

SUVISESHA DHWANI

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THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY

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It is a general practice in the present society to give priority and preference to things that do not require it. We may not feel sympathy to a person who buys wedding dress and who does not bother to pay the rent which is due. If we cannot realize to which of the things that we have to give priority, then it shows that it is because of our ignorance. This ignorance is spreading in the spiritual realm too. Many of the believers today just ignore the Local assembly which is their spiritual family. They spend or infact waste their time and energy to build organization, funds and ministries. In the prophetic book of Haggai we see the Israelites as a nation who is not aware of the poor state of the Jerusalem Temple. They ignored and they started to give importance in the

construction of their houses. The Lord perished them and brought back them to Him. (Haggai 1:4,9)

If we do not give importance to those things that the Lord give importance, there we may have to pay the price for it. We know of Easu who sold his birth right just for a morsel of meat ignoring the importance that the Lord has bestowed on his birth right. (Heb. 12:16) It is serious mistake in the right of God. We can study this topic in three subdivisions.

1. The importance of ownership

The local assembly belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:28). "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which hath purchased with His own blood, Apostle Paul revealed about the

ownership of the church of God to those elders whom he called from Ephesus. Only those who understands this reality can rule the assembly in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. The failure in the field among our assemblies is very common. The main reason for it could be that the elders do not realize the importance of the ownership of the Local assembly. Many of the Elders now a days give priority to other places of promises rather than their own Assembly.

Those who keep the vision of the ownership of the assembly only can walk worthy of it. Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy to teach him how he has to behave himself in the assembly (1Tim 3:15). In this verse also the Holy Spirit reveals that the Assembly belongs to the true living God is true here also. Those who have this sense of fear in there heart will try to

behave according to the Word of God.

How did the Lord purchase the Assembly. He purchased it by His own blood. This blood is so precious (1Peter 1:18-19). The church purchased by this precious blood is very precious to the Lord. If we be little the value of this church then it will hurt him. He purchased it by giving his life (blood) and so he loves the assembly as his own life (Eph. 5:25). This beautiful truth is revealed through similar usages in the scripture. That he might present it to himself a glorious church..... (Eph 5:27). His continuous care for the assembly which he bought with his blood can be seen in this verse. His commitment to church is a good example for us to follow. The exact meaning of this usage is revealed through the two parables that we seen in the gospel of Matthew.

A man went and sold all that he had and bought the field in which the treasure was hidden. The next parable speaks of a merchant who sold every thing to buy a priceless pearl. The Lord saw that Church as such a treasure and gave himself to it.

In the book of revelation Chapters 2 and 3 Church is compared to seven golden candle sticks. The bridegroom is walking in the midst of the seven candle sticks. It shows His concern and care for the assembly. He commends the assemblies for them steadfastness in faith and good works. At the same time He points out them spots and wrinkles or their failures. He does not condemn and discard them but ask them to repent and come back. The church of Smyrna and Philadelphia followed the words of the Lord and pleased Him. These churches can be good

models and examples even today forms. Let us not be reckless and unwise to be ignore the church which is the price of His Blood.

Importance in the use. The local assembly is compared to the golden lamp stand in the Scripture (Rev 1:20, 2:1). The Lamp is used to give light. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World (John 8:12). The risen Lord is the leader of the church. EPH 1:23 "..... Who created all things by Jesus Christ . To the intent that now unto the principalities and power in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God (Eph 3:9,10,11). The world should get the light of Gospel through the Local Assembly. We who have been called from the darkness to the marvelous light should walk in the light (1Peter 2:9, Eph 5:9-10, Matthew 5:14-16). Only a local assembly can give light to a place which is engulfed by the darkness of sin and trespasses. In Matthew 5:14-16 we can see the uses of lamps 1. It giveth unto all that are in the house. 2. Let your light so shine before man. The local assembly is a spiritual family and the members of that should get light from it. This is a very important use of the Local Church.

Family is an institution started by God and it is His plan to have children in the family. Children should not come out of the wed lock. It is the heritage and values of the sole provision that the Lord has made to bring the lost souls to Christ is the Local assembly and it is the place where

THE WORK AND WORKERS

The gospel work is the greatest and mighty work in the world. According to 1Pet.2:9, we are chosen to proclaim the praises of Him, and Eph.4:11 says evangelists are the heavenly gift given to the church. Even though the responsibility of evangelization is upon each believer, the called and separated workers are the blessed gifts to the church and to the people.

