dr., Memphis. 901-755-0877. Single or Double \$59.00. Suite \$79.00. Cut off date is March 15, 2009. View rooms at mgr@cwsmemphis.com/tn.

COMFORT INN & SUITES--7787 Wolf River Blvd. 901-757-7800 or (888) 960-2378. King \$69.00. Double \$79.00. Suite \$99.00. Cut off date is March 18, 2009.

FAIRFIELD INN--9320 Poplar Pike, Germantown. 901-757-9100 or (888) 426-5207. All rooms \$82.00. Cut off date is March 8, 2009.

HAMPTON INN--1280 W Poplar Ave., Collierville, TN 901 854-9400 or 1-800-HAMPTON. 1 King or 2 Doubles \$89.00. Includes breakfast. Cut off date is March 15, 2009.

LECTURE DISPLAY AREA

Those planning to have displays at the Lectureship **must** make reservations by **March 9, 2009**, and be approved in advance. Display area is limited, so make your reservations early. "First come, first served." Liberal displays/materials are not allowed. Call 901-751-2242 to make reservations.

R.V. HOOKUPS

Call 901-751-2242. Call **early**, because spaces are limited. NOTE: R.V.s **must** be parked in spaces assigned, and as directed by Parking Lot Attendants.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER TUESDAY, MARCH 31

One of the highlights of the MSOP lectureship is the annual Alumni and Friends Dinner.

It is a great time of renewing acquaintances, and catching up on news. The naming of the "Alumnus of the Year" is always greatly anticipated. Class representatives will be elected. Plan to be present!

Dinner will begin at 4:15 P.M., and will be catered. \$7.00 for each adult, and \$3.00 for each child.

Call 901-751-2242 to reserve your seat.

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IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES...

Please send us your change of address. Let us know in time that we do not send, to your old address, an issue that will be returned to us. Each month, we spend quite a bit for returned Yokefellows. We are happy to send Yokefellow free of charge. Thanks for your help in keeping our costs low.

"To Seek And To Save"

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL
MSOP LECTURES
MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2009

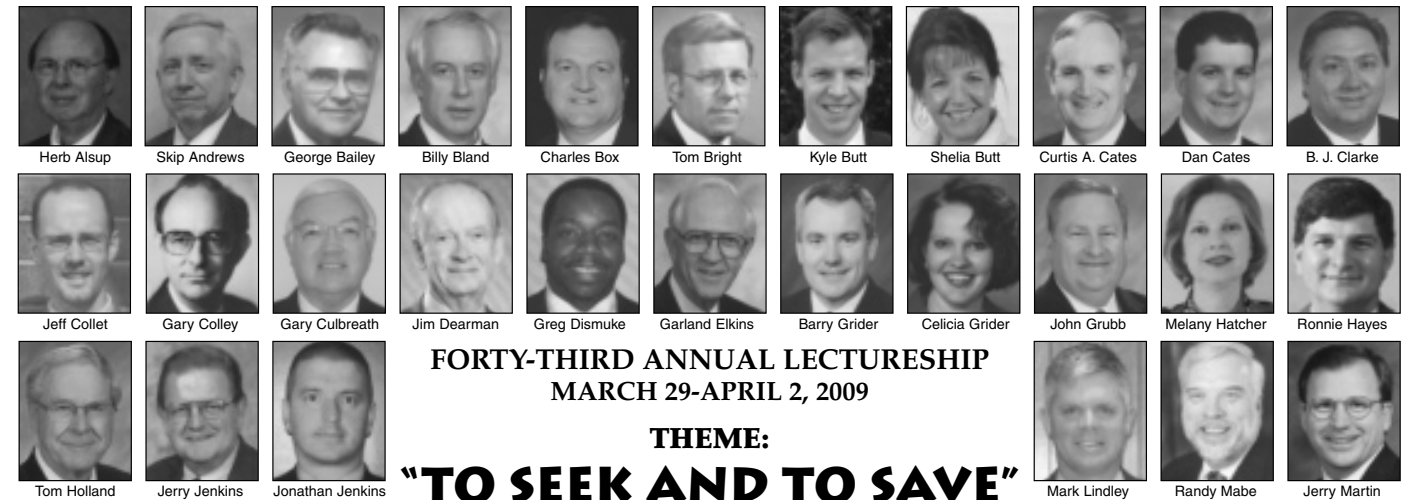
CLASSES & CHILDCARE DURING THE LECTURES

The MSOP students' wives will provide classes and childcare, for children 5 and younger, from 9 to 11:50 A.M., and 1:30 to 4:15 P.M., Monday through Thursday. We

We want to make this time with your children edifying and educational, and to insure safety, comfort, and quality of classroom time.

All parents must register their children and complete an Information Sheet. All adults must show a photo ID when picking up children. Parents may designate another, with proper ID, to pick up their children, but no one under 18 will be allowed to pick up children.

