THE SOWER OF THE WORD

TEXT: II Tim 4:1-5

Intro. Paul wrote to young Timothy giving him some solid advice. The first five verses of this chapter are packed full of information and exhortation. We as God's men would do well to study them over and over. This advice is good for all God's people who want to share God's word with others. The main purpose of every church service is to preach God's word to people.

I. THE CHARGE: VI

A. Before Jesus.
1. The word charge means testify. This charge was given in the presence of God and Jesus.
2. Would to God we were more aware of the presence of God in our service.
3. The preacher and teacher must realize Jesus is observing every message and lesson.

B. Before Judge.
1. Paul testified to Timothy that Jesus would be inspecting his preaching.
2. The judge of the spiritually alive and the spiritually dead is watching.
3. When others review our work it isn't near as serious as when the Judge of all sees it.

4. In seminary we had instructor who watched and listened to us to help us. They made you nervous, but we should be more nervous knowing Jesus is watching and listening.

C. Before judgment.
1. The Lord Jesus will judge the lost sinner, Rev. 20:11-15
2. The Lord Jesus will judge the works of the saved, II Cor. 5:10
3. The elders are promised a crown of glory for feeding the flock, I Pet. 5:4
4. Paul informed Timothy that Jesus would be inspecting our discharge of preaching.

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5. Paul said, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Woe is a pronouncement of judgment.

III. THE CAUTION V3
A. The time
1. Paul said the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.
2. The time is here and we are in the time range.
3. He spoke of a change that would come and Timothy was warned about it.

B. The truth
1. The Lord told the prophet to go preach, but the people would not listen. Ezek. 33:30-32
2. They will not hold up sound doctrine. Sound means in health doctrine or teaching. False doctrine is sick doctrine.
3. Many people even God's people don't want to hear the truth. They won't hold it up.

C. The trouble
1. Instead of sound doctrine they will get teachers with itching ears, after their own lusts.
2. Lusts are strong desires. Lust will reign instead of the word.

IV. THE CALAMITY V4
A. The ears
1. They will turn away their ears from the truth.
2. They will turn the hearing aside or turn the ear to hear other things.
3. They will not listen to God's word.

B. The erring
1. They will deliberately turn from the truth.
2. If you won't listen to the truth you err or go astray.
3. People who will not accept the truth often fall for anything.

C. The error
1. Refuse the truth and you will fall for a lot of false ideas. Evolution, incarnation, contact of the dead, etc.
2. They turn from the truth to fables. Fables are tales, legends, or myths.
3. Many want to hear about experiences, discuss ideas, but they are not concerned about the truth. Many listen spell bound to someone's experience, but go to sleep when the truth is presented.
4. They are more interested in myths, tales, etc..., than the precious word of God.

V. THE COURAGE V5
A. The watching
1. Watch means to be sober or watchful.
2. Gravely and diligently look at the things.
3. Walk circumspectly. Eph. 5:15

B. The warring
1. Endure afflictions. Endure means to suffer evil, to put up with or hold up under.
2. Afflictions will come, but suffer them. People will hurt you and do evil to you, but continue on.
3. We are to strive to please Him who has called us to be soldiers in His army. II Tim. 2:3,4

C. The working
1. "...do the work of an evangelist..."
2. We are to preach the gospel to lost dying men. The gospel message is God's power unto salvation. Rom. 1:14-16
3. Only the Lord can change people. God help us to point people to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.
C. The willingness.
1. "...make full proof of thy ministry."
2. We are to fulfill our ministry. The Lord has called us to do a work for Him.
3. Take care and watch in order to fill your ministry full.

