

Message Three

The Need for All Our Service to Be Initiated by God

MC Hymns: 910, 907

Scripture Reading: Num. 18:1; Rom. 11:36; 2 Sam. 7:1-3, 5, 11-14a;
Job 38:2; 42:6; Acts 22:8, 10

- Num 18:1 Then Jehovah said to Aaron, You and your sons and your father's household with you shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary; and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.
- Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- 2 Sam 7:1 And as the king dwelt in his house and Jehovah gave him rest all around from all his enemies,
- 2 Sam 7:2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains.
- 2 Sam 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, All that is in your heart go and do, for Jehovah is with you.
- 2 Sam 7:5 Go and say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah, Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?
- 2 Sam 7:11 Even since the time when I commanded that there be judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house.
- 2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 2 Sam 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...
- Job 38:2 Who is this who darkens counsel / By words without knowledge?
- Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
- Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute.
- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.

I. All our work and service in the church must be initiated by God and must be according to His desire; otherwise, we will commit the iniquity of the sanctuary in our service to God—Num. 18:1; Rom. 11:36:

- Num 18:1 Then Jehovah said to Aaron, You and your sons and your father's household with you shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary; and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.
- Rom 11:36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- A. Anything that is initiated or started by man, regardless of how much it is for God, is a religious activity devoid of the presence of Christ.
- B. A man may have no thought of God and no heart to serve God, but God comes to him, prompting and touching him, revealing Himself to him, giving him a command, a calling, and a leading, so that he receives something of God and cannot help but take action—Jer. 1:4-10, 17-19; Dan. 11:32.
- Jer 1:4 Now the word of Jehovah came to me, saying:
- Jer 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; / And before you came forth from the womb, I sanctified you. / I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
- Jer 1:6 Then I said, Alas, Lord Jehovah! / Indeed, I do not know how to speak, / For I am a youth.
- Jer 1:7 But Jehovah said to me, / Do not say, I am a youth; / For everywhere I send you, you shall go; / And everything I command you, you shall speak.
- Jer 1:8 Do not be afraid of their faces, / For I am with you to deliver you, declares Jehovah.
- Jer 1:9 Then Jehovah stretched out His hand and touched my mouth; and Jehovah said to me, Now I have put My words in your mouth.
- Jer 1:10 See, I have appointed you this day / Over the nations and over the kingdoms / To pluck up and to break down, / To destroy and to tear down, / To build up and to plant.

- Jer 1:17 You therefore gird up your loins, and rise up and speak to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you in their presence.
- Jer 1:18 And I am now making you today into a fortified city and into an iron pillar and into bronze walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land.
- Jer 1:19 And they will fight against you, but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you, declares Jehovah, to deliver you.
- Dan 11:32 And with his smooth words he will cause those who act wickedly toward the covenant to be profane. But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

II. Abel offered sacrifices by faith according to God’s revelation; his offering of a sacrifice came in response to God’s word—Heb. 11:4; Gen. 3:21; 4:1-5; Rom. 10:17:

- Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying to his gifts; and through faith, though he has died, he still speaks.
- Gen 3:21 And Jehovah God made coats of skins for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.
- Gen 4:1 And the man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain and said, I have acquired a man, Jehovah.
- Gen 4:2 And again she gave birth, to his brother Abel. And Abel was a tender of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- Gen 4:3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.
- Gen 4:4 And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.
- Gen 4:5 But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.
- Rom 10:17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- A. After Adam’s fall, God showed man redemption through the shedding of the blood of a sacrifice; because Abel heard, saw, and understood this, he offered a sacrifice according to God’s instruction and ordination—Gen. 3:21; Heb. 9:22.
- Gen 3:21 And Jehovah God made coats of skins for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.
- Heb 9:22 And almost all things are purified by blood according to the law, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
- B. Cain served God from himself according to his own will and opinion; he offered the fruit of the ground to God, and this offering was entirely a religious activity—Gen. 4:3.
- Gen 4:3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.
- C. A religious activity is any service or worship that does not originate from God’s revelation, command, and leading; the activities of one who serves God must originate absolutely from God, not from man.

III. Noah served God according to God’s command; even the measurements and methods of building the ark were not according to Noah’s imagination but to God’s determination—6:14—7:5; Heb. 11:7.

