**“Flickering Lamps – Christ & His Church” (Blackaby)**

**Week 5: Christ’s Provision and His Church (Pt. 2)**

**November 4, 2020**

1. **God Provides in A Variety of Ways**
2. **God Provides Finances**
3. **God Provides Leaders**
4. Pray
5. Pray with confidence

“God had a purpose for your church when He established it. Trust that He will continue to work out His purposes for your congregation…”

1. Understand that God will answer your prayer in His way, not necessarily in the manner you expect

**False Assumptions churches make in selecting leaders**

* God is restricted by your size
* God’s provision is limited by financial resources

1. **God Uses What Is in Our Hands**

“God can take what you already have and use it powerfully. At times, churches can fixate on what they don’t have and fail to recognize what God has already given them.”

“…the only way God will use what we have in a mighty way is when we trust Him enough to loosen our grasp.”

“…we came to see scuffed walls and stained carpet as signs of life on our property, and for that we were extremely grateful.”

“As a church, we came to realize that one of the greatest provisions God grants us is people. We understood that Christ adds to the body as it pleases Him.” (108)

1. **God Provides New Ministries**

“One of the great deceptions many dying churches believe is that they don’t need to make any significant changes; they just need a pastor to help them continue doing what they have always done.” (109)

Isaiah 43:18-20

“Embrace a kingdom vision, not a lifeboat vision.” (110)

1. **God Blesses Kingdom-Centeredness**

“The best way to ‘save’ our church was to give ourselves away…As long as our church kept giving itself away, we always had what we needed.” (112)

1. **God Belongs in Our Budget**

“The problem was that we were allowing our resources to determine what we did.” (113)

1. **God Expects Us to Be a Faithful in a Little**

“A truth I have based my ministry upon is this: If you are faithful in a little, God will give you more.”

“The crucial thing is not to attempt what you can afford, but what God can afford.” (116)