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SORROW

TEXT: Psalm 90:1

Intro. We all have sorrow in our lives at some time of another. We can't deny this as a fact.
There is an answer. There is help.
I. WHAT IS SORROW?
A. A display of sadness.
1. Expressions on the face of an inner feeling.
2. Unable to eat or function normally.
B. Implies a sense of loss or guilt, or remorse.
C. A torturing grief or woe.
1. Sorrow over condition in home or country.
2. Something we ourselves can do nothing about.
D. Deep inexpressible grief or misery.
1. Realization of our sinfulness.
2. Our inability to overcome this sin.
E. Pain caused by deep disappointment.
1. Children's plight.
2. Incurable disease.
3. Loss of loved ones.

II. WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SORROW?
A. Sin in the world.
1. Sickness was not in the world until sin.
2. Death was not in the world until sin.
3. Divorce, murder, rape was not in the world until sin.
B. Our weakness.
1. We are to have faith in the promise of God.
2. We can't overcome the flesh on our own.
3. We bring ourselves to sorrow.
C. Judgment is a cause of sorrow.
1. We are told the rules. (Right, and wrong.)
2. We are intelligent enough to understand.
3. When we don't obey, "Judgment."

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III. WHAT SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND AND DO?
A. Realize we are only strangers and pilgrims here!
1. Jesus gives us the chance to be citizens of heaven and hope for everlasting life.
2. We can't do much about this life.
3. We do have a better future.
B. Know and believe what God has for us at home.
1. Read your Bible.
2. Do it daily, knowledge, and consolation.
C. Learn to be content by believing God is not going to put any more on you than you can bear.

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PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Text: Prov. 22:6; Exod. 22:6

Introduction:
A. The Review.
1. Basic thoughts concerning marriage.
2. Realizing the responsibility.
B. The Revelation for our consideration today deals with the parent and child relationship.
1. In this series we are focusing on the issues from a biblical perspective.
2. The option.
   a. Many have chosen "their way" instead of "God's way."
   b. It is very evident that "man's way" has caused extreme and difficult problems. (Chaos)
3. The diversity of opinions, peer pressure, selfishness, and feelings of inadequacy has influenced many to abandon biblical precepts.

I. THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHILDREN
A. Teach our children.
1. The Passage, Deut. 6:6, 7
2. The Proposal.
   a. Ages 1-6.
      1. Teach them to respect (God-parents-church-others.)
      2. Teach them to love.
3. Teach them to obey.
   a. Ages 7-10.
      1. Teach them discipline.
      2. Teach them responsibility.
   b. Ages 7-10.
      1. Teach them discipline.
      2. Teach them responsibility.
3. The Problem—too many parents are leaving this up to the schools, churches, and clubs.
4. The Proclamation.
   a. Teach them the Word of God.
   b. Teach them to work.
   c. Teach them regular habits for happiness and usefulness.
   d. Teach them the right use of money.
   e. Teach them courtesy in the home.
   f. Teach them the art of living peaceably with others.
B. Train our children.
   1. This involves our example.
   2. Prov. 22:6 "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT."
C. Take care of our children. II Cor. 12:14 "BEHOLD, THE THIRD TIME I AM READY TO COME TO YOU: AND I WILL NOT BE BURDEN-SOME TO YOU: FOR I SEEK NOT YOURS, BUT YOU: FOR THE CHILDREN OUGHT NOT TO LAY UP FOR THE PARENTS, BUT THE PARENTS FOR THE CHILDREN."
D. Nurture-correct and control our children.
   1. Eph. 6:4 "AND YE FATHERS, PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH: BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD."
   2. Prov. 13:24 "HE THAT SPARETH THE ROD HATETH HIS SON: BUT HE THAT LOVETH HIM CHASTENETH HIM BETIMES."
   3. Prov. 19:18 "CHASTEN THY SON WHILE THERE IS HOPE, AND LET NOT THY SOUL SPARE FOR HIS CRYING."
   4. Prov. 23:13,14 "WITHHOLD NOT CORRECTION FROM THE CHILD: FOR IF THOU BEATEST HIM WITH THE ROD, HE SHALL NOT DIE; V.14 THOU SHALT BEAT HIM WITH THE ROD, AND SHALT DELIVER HIS SOUL FROM HELL."
   5. Prov. 29:15 "THE ROD AND REPROOF GIVE WISDOM: BUT A CHILD LEFT TO HIMSELF BRINGETH HIS MOTHER TO SHAME."
   6. Prov. 29:17 "CORRECT THY SON, AND HE SHALL GIVE THEE REST; YEA, HE SHALL GIVE DELIGHT UNTO THY SOUL."
   7. Example of Eli and his two sons—Hophni and Phineas
   8. Punish sin—reward righteousness.
   9. Punishment can be a proper molding of character.
E. Love our children.
II. THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PARENTS.
   A. The REVELATION—honour and obey.
      1. EPH. 6:1-2 "CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD: FOR THIS IS
CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING
REVIVAL


