

“Making My Life A Ministry”
A Study in the Practical Meaning of Ephesians 2:10
08 – Being Equipped – What good can I do?

Intro: As we are all called to live out the good works God has planned and prepared for us as His workmanship, we need more fully to recognize the Bible’s presentation of the relationship that exists between good works and Christian service.

Thesis: we can draw no sharp distinction between ministry, service and the call to do good works in the Christian life. Thus, what we mean by “ministry” is truly whatever good God shows you by His Word or by His providence to do.

Priority #2 The Necessity of *Equipping the Saints for Ministry*. That all believers would attain an understanding of the biblical and reformed worldview, through a deepening knowledge of the whole counsel of God, to the end that all would see themselves as Jesus’ ministers, and utilize their spiritual gifts in support of the mission of the church; and that through equipping and ministry some would recognize the call of God to leadership in various aspects of the church’s ministry.

A. Equipping – the pattern of Jesus ministry and the commission Jesus gave to the Church

1. Jesus called His apostles to be with Him so He could train them.

Mark 3.13-15 And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.

Luke 6.12-13 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles. . . . Luke 9.1-2 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

2. Jesus commission the church to disciple (train) and to teach all converts to the faith.

Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

B. Equipping – the Apostolic pattern established in the Church

1. Paul instructed his own disciple to be an equipper

II Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2. Paul established the ongoing pattern of continual leadership training

1) Paul to

2) Timothy to

3) _____ to

4) _____

3. Paul established the Primary Responsibilities of Biblical Leadership as Equipping

*Ephesians 4:11-12*¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Division of Labor

Vs 11 – Who? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ & 5. _____	Vs 12 – with whom? _____
Do What? _____	For What? _____

Ministry Equipping and Skills Assessment

I Personal Devotions:

- Do you know how to have effective personal devotions, with devotional reading/study plan?
- Do you have a growing prayer life; do you know how to pray for self and others?

II Worship in the Assembly

- Do you know how to prepare your heart for worship in the assembly?
- Do you seek God’s help in singing and praying with the assembly?
- Do you seek God’s help in spiritually feeding as the Word is preached?

III Discipling and Discipleship

- Do you have a personal growth plan of some sort?
- Do you know what your first ten sessions with a new Christian would be?

IV Small Group Community Participation:

- Do you know how to covenant with a small group of believers for study and growth?
- Do you know how to participate in group Bible discussions?
- Do you know how to participate in group conversational prayer?

V Service to Others:

- Do you know how to see the “need?” and to volunteer?
- Do you know how to take the initiative and the responsibility?
- Do you know how to show mercy with wisdom?

VI Teaching - Adult Education:

- Do you know how to teach adults and understand adult learning styles?
- Do you know how to design a course and write teaching objectives?
- Do you know how to use different teaching formats?

VII Evangelism:

- Do you know how to present the gospel?
 - In a brief monologue or track?
 - In an active dialogue?
 - Embedded in your personal testimony?
- Do you know how to train another person in gospel presentation?