Please bring a well stocked diaper bag for infants and toddlers including formula/milk, spill-proof cups, diapers, wipes, extra clothing, and a special toy or book. Toddlers and older should bring a mat or blanket. Please label all items with the child's name.



FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL LECTURESHIP MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2009

THEME:

"TO SEEK AND TO SAVE"

MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

3950 Forest Hill Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125-2560

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

9:30-10:20 A.M. Evangelism: The Faith To Get The Job Done.....David Sain
10:30-11:30 A.M. "To Seek And To Save".....Barry Grider
5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
6:00-7:00 P.M. World Vision For Christ.....George Bailey

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "He That Winneth Souls" (Pro. 11:30).....Scott Cain
9:00-9:50 A.M. People Really Are Lost.....Paul Sain
10:00-10:50 A.M. Evangelism: Using Publications.....Garland Elkins
LADIES* What Can A Woman Do To Seek And To Save? (Women Only).....Irene Taylor
11:00-11:50 A.M. Working Together: Congregations And Individuals.....Eric Owens
CLASS* Evangelism: "In Sin City".....Randy Mabe
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. Evangelism: Challenging Denominationalism.....Gary McDade
LADIES* The Home Is A Mission Field (Women Only).....Carla Moore
2:30-3:20 P.M. Why Must The Church Grow?.....Jerry Jenkins
CLASS* Evangelism And Bible Preaching.....Greg Dismuke
3:30-4:15 P.M. "Searching For Truth".....John Moore
4:15-6:30 P.M. Value Of Youth Camps.....Ronnie Hayes
6:30-7:00 P.M. INTERMISSION
7:00-8:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
The Cross: The Heartbeat Of Evangelism.....Dan Winkler

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. "Converting The Soul" (Psa. 19:7).....Gary Curry
9:00-9:50 A.M. Does Education Inhibit Evangelism?.....Curtis A. Cates
10:00-10:50 A.M. Evangelism: Using The Media.....Jim Dearman
LADIES* Evangelism Means Confrontation: How Do We Handle It? (Women Only).....Tanya Silcox
11:00-11:50 A.M. Retired Or "Re" Tire.....Gary Colley
CLASS* Evangelism And World Wide Missions.....John Grubb
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. Evangelism And Church Discipline.....Johnie Scaggs
LADIES* I Stood By His Side (Women Only).....Melany Hatcher
2:30-3:20 P.M. Evangelism: Using Campaigns.....Billy Bland
CLASS* Training Fishers Of Men.....Tim Wilkes
3:30-4:15 P.M. SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS (MSOP CHAPEL)
"Digital Bible Study".....Jonathan Jenkins
Value Of New Converts Class.....Gary Culbreath
4:15-6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
7:00-8:00 P.M. Light The Fire Of Evangelism.....Tom Holland

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "What Is A Man Profited?" (Mat. 16:26).....Donnie Vick
9:00-9:50 A.M. Why Go Ye Means Go Me.....Keith Mosher
10:00-10:50 A.M. What Must I Do To Be Saved?.....Mark Lindley
LADIES* Winning Souls Through Compassion (Women Only).....Jane McWhorter
11:00-11:50 A.M. You Never Mentioned Him To Me.....David Prophater
CLASS* The "Action" Of Evangelism.....Wade Webster
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. Evangelism: Quality Or Quantity.....Kevin Moore
LADIES* Timothy: Training Our Children To Be Evangelistic (Women Only).....Sheila Butt
2:30-3:20 P.M. Priscilla And Aquilla: Partners In Evangelism.....Herb Alsup
CLASS* Evangelism And Apologetics.....Kyle Butt
3:30-4:15 P.M. Truth For The World.....Skip Andrews
4:15-6:30 P.M. Starting A New Congregation.....Jeff Collet
6:30-7:00 P.M. INTERMISSION
7:00-8:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
"Burning Up The Woods".....B. J. Clarke

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL (Forest Hill) "They That Turn Many to Righteousness" (Dan. 12:3).....Wayne Rodgers
9:00-9:50 A.M. Evangelism: Who Will Lead?.....Jerry Martin
10:00-10:50 A.M. Evangelism: School On The Internet.....Tom Bright
LADIES* The Value Of One (Women Only).....Vada Rice
11:00-11:50 A.M. Did He Not Also Die For Them?.....Allen Webster
CLASS* Given To Hospitality.....Matt Shelton
11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH
1:30-2:20 P.M. Evangelism: Big City Vs. Small Town.....Bob Prichard
LADIES* Little Things Mean A Lot (Women Only).....Cecilia Grider
2:30-3:20 P.M. The Power Of Influence.....Dan Cates
CLASS* Evangelism And The Radio.....Paul Meacham
3:30-4:15 P.M. House To House/Heart To Heart.....Allen Webster
Value Of Prison Ministries.....Charles Box
4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION
6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
7:00-8:00 P.M. "Go Make Disciples".....Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

*ALL Classes (Including Ladies Classes) Meet In Room 405 In The School Building.