Introduction:
A. Many definitions and prescriptions have been given in seeking to spark a RENEWED FLAME OF INTEREST within the Lord’s church. Gipsy Smith said, "Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of your floor. Draw a chalk mark all around yourself and ask God to start the revival inside that chalk mark. When he has answered your prayer, the revival will be on."
B. There are "Fakes" in all walks of life! There is "fake love." There is "fake religion." There are "fake preachers!" There are "Fake Revivals!"
1. Dr. J.B. Chaoman said, "We have reached the place where one man plays a handsaw and another gives a life story, gathering a big crown and we call that a revival; That is a farce.
2. Tears, sweat, and blood are the price of revival, and some of us are not willing to pay the price."
C. The road to revival is downhill!
1. Isaiah 57:17
2. James 4:6

D.B. Wright

October 1988
RIGHT, v-2 HONOUR THY FATHER AND MOTHER, WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE; v-3 THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH THEE, AND THOU MAYEST LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH."
2. COL. 3:20 CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN ALL THINGS: FOR THIS IS WELL PLEASING UNTO THE LORD."

B. The REASONING—how do you honour your parents?
1. By showing respect for them.
2. By strict obedience to them.
3. By making provision for their financial needs and provisions when needed.
C. The RESULTS.
1. Honouring parents insures happiness and long life for you.
2. Honouring parents results in reverence for God.
3. Honouring parents promotes the right attitude towards law and government.
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D. Dr. Vance Havner points out MISSING
ALTARS and LOST NOTES which point to
the need of revival.
1. Missing altars of Consecration,
   Dedication, Family, Prayer, Service,
   Separation and Sacrifice.
2. There must be a condemnation of sin
   before there will be a returning to
   the Lord and a recovering of the lost
   joy of salvation.

I. THE RESOURCES MIS-USED.
A. The source of all things...the Heavenly
   Father.
   1. Matt. 5:45
   2. I Cor. 4:7
   3. James 1:17
B. God's blessings were used in no way to
   Glorify the Giver!!!
   1. To this were we brought into the
      world. Isa. 43:7
   2. Paul's admonition. I Cor. 10:31
   3. There was absolutely NO RECOGNITION OF
      GOD or of the earthly father's desires
      in the use of the resources!
   4. How many of God's children, SAVED BY
      THE BLOOD OF THE CRUCIFIED ONE, are
      living it up with little or no concern
      for GOD or HIS WILL for us in
      life? How many are wasting life, talents,
      opportunities, resources, and abilities
      which in the hand of God
      could be of great and lasting value?

II. REVELATIONS OF THE REQUEST.
A. Self-esteem: He knew more than the
   Father!
   1. Remember Jeremiah's generation? We
      will not walk therein. We will not
      listen! Jer. 6:16,17
   2. Romans 3:11
   3. II Tim. 3:2,4
B. Selfishness: Give me mine. He thought
   only of self and self-gratification.
C. There was no remorse for the DISAPPOINT-
   MENT AND HURT AND SHAME he heaped upon
   his LOVING AND BENEVOLENT FATHER ON
   EARTH AND IN HEAVEN! Jer. 6:15

III. THE RENEGADE'S REACTION.
A. He REJECTED his father's desire, will
   and love!
B. He became a TRAITOR to his father's
   cause!
C. He DESERTED SHIP for a LIFE OF DEGRADATION!
   1. He didn't want to remain TIED TO OLE
      MAN'S WAY OF LIVING!
   2. He didn't want to be PREACHED AT OR
      TO!