- Gen 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.
- Gen 6:15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.
- Gen 6:16 You shall make an opening for light for the ark, and you shall finish it up to a cubit from the top; and you shall put the entrance of the ark in its side; you shall make it with lower, second, and third stories.
- Gen 6:17 And now I am about to bring a flood of water upon the earth to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.
- Gen 6:18 But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons’ wives with you.
- Gen 6:19 And of every living thing, of all flesh, two of every kind you shall bring into the ark to preserve them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

- Gen 6:20 Of the birds according to their kind and of the cattle according to their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind will come to you in order to preserve them alive.
- Gen 6:21 And for your part, take some of every kind of food that is edible, and gather it to yourself, and it will be for food for you and for them.
- Gen 6:22 And Noah did this; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.
- Gen 7:1 Then Jehovah said to Noah, Come into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this generation.
- Gen 7:2 Of every clean animal you shall take with you seven pairs, a male and its female; and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and its female;
- Gen 7:3 Also of the birds of heaven, seven pairs, male and female; to preserve their offspring alive on the surface of all the earth.
- Gen 7:4 For in seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living being that I have made I will blot out from the surface of the ground.
- Gen 7:5 And Noah did according to all that Jehovah commanded him.
- Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, having been divinely instructed concerning things not yet seen and being moved by pious fear, prepared an ark for the salvation of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

IV. Abraham served God according to God's appearing—Acts 7:2-4; Gen. 12:1-4, 7-8; 13:14-18; 15:1; Heb. 11:8-10.

- Acts 7:2 And he said, Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,
- Acts 7:3 And said to him, "Come out from your land and from your relatives, and come into the land which I will show you."
- Acts 7:4 Then he came forth from the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, after his father died, He removed him into this land, in which you now dwell.
- Gen 12:1 Now Jehovah said to Abram, Go from your land / And from your relatives / And from your father's house / To the land that I will show you;
- Gen 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, / And I will bless you / And make your name great; / And you shall be a blessing.
- Gen 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, / And him who curses you I will curse; / And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.
- Gen 12:4 So Abram went as Jehovah had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he went out of Haran.
- Gen 12:7 And Jehovah appeared to Abram and said, To your seed I will give this land. And there he built an altar to Jehovah who had appeared to him.
- Gen 12:8 And he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to Jehovah and called upon the name of Jehovah.
- Gen 13:14 And Jehovah said to Abram after Lot had separated from him, Now lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;
- Gen 13:15 For all the land that you see I will give to you and to your seed forever.
- Gen 13:16 And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then your seed can also be numbered.
- Gen 13:17 Rise up; walk through the land according to its length and its breadth, for I will give it to you.
- Gen 13:18 And Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to Jehovah.
- Gen 15:1 After these things the word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield and your exceedingly great reward.
- Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- Heb 11:9 By faith he dwelt as a foreigner in the land of promise as in a foreign land, making his home in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the fellow heirs of the same promise;
- Heb 11:10 For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.

V. Moses served God according to God's instruction for the deliverance of the

children of Israel and for the building of the tabernacle according to God's pattern—Exo. 3:10, 14-15; 25:9, 40; 40:16-17, 34-35; Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5.

- Exo 3:10 So come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.
- Exo 3:14 And God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM. And He said, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you
- Exo 3:15 And God also said to Moses, Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial from generation to generation.
- Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.
- Exo 25:40 And see that you make them according to their pattern, which was shown to you in the mountain.
- Exo 40:16 Thus Moses did; according to all that Jehovah had commanded him, so he did.
- Exo 40:17 And in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was raised up.
- Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- Exo 40:35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud settled on it and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.
- Acts 7:44 The Tabernacle of Testimony was with our fathers in the wilderness, even as He who spoke to Moses instructed him to make it, according to the pattern which he had seen.
- Heb 8:5 Who serve the example and shadow of the heavenly things, even as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to complete the tabernacle; for, "See," He said, "that you make all things according to the pattern that was shown to you in the mountain.'