A sincere and dedicated gospel worker in the Lords vineyard should clearly understand his calling, election and the importance of the great work. Even though the category is the 'servant', when we understand the type and

seriousness of the work, it is a high position. We read in (Isa 52:7) " How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who comes with good news." After the declaration of the beauty of our Lord this type of saying is only about the Lord's servant. He is the mouth-piece of God. The word of life comes from his mouth. It is good enough to change the entire life of human beings. At the same when it is a high and valuable position, it involves and establishes a great responsibility in us. We should be sincere in this work which is rewarding, precious and admirable by God. See the words of Lord's servant V.Nagal ' My Lord and

God, it is my reward, when you count me worthy to declare your mighty name with my unworthy mouth.' This words should be in our mind always. The above knowledge is the preliminary lesson of the dedicated and selfless gospel work. Be courageous. The true fulfilling of this work gives us along with the reward, an unspeakable joy, blessing, satisfaction and gratitude. It should be experienced. Our forefathers explains those things in their writings. An evangelist should be aware of his work area. Every work is not the gospel work. Gospel work can be defined like this:- **present**

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POWER MONGERS

When the UPA government completed four years and two months, it went through a confidence resolution and overcame it after a fear of dissolution. The Manmohan Singh government can go forward with the atomic treaty. But the bad influence of money and the illegal involvement of great leaders inside and behind had pasted black marks on Indian politics. In the beginning atomic treaty was the bone of contention but towards the end it became a fight for the existence and dissolution of government. The leftist can oppose the American foreign policy and can worry about the India's open policy. But if they are using the atomic treaty for their popularity and vote, it is against the principles. Accession to the power and authority of political principles and play any role by hook or crook for existence is not the agenda of this political party. But it is to keep commitment, honesty and sincerity towards non-secularity and morality. A government setup is very important for the well being of the society. But this will change all ways. The government policy can change according to the social system. Even the government which aim at the well being of the society normally end up in autocracy. The centralization of power is the mandate of autocracy. Tsar Emperors - Hitler, Joseph Stalin - turned upside down the values became autocracy. Suppression and submission are the outcome of autocracy.

The kings, subjects, landlords and intermediates, owners and slaves, masters and subordinates all work under a set up of power. The character of the autocratic rule is to bring others under control. The autocracy is not only in political and social set up but also in religious set up. Today even though there are some changes in Papal power, the history testifies the suppressed rule and cruelty of the Catholic Church. We can point out many examples from past and

present, the use of religious power to gain wealth and worldly pleasures. Even though people are aware of the false teachings of the religion, they find new formulae and submits to it for they believe it for the safer side. This belief of the people strengthen the religion.

Many kings of Israel misused the power and they suffered for it. Jeroboam was lifted from the dustbin to the kingdom of Israel. So he planned many wrong ways to sustain it. Instead of worshipping a God who delivered them from the slavery of Egypt with His great power and stretched hand, and he encouraged the people to worship in Samaria gods made by hi for the fear of loosing power. He thought that the mind of his people will go to Rehoboam. So he made two calves of gold and said to the people, it is too much for you to go to Jerusalem. Here are your Gods of Israel which brought you up from the land of Egypt. And he setup one in Bethel and the other in Dan. Now this thing became a sin for the people. His deeds for the power lead the next generation of kings of Israel to commit worse sins.

Even in the life of new testamental believers, who claim internal and external holiness, these type of desire for power is there. If we examine thoroughly all the Societies, Trusts and Committees among the brethren we can see this type of autocracy there also. Getting into all committee and activities, admitting their own children and relatives in it to keep their position safe. All these works are like the work of Jeroboam. Some of them are in the committee for years and years. Some of them are away from the activities because they lost their loved positions. But now listen to the word of our Lord - 'My kingdom is not of this world, If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight.' If His kingdom is not of this world, why we should fight for it?. Let us bow down and do His service by submitting ourselves in His arms.

Jose Philip

the free salvation to the world for which I spend nothing but Lord had spent much, free the poor prisoners from the prison of darkness, open the eyes of the blind, pray for and encourage those who are revived spiritually, have a vision of new life at the life of evil doers, look to the marvelous work of God's mercy, strengthen the weak sheeps, look after the vineyard of our Lord, bring back the straying sheeps, comfort the mourners of zion, above all keep the fellowship in the work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (obliged to Lord's servant Bro. Noel) How great this work is! It is a royal work. In (Psa 2:8) we read "Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession." But we are not possessing it. With one mind and one aim only we can possess it.

As peace, happiness, security, law and order and

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the mind of equality are disappeared from this cruel world, we have to do Lord's work immediately. Let the burden about the perishing soul shall awake us. Our Saviour is telling us like Elijah to Elisha

But what is happening among us. Many 'works' are going on. Now a day it is known as different type of 'ministry'. But a Levite a blessed person during the time of law stayed in the tabernacle did his duties, never entered in to the outside matters, without any inheritance with the gentiles and he counted Jehovah as his inheritance. But at the time of Judges we see a Levite representative; he departed from God and went to the city of Bethlehem in Judah on his way to find a place to sojourn. A if any one ask him, his answer was clear 'I am on my way to find a place to sojourn'(Judges 17:8,9,10) God selected people through Abraham and sealed them for Him. And the God of Abraham, Isaac

and Jacob became their inheritance. Jacob was named as Israel by God. He was divided in to Israel tribes. And Almighty God is known as the 'Holy one of Israel'. And He is their inheritance. He elected Levites for His service. This is the law. But in Judges 17:9 we see a man against this law.