IV. THE REFUSE AND RUBBISH DIET.
A. He was caught in a famine WITHOUT GOD
   AND HIS GODLY FATHER'S HELP.
   1. Others have lived through famines.
   2. God has opened doors of opportunity
      to the underprivileged.
   3. Out of poverty the MACEDONIAN BRE-
DIVINE COMPANIONSHIP

TEXT: GENESIS 39:1-6; 21, 23     Buford H. Chilcoat

I believe that this is a message that we need in the crucial age that we are living in. I believe that every Christian has the privilege of having this wonderful blessing. I also believe, that many Christians lose sight of the fact that they can have companionship or fellowship with God.

There are those who ask many times: "Can I really have a close walk with the Lord, or can the Lord really be with me?" Yes, the Bible teaches the glorious truth of Divine companionship.

Notice Genesis 39: 2, 3, 21, 23. At least four times in this chapter the Lord tells us that He was with Joseph. And with the reading of these verses I come to the meaning of Divine companionship.

There are many illustrations in the life of Joseph that typify the Lord Jesus, but really that is beside the point, because I want to show by the life of Joseph how a Christian can have Divine companionship with God.

Joseph needed Divine companionship because there were three things against him. First, his family was against him. Strange as it may seem this is many times the case with men of God. John Wesley's wife made fun of him while he preached the gospel. Jesus said of His ministry "a man is not without honor save in his own country and among his own brethren." He also said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword."

This may sound strange coming from the Prince of Peace, but hear Him when he says, "And a man's foes shall be those of his own household." The man, woman, boy or girl who has a Christian home is most fortunate. So, Joseph needed divine companion ship because his family was against him.

Secondly, His master was against Him. Not because of any sin that he had committed, but because of lies, false accusations, these brought his master against him. This is very often true of you and me. I do not believe that a good man or woman can live and walk across this earth without having some who do not like him. As long as a man is willing to fight against sin and refuse to compromise with the devil, he will certainly bring some to dislike him. There are people who do not like what I preach, some even sit and laugh while I am preaching, but they are going to have to answer to God for that. Jesus said "woe is a man when all men speak well of him." I used to say I didn't want any enemies, but those who are against the Lord are against me, for I am defending the Christ and all He taught in His Word.

Thirdly, Circumstances were against him. Here is a place that one needs Christ most. Many times we are found in a similar circumstance as Joseph. He was a Jew. His brethren had taken him down to Egypt and sold him. He is unjustly cast into prison. You and I are falsely accused many times when we take our position for the Lord.

Let us briefly note at least five ways that the Lord is with every believer.

I. HE IS WITH US IN SOUL-WINNING.

Jesus gives us assurance He will be with us in the winning of souls. Matt. 28:18-20 This commission was given to the church.

Jesus said: "When you go I will go with you."

If the church had failed to carry out the Great Commission I believe it would today be a little group of defeated people if it existed at all.

There are "four alls" in the passage. All power, Jesus gives us all power to do His will. All nations, This is the scope of our mission. All things, This is the responsibility of our task to preach the all things of the gospel, whole truth. All ways, this is the endless assurance of the presence of Jesus with us.

II. HE IS WITH US IN PERSONAL WITNESSING AND PERSONAL CONVINCION:

The Lord has promised to be with His people who stand for something. We are living in a day of compromise. We need people who will take a stand for right and against wrong. We do not need people who find fault, or pick to pieces what is being done that is right. But we need men who will stand up and be counted for Christ.

