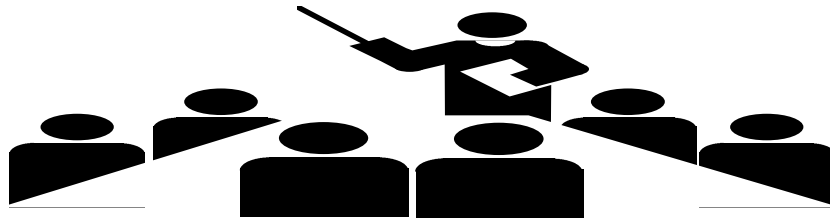


LEADERSHIP SEMINAR



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Topic:
“Ministers of the Gospel”

Lessons:

- Lesson #1: Competent Ministers
- Lesson #2: Faithful Preachers
- Lesson #3: Christ’s Ambassadors
- Lesson #4: God’s Servants

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Ministers of the Gospel

Lesson #1: Competent Ministers

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:18

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 3:5, 6

PROPOSITION: The Holy Spirit makes us competent ministers of the gospel.

- I. As competent ministers, we are the fragrance of Christ to the world.** (2 Corinthians 2:14-17)
- A. We are to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ in every place. (14)
 - B. We are the aroma of life to those who are being saved. (15,16)
 - C. We are the aroma of death to those who are perishing. (15,16)
 - D. We are not peddlers of God's word like some are. (17)
 - E. We are sincere ministers, commissioned by God, living and speaking in His sight. (17)
- II. As competent ministers, we are validated by the lives of those we lead.** (2 Corinthians 3:1-3)
- A. They are our letters of recommendation. (1, 2)
 - B. They are letters that all can read. (1, 2)
 - C. They are letters from Christ. (3)
 - 1. They are letters written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God.
 - 2. They are letters written not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.
- III. As competent ministers, we are representatives of the new covenant.** (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)
- A. Our confidence is in God through Christ. (4)
 - B. Our sufficiency is of God, not of ourselves. (4, 5)
 - C. Our covenant is not of the letter, but of the Spirit. (6)
 - 1. The letter kills.
 - 2. The Spirit gives life.
- IV. As competent ministers, we are given a superior and more glorious ministry.** (2 Corinthian 3:7-11)
- A. It is a ministry of life, not death. (7, 8)
 - B. It is a ministry of righteousness, not condemnation. (9)
 - C. It is a ministry that is eternal, not temporal. (10-11)
- V. As competent ministers, we are bold in revealing the full glory of Christ.** (2 Corinthians. 3:12-16)
- A. The veil was worn by Moses to typify Israel's inability to see the full truth of God's revelation. (12-13)
 - 1. They could not see the temporary nature of the Mosaic Law.
 - 2. They could not see its fulfillment in Christ.
 - B. The veil represents the blindness of all who try to understand the Old Testament without Christ. (14-15)
 - C. The veil is removed when we turn to Christ, so we can see God's saving grace is fulfilled in Christ. (16)
- VI. As competent ministers, we are liberated in Christ through the Holy Spirit.** (2 Corinthians 3:17, 18)
- A. Liberty is having Christ live in us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (17)
 - B. Liberty is having the Holy Spirit transform us into the image of Christ. (18)

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Lesson #2: Faithful Preachers

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:5, 6

PROPOSITION: When we faithfully proclaim Christ's gospel, the Holy Spirit will faithfully shine Christ's light.

- I. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with courage. (1)**
 - A. God has given us the ministry of evangelism.
 - B. God has brought us into grace.
 - C. God has given us courage so that we do not lose heart.

- II. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with integrity. (2)**
 - A. We are to renounce the hidden things of shame.
 - B. We are not to walk in craftiness.
 - C. We are not to handle the word of God deceitfully.
 - D. We are to manifest the truth.
 - E. We are to commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

- III. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with confidence. (3-6)**
 - A. We are to share the gospel even though it is veiled to those who are perishing. (3)
 - B. We are to share the gospel even though Satan has blinded those who don't believe. (4)
 - C. We are to share the gospel by proclaiming Jesus Christ and not ourselves. (5)
 - D. We are to share the gospel and trust God to shine the light of Christ's gospel. (4,6)

- IV. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with humility. (7)**
 - A. We have been entrusted with life's most precious treasure, the gospel of Christ.
 - B. We must remember that the excellency of the power is of God and not of us.