There are many people forgets their call and election. Even though they are aware of the mighty work entrusted upon them, they run away from the direction and looking out to find a place to sojourn. For them their own desire is their work. Now a days there are many Micah who are ready to consecrate these people. They find their own place of work, they justify themselves without finding God's will. These type of work is are increasing today. But the work for the glory of God is very less. Dear children of God just think about it. Who has given them the authority to exceed the boundary of God? Is the work to be done

according to their own will and convenience? Is the evangelist a judge or an intermediate person or a marriage broker etc? Remember! the coming of our Lord is very near. So be serious and do the work of God according to His will. Let the name of our God be glorified by our work. Please remember that this a great rewarding job. The prime responsibility of an evangelist is to share the gospel with the sinners. Basically his ministries should be in and outside the church. But many are not seen outside the camp. But in 2Tim 2:15 Paul says that 'Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth'. And in 4:5 we read that 'But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry**'. Dear children of God where we stand? We are not supposed to stand at

the doorstep of Micah for help and support. Are we sitting around the insoluble assembly problems? If we have any vengeance give it to the hands of God as we read in Jer 11:20. Jeremiah is an example to us.

Let us come back and walk in the straight path and a thorough change in our life. Let every believer pray that this should happen in me first. We should not be like that Levite. We are called for His mighty work. Be ready to work where ever He sends us. If there is a will there is a way. Apostle Paul is our pioneer and a good example God is with us. When we stand before God, shall we stand with an empty hand? It should not happen to us. Harvest is more but workers are less. Let us bear seeds and sow in tears. And we, doubtless, will bring the sheaves with rejoicing. Thus we will sing new songs in Heaven. May God help us for this **MIGHTY WORK**.

Punjab campaign begins after the summer. By the grace of the Lord and with the prayers of the saints all over we were able to cover eleven districts of the Punjab state. God has given us a chance to share gospel to thousands of Punjabi. Some were able to buy New testaments and Bibles and a few were able to dedicate themselves to the Lord. Thus we experience a mixed response from the villagers. It is our prayer that many may come to the Lord and new assemblies formed. The campaign was suspended for three months because of the scorching heat of the sun. A team under brother K C Simon has left to start the work. The campaign thus got a kick off from August 1, 2008 in the Sangaroor District. Many districts in Punjab do not have our assemblies or evangelists.

We request our dear saints to for the smooth functioning of the team. We need drivers, cooks and the people to work in the team. Those who wish to join may kindly contact Br. P T John. Telephone Number 0485 2274330 or 9447289800. Those who wish to provide financial assistance may kindly forward it Br. C J Philip, Chakkalackal, Manjummal, Udyogamandal, Ernakulam, 683501. Cheques and drafts may be drawn in favour of YMEF (North Division) Trust to SBT or UBI in Angamaly. Please continue to pray for this ministry.

A D James, Secretary.



Do we ignore the sign boards?

We all are travellers. During our journey, we see lots of warning boards on the road. All those are for the safety of the travelers. But for the people those who avoid those boards, their end will be a great disaster. It had occurred in the past and is happening today too. But still people are moving forward without giving any importance to this. Just as the life is moving very fast, likewise the chances of accident is also speeding up. But if we obey the warning boards and continue our journey, we will surely reach the destination even if we are little late.

A quoting was asked to be placed as a warning board for a railway gate where there was no watchman. The advertisement was in such a way that the owner of the warning board will receive 2500 dollars. The quote that was selected from the received words was like this "(Stop-Look-Listen)". The price of a single word is 833 dollars. But there is no value for these words for the person who disobeys it. Likewise how many accidents had been occurred in roads and railway lines. Lots of lives have been lost since they didn't consider the life's burden. But those warning boards are still there in its place as before. Those warning boards are silently declaring that your lives are precious. There is

no point in simply writing the boards. Those who obey the signs can save themselves from accidents.

There are many warnings in the Scripture for a God's child to make his journey easy who is traveling through various circumstances of christian life. There are many warnings in the Bible which is necessary for those who pass through narrow ways, tough times, people who have encountered both good and bad times, people who have faced Satan's direct and indirect attacks, to those who are fed up with the various difficult situations in life's journey. But these words are utter foolishness to those who are lost. These words are recorded in the Scripture to make God's children more courageous, not to face any problems in Christian life and to overtake the difficulties very easily. We can see many people in the scripture who didn't consider these words and ends up in total failure. Those are warnings for us. Dear brethren, if we Stop-Look and Listen the warnings that the God has given in the Bible, we can easily reach our destination without any accidents. May the God help us during the coming days.