It is a wonderful thing to be on the Lord's side. The late Dr. Charles F. Weigle, who in his middle 90's was still heading the Music Department of Tennessee Temple Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, gave us the beautiful song "NO ONE EVER CARED FOR ME LIKE JESUS". He wrote this beautiful song in one of the darkest hours of his life. Dr. Weigle was a Baptist preacher. One day his wife told him that she could no longer go from place to place living like a vagabond. So, she was going to leave. He pleaded with her to stay, telling her how much he needed her and she consented. After weeks later, he came home one day and found a note on the table. It was a note from his wife telling him "good-bye". She had left him. He went to his room and wept bitterly because of his loss. But, the message came to him: "No one ever cared for me like Jesus". He got up and went to his study and wrote the words and music to that beautiful song. His wife died two years later.

III. HE IS WITH US IN OUR TESTING.

There are many times in our lives when we are tested. We need the Lord so much in those times. I can attest to His presence when I needed Him so much in my life. What a Comfort He is in our times of distress.

There was a time in the life of the Apostle
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Paul that he needed Him greatly too. Acts 23 tells us of one of the times when his life was sought, when he was about to be killed. But the Lord came to his rescue.

Daniel was cast into the Lion's den, but the Lord protected him. The Hebrew children were cast into the fiery furnace but the Lord took care of them.

IV. HE IS WITH US IN OUR SERVICE TO HIM.

I have thought all the years that I have been in the service of the Lord how wonderful it is to have someone who is with you constantly. Many times I have preached, or witnessed to people to be turned away, and leave them without Christ. But I have also recognized that I had done my best and would have to leave the rest to the Lord.

V. HE IS WITH US IN THE HOUR OF DEATH:

This is a point in my message that most people do not like to think about. Most people fear death, but for the child of God there is no "sting" in death. The Lord Jesus took the "sting" out of death when He paid our sin debt on the cross of Calvary.

But, die we must, if the Lord doesn't return before our appointed time come. Paul writing to the Hebrew Christians said: "AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, AND AFTER THAT THE JUDGEMENT." Heb. 9:27

This divine companionship is not just an earthly thing, but will be our constant joy throughout the eternal ages.

PASSENGING THIS WAY

Billy Daniels

TEXT: Joshua 3:1-4 -Israel was ready to move across Jordan.

Deut. 17:16
Exodus 13:17 Joshua is magnified

I. THE WAY WE HAVE PASSED.

A. The Way of Material Blessings.
   1. Food, clothes, shelter
   2. Health
B. The Way of Friendship.
   1. Individual friends
   2. Church family
C. The Way of Spiritual Blessings.
   1. Salvation we have enjoyed.
   2. Spiritual fellowship & growth.
   3. Seeing others saved.
   4. Seeking to enlist others for God.

II. THE WAY WE ARE.

A. Walking The Right Way.
   1. The way of salvation.
   2. The way of serving.
B. Wondering About The Way.
   1. Some questions
   2. Problems seem disappointing
C. Waiting For Jesus To Come.
   1. We waited through a year.

2. Watch until He comes.
D. Without Ability To Retrace.
   1. Nothing can be undone.
   2. Nothing can be finished, that isn't.
   3. Noting our short comings.

III. THE WAY WE GO.

A. It Is A New Way.
   1. We have never gone this way
   2. There will be new opportunities.
   3. There will be new problems.
   4. There will be new challenges.
B. It Is A Way To Be Directed By Past Experiences.
   1. Wrong deeds show a need for change.
   2. Right things tell us to follow again.
   3. Scripture teaches us how to go.
C. Long or Short.
   1. Uncertain

WHAT MAKES A SPIRITUAL CHURCH?

TEXT: Acts 2:42-47

INTRO: What do we mean by a "spiritual church"?

