

THE WORK NEEDED FOR THE CARRYING OUT OF THE GOD-ORDAINED WAY TO BUILD UP THE ORGANIC BODY OF CHRIST

Evening Message One

A Solemn Charge to the Leading Ones in the Lord's Recovery to Practice the God-ordained Way

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 4:1-2a; 1 Cor. 3:13-15; Matt. 24:14, 45-51; 25:21, 26, 30;
Rom. 13:11-12; Eph. 5:14-16; Matt. 20:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; John 15:8; 1 Cor. 15:58

I. Paul solemnly charged Timothy by the Lord's appearing and His kingdom to proclaim the word—2 Tim. 4:1-2a:

- A. The kingdom is a kingdom of reward or punishment according to what we have been and what we have done since we were saved until He comes back—1 Cor. 3:13-15.
- B. Matthew 24 and 25 show us that one day we will have to stand before the Lord and give an account of our work item by item—24:45-51; 25:21, 26, 30.
- C. We need an aggressive desperation to wake us up from the drugged condition of Christianity today—Rom. 13:11-12; Eph. 5:14-16.
- D. "We must all wake up to realize that this is an age for great actions. We have to seize the opportunities and achieve something....We are not engaged in small-scale private enterprises. We are engaged in the universal enterprise of our heavenly King. We are here cooperating with the Lord, making ourselves available to Him for the spread of His kingdom. This is not a small thing. It requires our full effort and participation" (*The Ministry Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 8).
- E. "The Lord did not have a way among us in the past. The tragedy is that we know what the way of the Lord is; our eyes are clear. We know that His truth is in our hands, but who will send this truth out? You may say you can sleep peacefully, but I cannot sleep peacefully. I am an old man, yet I still want to spend and be spent. I want to be able to answer to the Lord....I hope that from now on, you will all make a strong resolution to advance and to make progress. Strive to produce some result, and labor to spread the Lord's testimony" (p. 17).

II. We need to realize the Lord's need for the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom for a testimony to all the nations—Matt. 24:14:

- A. To preach in the whole inhabited earth means that we should spend every cent and every drop of our sweat, tears, and blood on the gospel; only this will satisfy the Lord and take care of His gospel.
- B. We should not be the idle workmen who stand all day long outside the vineyard—Matt. 20:6:
 1. All those who do not participate in the gospel move, even if they are pursuing "spirituality" and are knowledgeable in the truth, are idle in the eyes of the Lord.
 2. We should be attuned to the Lord's heart:
 - a. The Lord's heart is that all men be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth—1 Tim. 2:4.

- b. The Lord's heart is that we bear fruit for the glorification of the Father—John 15:8.
- 3. Participating in the gospel move is the only way to realize our goal of gospelizing our land.

III. We should not have different emphases or different ways of doing things:

- A. Having different emphases and different ways of doing things will only dissipate our energy and weaken our faith.
- B. The wise way is to take the same way, speak the same thing, think the same thing, present the same thing, and teach the same thing, having the same essence, appearance and expression.
- C. If we are in one accord, we will have an invincible morale and will march over all obstacles.

IV. The success of our work also depends on our laboring—1 Cor. 15:58:

- A. To labor implies to not be discouraged, to press on, and to strive with all that one has.
- B. For any work, before success comes, there must first be the struggling, the frustrations, and the failures.
- C. One has to strive and labor before he can reach his goal.
- D. "I hope every elder will struggle and strive in this way. Do not avoid the difficult path and take the easy way. Do not settle for the light tasks. Endure to the end. Let nothing and no one deter you, and never be discouraged or dejected. Success is not measured in a day. No account is settled until the Lord comes back" (*The Ministry Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 18).
- E. "Today it is the Lord who has honored you by making you an elder. You have to respect this honoring and give your all to His commission. You have to put away not only your money and your career but your blood and your life as well. If you have this kind of spirit, you will be a successful elder" (p. 18).

V. The God-ordained way must be our burden today:

- A. The God-ordained way is the Lord's leading among all the churches in His recovery today.
- B. We should not consider this matter to be Brother Lee's burden alone.
- C. Instead, all of us have to change our concept and accept this burden as our burden.