VI. David feared God, cooperated with God, and let God work—Acts 13:36a:

- Acts 13:36 Now David, having served his own generation by the counsel of God, did indeed fall asleep and was buried with his fathers and saw corruption;
- A. David was zealous to build a temple for God (2 Sam. 7:1-3), but God rejected David's good intention; God sent Nathan the prophet to David to ask, "Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?"—v. 5.
- 2 Sam 7:1 And as the king dwelt in his house and Jehovah gave him rest all around from all his enemies,
- 2 Sam 7:2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains.
- 2 Sam 7:3 And Nathan said to the king, All that is in your heart go and do, for Jehovah is with you.
- 2 Sam 7:5 Go and say to My servant David, Thus says Jehovah, Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in?
- B. Our heart to serve God is acceptable, but our decision to do something for Him is not acceptable; God said, "Is it you...?"; God does not want us to decide anything on His behalf.
- C. We should love God and wait for His command; we should seek His will and wait for His revelation; just as the slave in the Old Testament loved his master and allowed his ear to be bored through with an awl to hear the word of his master, we must focus on waiting for our Master's command—Exo. 21:6; 2 Tim. 2:21b.
- Exo 21:6 Then his master shall bring him to God and shall bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.
- 2 Tim 2:21b ... he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.
- D. Because David feared God, he did not react to Nathan; rather, he stopped; the act of stopping the building of the temple is a great matter.
- E. Sister M. E. Barber said, "Whoever cannot stop working for the sake of God cannot work for the sake of God."
- F. David's stopping established a twofold testimony in the universe: first, all the work in the

universe should come from God, not from man; second, all that matters is what God does for man, not what man does for God.

G. David wanted to build a temple for God, but God said that He would build David a house, from which a kingdom would come forth—2 Sam. 7:11-14a.

2 Sam 7:11 Even since the time when I commanded that there be judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover Jehovah declares to you that Jehovah will make you a house.

2 Sam 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sam 7:13 It is he who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Sam 7:14a I will be his Father, and he will be My son. ...

H. Even after God spoke this word to David, he fell twice—the son as the builder and the site for the temple both came out of David's being forgiven of his sins:

1. First, he murdered Uriah and usurped his wife Bathsheba; after David sinned, he bore a son, Solomon, who would be the builder of God's temple—11:2-17, 26-27.

2 Sam 11:2 And late one afternoon David rose from his bed and went for a walk on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to look at.

2 Sam 11:3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, This is none other than Bath-sheba the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite.

2 Sam 11:4 And David sent messengers and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had just purified herself from her uncleanness.) And she returned to her house.

2 Sam 11:5 And the woman conceived; and she sent word and told David and said, I am pregnant.

2 Sam 11:6 Then David sent word to Joab: Send me Uriah the Hittite. So Joab sent Uriah to David.

2 Sam 11:7 And Uriah came to him, and David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the battle was going.

2 Sam 11:8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to your house, and wash your feet. And Uriah went forth from the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

2 Sam 11:9 But Uriah lay down at the entrance to the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house.

2 Sam 11:10 And they told David, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house. Then David said to Uriah, Have you not just come from a journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?

2 Sam 11:11 And Uriah said to David, The Ark and Israel and Judah dwell in huts, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live and your soul lives, I shall by no means do this thing!

2 Sam 11:12 And David said to Uriah, Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the following.

2 Sam 11:13 Then David invited him to eat and drink in his presence, and he made him drunk. Then in the evening he went forth to lie down on his bed with the servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his house.

2 Sam 11:14 Then in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

2 Sam 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Put Uriah in the forefront of the hardest battle, and withdraw from him that he may be struck down and die.

2 Sam 11:16 So when Joab besieged the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew the valiant men were.

2 Sam 11:17 And the men of the city went forth and fought with Joab; and some of the people, some of the servants of David, fell. And Uriah the Hittite died also.