A. Spirituality is a "holy frame of mind."
   1. What produces this holy frame of mind?

   God's spirit witnesses with our spirit. Notice I did not say spirituality has
   anything to do with the flesh or anything of the flesh.
   2. True, the Spirit does have an effect on

   the flesh, but true spirituality is not a product of the flesh.
   3. If "your" spirituality is motivated by

   others, things around you (music, prayers, testimony, etc.) it has the
   wrong motivation.
   4. Spirituality comes from a holy frame

   of mind. This is caused by God's

   Spirit witnessing with our spirit.

B. The expression of true spirituality is

   love, I. Cor. 13.
   1. It is not a flashily out pouring or ecstatic

   utterances.
   2. Some say a church is not spiritual if there

   is not a lot of noise or display: It takes more than a lot of noise to qualify as a

   spiritual church.

C. There are some qualifications for a church to

   be called spiritual.
   1. I believe the church I am a member of and

   am blessed to pastor is such a church.
   2. Some have said we are dead. If we are dead

   Lord help our churches.
      a. We have seen as many as ten additions

      in one service, souls saved, lives

      changed, love abounding in our service,

      etc.

D. In our text we see a model spiritual church

   and its function.

John C. Williams
I. Must Have a Spiritual People For Its Membership
   A. People born of the spirit, John 1:12&13
      1. Enlistment of great numbers does not always make a church spiritual.
      2. They must be a people who know the true spirit of God. I John 4:1&2
         a. This lets us know there are more than the Holy Spirit to deal with.
         b. The devil spirit, our spirit. Matt. 5:3 says, Blessed are the poor in spirit, our spirit. Many times people are following their spirit (flesh) or the devil's spirit believing they are following the Holy Spirit.
      c. How are we going to know it is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit "Confesseth" the things of God. What things?
         3. That Christ is the propitiation for our sins.
         4. That Jesus was sent to be the Saviour of the world, I John 4:14.
         5. If one confesseth Christ by faith, God comes to live within, V. 15.
         6. There is no fear of God's love and salvation, V. 18.
         7. The trinity always agree and they are one, I John 5:7.
         9. The Holy Spirit confesseth that you can know that you are saved, I John 5:13
            a. V. 2 of this chapter say, "We know, v. 15 says, "We know, v. 18 "We know", v. 19 "We know, v. 20 "We may know".
   B. How do we know if they are following the true spirit or not? It is summed up in I John 4:6:
      1. People who are a truly spiritual person, know the true spirit of God and hear and obey the Word, not emotions or ideals of men. I John 4:6, "We are of God; He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us, Hereby know (recognize) we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."
      2. A people who are acquainted with the presence of the Holy Spirit.
         a. People who know the difference between spirits, I Tim. 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."
         b. A people who will be led by the Holy Spirit, Rom 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

II. Must Have A Spiritual Program
   A. Spiritual program is a Bible program.
      1. The Bible is a spiritual church's authority for faith (doctrine) and practice.
      2. There is no substitute for God's Word, customs or tradition will not do.
   B. Spiritual program has a program of worship.
      1. Spiritual program is by prayer, praise and song, Eph. 5:19.
      C. A spiritual program is a program of training, Matt. 28:19.
         1. A spiritual church teaches its converts.

III. Must Have a Spiritual Purpose
   The message; Christ of the Cross, I Cor. 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."
   A. To those who hear us preach, ("You must only trust Christ by faith, repent of sin and call on Him for salvation,") is foolishness.
      1. They preach this is the beginning of salvation. You must then work out your salvation, be baptized, etc.
      2. They make the cross of Christ "of none effect."(void). When they preach with the wisdom of man's words, I Cor. 1:17.
   B. A spiritual church is a channel for Christ to send a message through.
   C. Is a church which continues to present the gospel regardless if it is rejected, received, or ignored.
   D. A spiritual church is a church that is not ashamed of the faith, (doctrines of Christ,) I Cor. 1:16,"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ..."
      1. This church will witness in faith.
         a. Not faith in our ability to present the gospel, I Cor. 2:1-5.
         b. Faith in the power of the message, not our power to present it.

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