

Stewardship of Your Church Membership

October 2, 2016



Synopsis:

Luke 12:42-53 (KJV) And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? ⁴³Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁴Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵But and if that servant say in his heart, ‘My lord delayeth his coming;’ and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; ⁴⁶The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. ⁴⁹I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! ⁵¹Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: ⁵²For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. ⁵³The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”

What is this household? Who is (are) the servant(s)? What is the role of the pastor in the church; the people?

NOTE. — 1 Cor. 1:2 Paul writes to "the church which is at Corinth"; Gal. 1:2 he writes to "the churches of Galatia"; 1 Thess. 1:1 he writes to "the church of the Thessalonians"; Rev. 1-3 John writes to the seven churches of Asia Minor.

186. When do we use the doctrine of the Church properly?

We use the doctrine of the Church properly —

A. When we take heed to *be and remain members of the invisible Church* by sincere faith in the Redeemer;

474 Examine yourselves whether ye *be in the faith*; prove your own selves. 2 Cor. 13:5.

475 If ye *continue in My Word*, then are ye *My disciples indeed*; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:31, 32.

B. When we *adhere to the Church* which teaches the Word of God in *all its purity*;

NOTE. — See 475.

476 They continued *steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine*. Acts 2:42.

C. When we do all in our power to *maintain, promote, and extend this Church* by *prayer, personal service, and financial support*;

NOTE. — See "What the Hearers Owe to Their Pastors," page 25. (The Christian as a steward.)

477 They that were *scattered abroad went everywhere, preaching the Word*. Acts 8:4.

478 Go ye, therefore, and *teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Matt. 28:19.

479 So hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should *live of the Gospel*. 1 Cor. 9:14.

Bible Narratives: The early Christians prayed for the spreading of the Gospel. Acts 4:23-30. — They also contributed to the support of the ministry. Phil. 4:16-19.

D. When we *avoid all false churches* and all *other organizations* that profess a *religion that is false*.

480 Beware of *false prophets*, which come to you in sheep's clothing; but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Matt. 7:15.

481 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but *try the spirits whether they are of God*; because *many false prophets* are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1.

482 Now, I beseech you, brethren, mark them which *cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine* which ye have learned; and *avoid them*. Rom. 16:17.

483 Be ye not *unequally yoked together with unbelievers*. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore *come out from among them*, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Cor. 6:14-18.



Wheat and Tares

What is the relationship between the "Invisible" church and the "visible" Church?

Is church membership the means of being saved or is it for those already saved?

How does one become a member of the church? What's the difference between being in the church' or not?

Whose faith must you be sure of? How sure is saving faith? If the saved are already saved as members of the church, what's church membership for? Is membership in a visible church necessary? Why not/why? See pamphlet p. 3.

Explanation of the evolution of the MIGs program...