2 Sam 11:26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.

- 2 Sam 11:27 And when the mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to his house; and she became his wife and bore a son to him. But the thing that David did displeased Jehovah.
2. Second, he numbered the children of Israel, showing his hidden pride by putting his faith in numbers of warriors rather than in God; after David was chastised for numbering the people, he offered sacrifices on a piece of land, as instructed by God, which later became the site for the building of the temple—24:1-10, 18-25; 1 Chron. 21:1; 2 Chron. 3:1.
- 2 Sam 24:1 And again the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel; and he moved David against them, saying, Go, number Israel and Judah.
- 2 Sam 24:2 And the king said to Joab the captain of the army, who was with him, Go now throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people.
- 2 Sam 24:3 And Joab said to the king, Now may Jehovah your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king may see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?
- 2 Sam 24:4 Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. And Joab and the captains of the army went forth before the king to count the people of Israel.
- 2 Sam 24:5 And they crossed the Jordan and encamped at Aroer to the right of the city, which was in the midst of the river valley, toward Gad and unto Jazer.
- 2 Sam 24:6 Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim-hodshi, and they came to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon.
- 2 Sam 24:7 And they came to the stronghold of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and of the Canaanites, and they went on to the south of Judah at Beer-sheba.
- 2 Sam 24:8 And when they had gone about throughout all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.
- 2 Sam 24:9 And Joab gave the number of the count of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.
- 2 Sam 24:10 And David's heart smote him after he had numbered the people. And David said to Jehovah, I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, O Jehovah, put away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.
- 2 Sam 24:18 And Gad came to David on that day; and he said to him, Go up and raise up an altar to Jehovah on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.
- 2 Sam 24:19 And David went up according to Gad's word, as Jehovah had commanded.
- 2 Sam 24:20 And Araunah looked out and saw the king and his servants coming over toward him. And Araunah went forth and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.
- 2 Sam 24:21 And Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor from you to build an altar to Jehovah, that the plague may be stayed among the people.
- 2 Sam 24:22 And Araunah said to David, May my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good in his sight. Look, the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing instruments and the yokes for the oxen for the wood -
- 2 Sam 24:23 All this, O king, does Araunah give to the king. Then Araunah said to the king, May Jehovah your God accept you.
- 2 Sam 24:24 But the king said to Araunah, No; but I will surely buy it from you for a price, and I will not offer to Jehovah my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
- 2 Sam 24:25 And there David built an altar to Jehovah, and he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And Jehovah responded to the entreaty for the land, and the plague was stayed in Israel.
- 1 Chron 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.
- 2 Chron 3:1 And Solomon began to build the house of Jehovah in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where He had appeared to David his father, at the place that David prepared, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

I. We must learn deep within that God wants only our cooperation; He does not need us to do

anything for Him; we must stop all our opinions, decisions, and ideas; we need to let Him speak, let Him come in, and let Him command—Matt. 17:5.

Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!

VII. Paul served God according to the vision that he saw at his vanquishing conversion:

- A. Paul's first question to the Lord was, "Who are You, Lord?"—this is related to Paul's living, which was a quest to know Christ—Acts 22:8; Phil. 3:10a.
- Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute.
- Phil 3:10a To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings,...
- B. Paul's second question to the Lord was, "What shall I do, Lord?"—this is related to Paul's service, which was purely initiated by God; blessed is he who asks this question!—Acts 22:10; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 2:12-14.
- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- 2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,
- 2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.
- 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- C. We should all ask the Lord, "What shall I do?" rather than telling Him, "This is what I will do."

VIII. The basic principle in our service is that everything must be initiated by God:

- A. All those who serve God must see a principle from these examples: God's work needs man's cooperation, but it does not require man's initiation; we should listen to Him unreservedly.
- B. The book of Job reveals that the unique prerequisite to receiving God's revelation is to stop our speaking, our opinion, our view, and our self:
1. The book of Job tells us that God's counsel is darkened by man's words (38:2); a person's opinion is expressed in his word, and his word represents his opinion.
Job 38:2 Who is this who darkens counsel / By words without knowledge?
 2. The Lord said, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself" (Matt. 16:24); when Job said, "I abhor myself" (Job 42:6), he was referring to his opinions, views, and ideas.
Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
- C. Service from man has man's natural enjoyment, preference, and flavor; service from God enables man to worship the Lord and advance even when facing difficulties; service from God enables man to not be anxious or quarrelsome.
- D. Although all our service is initiated by God, we must learn to bear responsibility and be absolutely faithful before the Lord; we need to rely on the Lord, carrying out our service by being joined to the Lord and being in fellowship with Him—1 Cor. 4:1-2; 7:25.
- 1 Cor 4:1 A man should account us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 1 Cor 4:2 Here, furthermore, it is sought in stewards that one be found faithful.
- 1 Cor 7:25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who has been shown mercy by the Lord to be faithful.

- E. This kind of service builds up the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem, and it prepares us to serve Him in and for eternity—Eph. 4:11-12; Rev. 22:3.
- Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as shepherds and teachers,
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Rev 22:3 And there will no longer be a curse. And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him;