Ignorance closes the door of blessing.

TVS

In TV Channels

Sathgamagamaya TV Talk Show Programme

People channel of Kairali's News Channel

All Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30-5.00 p.m. Monday 6.30-7.00 a.m. Zee Jagran TV (Hindi)

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they have to get spiritual nourishment and growth. Many countries have tried to bring up a better generation by giving them better education and standard life by keeping the children away from house in hostels. But those countries did not succeed in their purpose. Not only that those nations are no more on the face of the earth. The Navodaya education system is are of that type. Some of the believers of our fold are also very happy to send their children to such schools without realizing the consequences.

The spiritual kids can acquire spiritual growth only through the spiritual family (Colo 2:19). The spiritual growth of a local assembly can be evaluated only on the basis of the spiritual growth of the believers in that assembly (Acts 9:31). Ignoring the importance of the local assembly and its effectiveness will affect the growth of the assembly (Rev 3:1).

What is the result of light? "For ye where some times darkness, but now are ye light of the Lord, walk as children of light. For the fruit of the spirit in all goodness and righteousness and truth (Eph 5:8,9) We the children of God could be able to enjoy the goodness each other. Our love to one another is the testimony for discipleship (Jn 13:35) and we have forgive each other (Col 3:12, 13). Let your moderation be known un to all men. The Lord is at hand And the peace of God which purseth all understanding (PHip 4:5-7). The relations of the believers like the relation between the members of a body and we are expected to reveal it to the world. "And the multitude of them that believers were of one heart and of one soul (Acts 4:32).

Everything was common and nobody counted it to be personal. What we see in the Church of Jerusalem is the warm fellowship that we can enjoy and experience in a local assembly. No other institution or organization could never offer such fellowship.

The light of the lamp the local assembly should be shine to those who are outside. Evangelization is the most important responsibility of the assembly. The Groom of the assembly will not be pleased in an assembly that cannot fulfil this responsibility. In 1Peter 2:9 we read "..... that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness in to his marvellous light". Gospel cannot be gospel if we will not speak of His love 'Agape' and mercy. Those who spread the gospel should live worthy of the Gospel. "Only let your conversation (manner of life) be an if becometh the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27. Those who display the love and mercy of the Lord through their life should only preach the gospel. Evangelization will be fruitful only in those places where the saints of that assembly displays these through their lives. Evangelization is the obedience to the Great commission given by our Lord. We can see five important things in that Great Commission. **1. Be a witness Acts 1:8, 2. Go and Preach Mark 16:15 3. Teach and Make Disciples Matt28:18-19, 4. Baptize Matt 28:19, 5. Feed the Flock Jn 21: 15-17.** Only a local assembly can efficiently carry out His commission.

If we do evangelization according to our will and pleasure and then way we please them the Lord will not be pleased in it. We are supposed to follow the Apostolic model and the first century assembly's example. This we can continue up to rapture.

111. The Importance of the Local Church in Eternity

Local assembly is a temporary institution in this world. The believers should always have the desire to in the Christ departing from this world. We have to witness to the world with this great desire. The Lords Table is to be taken under the responsibility of a local assembly. As week after week we take part in the breaking of bread; We are renewing our hope and declaring that the Lord is coming. All the organization are temporal in nature. So they wish to have their roots run deep in to the earth here itself. The hope of the assembly is eternity with the Groom. If so then we do not have to worry about our permanent settlement. It is sheer faithlessness when we are trying to stop the heavenly institution on the earthly standards and moulds. The features and factors of the organizations formed by man is not at all apt for this heavenly institutions. Church is not an organization but it is an organism based on the scripture.

Those saints who are victorious in witnessing the Lord through their assemblies will be honoured by the Groom. The study of the victorious of the seven assemblies in the book of Revelation. Chapters 1 & 2 is so apt here and meaningful here. They are honoured in eternity. A few years of the successful Christian life in a local assembly will enable them to have the honour revealed through out the eternity. What a great and wonderful thing! From this we can understand the importance of this institution.

The members of a local assembly (those who are really saved only) should understand that to what a great position we have brought. So we have to carry out the responsibilities of the local assembly carefully and diligently, which are given to us by the Master. If we do ignore this important thing then we have be ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ. Then we will not get time to correct ourselves. If we can repent and turn to Christ then we shall be happy. Then God will be gracious to reveal His glory through and His name will be glorified through us. May His name be glorified. 