- V. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with tenacity. (8-16)**
 - A. We are to share the gospel in spite of pressures, perplexities, and persecutions. (8,9)
 - B. We are to share the gospel even if it means dying for the sake of Christ. (10-12)
 - C. We are to share the gospel and trust God to raise us out of any situation. (13-14)
 - D. We are to share the gospel, for it causes thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. (15)
 - E. We are to share the gospel despite physical deterioration and for spiritual renewal. (16)

- VI. As faithful preachers, we are to share Christ's gospel with eternal perspective. (17-18)**
 - A. We are to share the gospel because our momentary afflictions result in eternal rewards. (17)
 - B. We are to share the gospel with our focus on the invisible and eternal. (18)

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Lesson #3: Christ's Ambassadors

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:20

PROPOSITION: As Christ's ambassadors we are to participate in the ministry of reconciliation.

I. As Christ's ambassadors we are comforted by the assurance of resurrection. (1-8)

- A. We are assured that when our bodies die, we will have new resurrection bodies. (1)
- B. We are anxious to be clothed with immortality. (2-4)
- C. We are guaranteed resurrection bodies by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (5)
- D. We are confident in life and in death because we walk by faith and not by sight. (6-8)
 - 1. We know that to be at home in the body is to be absent from the Lord.
 - 2. We prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

II. As Christ's ambassadors we are certain about the judgment seat of Christ. (9-11)

- A. Our aim in life or in death is to please God. (9)
- B. Our aim is to receive recognition and rewards from God and not man. (10)
 - 1. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for deeds.
 - 2. We must all receive our just reward and recognition from God.
- C. Our aim is to persuade people to prepare for the day of judgment. (11)
 - 1. The terror of the Lord is real.
 - 2. The knowledge of the Lord is complete.

III. As Christ's ambassadors we are motivated to serve Christ and live for Him. (12-15)

- A. The love of Christ motivates us to serve Him with sincere hearts. (12)
- B. The love of Christ motivates us to serve Him passionately. (13)
- C. The love of Christ motivates us to serve others sensibly. (13)
- D. The love of Christ motivates us to live for Him and not ourselves. (14,15)

IV. As Christ's ambassadors we are transformed into new creatures. (16,17)

- A. There should be a change in our perceptions. (16)
 - 1. There is a change in how we view ourselves.
 - 2. There is a change in how we view others.
 - 3. There should be a change in how we view Christ.
- B. There should be a change in our very nature. (17)
- C. There should be a change in our lives. (17)

V. As Christ's ambassadors we are committed to the ministry of reconciliation. (18-21)

- A. God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. (18)
- B. God has given to us the message of reconciliation. (19)
- C. God has given to us the mandate of reconciliation. (20)
 - 1. The good news is that although Christ was sinless, he became sin for us.
 - 2. The good news is that although we are sinful, we can become the righteousness of God. (21)

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Lesson #3: God's Servants

Scripture Lesson: 2 Corinthians 6:1– 7:1

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 6:20

PROPOSITION: The Holy Spirit enables us to serve God's people with integrity.

- I. As God's servants, we must warn people to accept His grace while it is being offered.** (2 Cor. 6:1-2)
- A. God will hear us only during the acceptable time. (2)
 - B. God will help us only in the day of salvation. (2)
- II. As God's servants, we must let nothing in our lives bring blame on our ministry.** (2 Cor. 6:3)
- A. We must give no offense in anything.
 - B. We must put no obstacle in anyone's way.
- III. As God's servants, we must demonstrate that we are truly His ministers.** (2 Cor. 6:4-10)
- A. We must demonstrate that we are truly His ministers in every situation. (4-5)
 - 1. In patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses
 - 2. In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults
 - 3. In labor, in sleeplessness, in fasting
 - B. We must demonstrate that we are truly His ministers by all means. (6-8)
 - 1. By purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness
 - 2. By the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth
 - 3. By the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left
 - 4. By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report
 - C. We must demonstrate that we are truly His ministers in spite of many paradoxes. (8-10)
 - 1. As deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known
 - 2. As dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and yet not killed
 - 3. As sorrowful, and always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich
 - 4. As having nothing, and yet possessing all things
- X. As God's servants, we must communicate openly with those to whom we minister.** (2 Cor. 6:11-13)
- A. We must open our hearts to them. (11)
 - B. We must encourage them to speak openly to us. (12,13)
- XI. As God's servants, we must perfect holiness in the fear of God.** (2 Cor. 6:14 - 7:1)
- A. We cannot enter partnerships with unbelievers. (6:14)
 - B. We cannot mix the things of light with the things of darkness. (6:14-16)
 - C. We cannot be in fellowship with God and in fellowship with the world also. (6:17,18)
 - D. We must cleanse ourselves from all filthiness. (7:1)
 - 1. We must cleanse ourselves from the filthiness of the flesh.

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2. We must cleanse ourselves from the filthiness of the spirit.