

**Put God First**  
**(Work Out Your Salvation)**  
**Part 8**

The Lord God had put His word in the bible and had put the responsibility over the church to execute His word and maintain what is just and right in the sight of God. The Lord did His part when He sent His son to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world, and had given the responsibility to us as a church to proclaim His word and His message to the whole world and to go and make disciples as He commissioned us in *Matthew 28:19-20* <sup>19</sup> *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* <sup>20</sup> *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* Making disciples include teaching, counselling, nurturing and admonishing in accordance with God's word.

The church is responsible to continually check the spiritual wellbeing of all their members so that sin and wrong doing and things that displeases God and far from His word shall not be inside the church. The following are what the Lord spoke to Moses who conveyed these words of God to the congregation of His people:

<sup>18</sup> *Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.* <sup>19</sup> *When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way." This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.* <sup>20</sup> *The LORD will never be willing to forgive him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.* <sup>21</sup> *The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.* (Deuteronomy 29:18-21)

From the above we can see clearly the responsibility and the accountability of the church when He said <sup>18</sup> *Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.* The church should define sin clearly and not to keep sin not defined. As well as the church should admonish sinners and not to keep sinners without correction, <sup>19</sup> *My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back,* <sup>20</sup> *remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.* (James 5:19-20)

In certain occasion there are church members who come to hear the message and they think that they will receive blessings from God as long they hear God's word. But that is not correct, if they hear God's message and they don't repent or respond to what God wants from them then they are putting themselves in dangers <sup>19</sup> *When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way." This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.* <sup>20</sup> *The LORD will never be willing to forgive him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.* <sup>21</sup> *The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.* This also what God said about those who hear His word but throw them away at their backs, <sup>16</sup> *But to the wicked, God says: "What right have you*

*to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? <sup>17</sup> You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you."* (Psalm 5:16-17)

Therefore we as church interfere and admonish such personals so that God's wrath will turn away from them. As well as when we as church do our responsibility well and admonish sinners with God's ways then we are freed from God's wrath and anger because we had done our part.

More than that why we need to point out sin and admonish sinners because certain personals who move away from God's word and laws they will try to influence others and in this way they are promoting wrong doing inside the body of Christ. Therefore this what God had put responsibility over the church *"Make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison."* (Deuteronomy 29:18b) The root that produces bitter poison will affect other church members and workers and harm them. Parallel to this scripture is what is written in the book of *Hebrews 12:15* *"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."* Again God put the responsibility on the church to admonish the personals who are in sin so they will be save and will not miss the grace of God as well as sin will not spread and affect others.

Let us read the following story to see the application of the above description: <sup>9</sup> *Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,* <sup>10</sup> *and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power."* <sup>11</sup> *They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.* <sup>12</sup> *But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.* <sup>13</sup> *Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.* <sup>14</sup> *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.* <sup>15</sup> *When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,* <sup>16</sup> *because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.* <sup>17</sup> *Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.* <sup>18</sup> *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money* <sup>19</sup> *and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."* <sup>20</sup> *Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."* <sup>24</sup> *Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."* (Acts 8:9-24) Simon was in sin, his heart was not right with God because he thought that he can buy the gift of God with money. Peter rebuked him to free him from sin and got saved as well as to prevent others from being contaminated and followed this wrong way.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Work out your salvation by putting into practice what you hear from God's word. As well as we as a church we commit our lives and ways unto God and to serve Him by not allowing bitter root to grow and defile many. **My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_, Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to put your word into practice and apply in my life, as well as I commit myself to work with you to persuade sinners and turn them from the error of their ways. Lord give me the strength, boldness, the good health and provide me what I need so that I can continue to serve you and do your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*