

# SEMINAR: MINISTRY BREAKDOWN

## THE CHURCH HAS A MINISTRY PROBLEM

### 1. Ministry From the Lord

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ gave the church a unique ministry only the church can do.
- b. 2 Cor 5:17-18 - *"if any man be in Christ... [God] hath given us the ministry of..."*
- c. 1 Cor 4:1 - *"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards"*
- d. 1 Tim 1:12 - Paul *"thanks Christ Jesus our Lord ... for ... putting me into ministry"*
  - i. What is it? Who is responsible? How to do it? What are the results?

### 2. A Look at Ministry

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> thing people notice about a church ministry: building, size, wealth <-- Not unique
  - i. McDonalds serves billions with ~13 locations vs. 350k churches in U.S.
  - ii. What are those 350k churches serving? How? What effect does it have?
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> thing people notice about church ministry: clothing, friendliness, programs
  - i. More people attend McDs (50%) than church (16%) weekly (avg 4x per mo)
- c. Due to these two things, ministries mutate to appeal to the masses.
  - i. Ministry becomes a competitor for people's attention, desire to be served.
  - ii. Ministry changes into customer service (self-help) rather than godly service.
- d. Ministry not food, corp, celebrities, followers, money, music, programs, community
  - i. If it is, then 99% cannot play (let alone succeed) but can only consume.
  - ii. If it is, then it should be left to a few experts, or the best of us.
  - iii. If it is, then you don't need much truth to do it ... but 1 Tim 3:15

### 3. Ministry is Broken

- a. Since 2000, 40 mill people moved from going to church once a month to a yr
  - i. With this decline mental health, suicide, violent crime increases.
- b. 2-3x as many churches as there are schools, yet what of Biblical literacy?
  - i. Half of churchgoers (16%) even read the Bible once a week.
  - ii. Barna survey - Only 4% of Americans have a Biblical worldview (7 beliefs)
  - iii. Majority 'serious' Christians think Jesus was a sinner (44% down 15 in 3yrs)
  - iv. Does God have a purpose or calling/ministry? From 85% to 50% since 2020
- c. Parents increasing leave the spiritual training of children to church experts (25%)
  - i. Parents do not pass on beliefs b/c (1) they don't have them 8% have Bible worldview, or (2) do not know how ... to minister to children!
- d. Churches/ministries abound, spending time/money in the name of the Lord.
- e. Matt 7:22-23 "Lord, Lord... I never knew you" because they were not serving right.
- f. 2 Tim 1:13, 2:2 - We are instructed to "hold fast" and to "commit to faithful men"
- g. Ministry creates faithful men. Faithful men are rare. Ministry is broken.

#### 4. Restore Ministry to the Church

- a. Broken not due to lack of people, Bibles, or churches. It is a lack of proper ministry.
- b. The Lord Jesus Christ gave the church a unique ministry only the church can do.
- c. *Good news!* Bible gives what you need: doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction.
  - i. Ministry failure brings doubt, confusion, immaturity, weakness, apathy, faithlessness.
  - ii. Ministry success brings truth, knowledge, strength, wisdom, peace, purpose, faithfulness, and a future hope.
- d. Col 4:17 - Archippus: *"take heed to the ministry which thou hast received ... fulfil it"*
  - i. Ministry must be fulfilled. In our day, it must first be fixed.
  - ii. Mid-Acts Pauline dispensational right division not only helps you understand the Bible, it fixes ministry of the church.
- e. What is it? Who is responsible? How to do it? Where are its results? Coming up.