

## MINISTERIAL TRAINING

Paul is sitting on dead row ready to leave this world through the dying grace of martyrdom (2 Tim.4:7-8).

He is about to leave the church on earth to become a member of the church in heaven:

We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” (2 Cor.5:8)

Paul is thinking of the welfare of the Church on the earth as well as the one in heaven (2 Tim.4:1)

“According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the Coming of the Lord will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Thess.4:15)

Paul is giving Timothy final instructions on some of the essentials of the ministry of the church on the earth (2 Tim.4:1-5).

<p><b>This lesson will study four aspects of Ministerial Training of communicators of the church on earth.</b></p>
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### **1. In our lesson text, Paul gives Timothy nine essential areas of ministerial training. He does this with the use of the Greek imperative command mood.**

When we formed the School of Biblical Theology (SBT), we used these nine Greek imperatives to outline six areas of our curriculum (2 Tim.2:15; 3:16-17).

- **Preach** (kerusso / a.a.impv.2ps) – training in public speaking.
- **Be prepared** (epistemi / a.a.impv.2ps) – homiletics and hermeneutics.
- **Reprove** (elegcho / a.a.impv.2ps) – I.C.E and Hebrew and Greek languages.
- **Rebuke** (epitimao / a.a.impv.2ps) – I.C.E and Hebrew and Greek languages.
- **Exhort** (parakaleo / a.a.impv.2ps) – I.C.E and Hebrew and Greek languages.
- **Watch (nepho/ p.a.impv.2ps/ only present tense)**
- **Endure affliction** (kakopatheo / a.a.impv.2ps) – Basics of CWL (pneumatology, anthropology, pistology, biblical counseling/ suffering, and directed studies/ 13 categories each with five doctrines)
- **Do** (poieo / a.a.impv.2ps) **the work of an evangelist** – soteriology and ambassadorship/ discipleship.
- **Make full proof** (plerophoreo/ a.a.impv.2ps) – biblical history, missions, spiritual growth by milk and meat doctrines, and training in the operations of a local church (marrying and burying, etc).

### **2. We were motivated by similar reasons as given by Paul in (2Tim.4:3-4).**

Most of us came out of the Christianity of 60’s - 70’s, starved for the meat of the Word of God and battling apostate teachings and legalism.

“For the time will come when **they** will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have **their** ears tickled, **they** will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and they will turn away their ears from the truth, and **they** will turn aside to myths.” (2 Tim.4:3-4)

When we started, the primary problem was what was being taught from the church **pulpit** of the 60’s - 70’s. Therefore, we started our own seminary for ministerial training. We did this because we understood that the local church is the custodian of evangelism and teaching of the word of God for salvation and spiritual growth (Acts 1:8; Eph.4; Heb.5:13-14; 1 Pet.2:2).

**3. The primary problem now, in the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is the pew.**

Believers with the truth have left their first love of Christ for the pleasures of the world like the Church of Ephesus – “But I have this against you that you have left your first love.” (Rev.2:4)

Christians are leaving their marriages, abandoning their children, separating from their families and forsaking the church that was once their spiritual life. They are doing this for the carnal pleasures of the world.

The Church in America is in need of a **third spiritual awakening**, like in the days of the Reformation.

The Christian church in the South must fight to win this war or we are in deep spiritual trouble. **It must begin today with this church, DSBC of Birmingham, Al.!**

When Jeremiah and the prophets to Jewish nation preached this same message, it fell on deaf ears (Isa.6:9-10). When Jesus preached this same message to Israel, it fell on deaf ears (Matt.13:13-17).

**It must not fall upon deaf ears today!** We must put on our gospel shoes and go forth as ambassadors to the world (Eph.6:15; 2 Cor.5:18-21) and as priests to the church (1 Pet.2:5-9).

**4. In the Church Age dispensation (today), the church and NOT the nation is the key. Many today are focusing on the wrong “institution” when searching for the correct “solution”.**

**The church is the light and salt to the nation and not vice versa** (Matt.5:13-16). The church is the divine agency and custodian of evangelism and the teaching of the word of God to nations (Matt.28:18-20).

- The decline of our American Culture, evangelized and spiritually led into prosperity by the Grace of God is not the cause of the decline of the church.
- The opposite is true. The spiritual decline of the church is the cause for the moral decline of our American Culture!

**The seven churches of Asia Minor are an example of this doctrinal principle (Rev.2-3).**

<b>Ephesus</b>	<b>failed</b>	<b>false teachings</b>	<b>(Rev.2:1-7)</b>
<b>Smyrna</b>	<b>faithful</b>		<b>(Rev.2:8-11)</b>
<b>Pergamum</b>	<b>failed</b>	<b>false teachings</b>	<b>(Rev.2:12-17)</b>
<b>Thyatira</b>	<b>failed</b>	<b>false teachings</b>	<b>(Rev.2:18-29)</b>
<b>Sardis</b>	<b>failed</b>	<b>dead works</b>	<b>(Rev.3:1-6)</b>
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>faithful</b>		<b>(Rev.3:7-13)</b>
<b>Laodicea</b>	<b>failed</b>	<b>lukewarm</b>	<b>(Rev.3:14-22)</b>

**Failed** “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place – unless you repent.” (Eph.2:4-5) [**Ephesus**]

**Faithful** “Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that the hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.” (Rev.3:10) [**Philadelphia**]

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