

BIBLICAL PRAXIS OF MISSION

Class 8: Sustaining Prayer Through The Five-Fold Ministry

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I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

- A. As a sojourning nation awaiting the consummation of the covenants, the Church is called to seek the Lord, prepare in holiness, and testify to all the nations concerning the coming Kingdom of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Moreover, God has given us a deposit of his Spirit to assure us of the certainty of such things and empower a witness of them.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance... ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves (Gk. *anastrephō*) with fear throughout the time of your exile. (ESV 1 Peter 1:13-17)

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves (Gk. *anastrephō*) in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (NIV 1 Timothy 3:13-15)

- <390> avnastre,fw *anastrepho* {an-as-tref'-o}

Meaning: 1) to turn upside down 2) to turn back 3) to turn hither and thither, to turn one's self about, sojourn dwell in a place 4) metaph. to conduct one's self, behave one's self, live

Origin: from 303 [Gk. *ana*] and 4762 [Gk. *strepho*, "to turn"]; TDNT - 7:715,1093; v

Usage: AV - return 2, have conversation 2, live 2, abide 1, overthrow 1, behave (one's) self 1, be used 1, pass 1; 11¹

- B. Considering the state of the human heart and the persistence of darkness on the earth, God has deemed discipline necessary to sustain a repentant and believing heart—internally through a fasted lifestyle and externally through trials and tribulations. Moreover, in order to remain faithful, the human heart demands a continual feeding of the Holy Spirit, who testifies to the age to come.

When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us... ⁵ Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread..." ⁹ So I say to you: Ask and it (i.e. bread) will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you... ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (NIV Luke 11:2-13)

¹ Acts 5:22; 15:16; 2 Co. 1:12; Eph. 2:3; 1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 10:33; 13:18; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2 Pet. 2:18.

- C. The gifts of the Holy Spirit have thus been given by God to strengthen the Assembly in the place of prayer and faithful sojourning. More specifically, gifts are given *to individuals* within the Church to bless and encourage the whole in repentance and belief in the age to come. Unfortunately, when emphasized today the five-fold ministry is generally interpreted under the banner of dominionism rather than sojourning.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts. (NIV 1 Corinthians 12:4-31)

II. THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Thus, the purpose of the “five-fold ministry” (cf. Eph. 4:11) is to *administrate the gifts* of the Holy Spirit unto leading the church in righteousness and watchful prayer, unto empowerment in the grace of God, unto maturity and faithfulness in our calling, unto our inheritance in the Kingdom.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high, he led captive a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (cf. Ps. 68:18)... ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith (concerning the Kingdom and resurrection), and of the knowledge of the Son of God (as Messiah), to a mature man (in our calling), to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ (cf. Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12; etc.). (NASB Ephesians 4:1-13)

- ***...until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ (i.e. the righteousness of the coming Kingdom). (NLT Ephesians 4:13)***
- ***For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. (ESV 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)***

- ***For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*** (^{NIV} Colossians 1:9-12)

- B. Since the five-fold ministry is an expression of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, it is ultimately meant to testify to the age to come. Thus, like all the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, the five-fold ministry is meant to shepherd and establish the Church in its calling in the age to come.

This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord (in his resurrection), was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (^{NIV} Hebrews 2:3-5)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. (^{ESV} John 15:26-27)

- C. The Lord has chosen to establish various ministries within his Body by the Holy Spirit, each designed to spur the Church on to maturity in its calling and destiny in the coming Kingdom. Paul groups these ministries into five general categories:

He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints... (^{NASB} Ephesians 4:11-12)

1. Apostles

- a) The idea of apostleship was not a new concept to those in first century Judaism. Apostleship simply embodies the idea of governmental appointment or anointing—i.e. those *sent as representatives* of a king or lord.²

- <652> avpo,stoloj *apostolos* {ap-os'-tol-os}

Meaning: 1) a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders 1a) specifically applied to the twelve apostles of Christ 1b) in a broader sense applied to other eminent Christian teachers 1b1) of Barnabas 1b2) of Timothy and Silvanus

Origin: from 649; TDNT - 1:407,67; n m

Usage: AV - apostle 78, messenger 2, he that is sent 1; 81.

² "A person sent by another; a messenger; envoy. This word is once used as a descriptive designation of Jesus Christ, the Sent of the Father (Heb. 3:1; John 20:21). It is, however, generally used as designating the body of disciples to whom he entrusted the organization of his church and the dissemination of his gospel." [M.G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897).]

- <649> avposte, llw apostellō {ap-os-tel'-lo}

Meaning: 1) to order (one) to go to a place appointed 2) to send away, dismiss 2a) to allow one to depart, that he may be in a state of liberty 2b) to order one to depart, send off 2c) to drive away

Origin: from 575 [Gk. apo; "of separation"] and 4724 [Gk. stello; "to set, place, arrange..."]; TDNT - 1:398,67; v

Usage: AV - send 110, send forth 15, send away 4, send out 2, misc 2; 133.

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle (Gk. apostolos) and high priest whom we confess. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. (NIV Hebrews 3:1-2)

When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent (Gk. apostellō LXX) Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. (ESV 1 Samuel 12:8)

Korah son of Izhar... became insolent ² and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. ³ They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD's assembly?" ⁴ When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. ⁵ Then he said to Korah and all his followers... ⁸ "Now listen, you Levites! ⁹ Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? ... ¹⁵ Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them." ... ¹⁹ When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the entire assembly... ²⁸ Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me (Gk. apostellō LXX) to do all these things and that it was not my idea..." ³¹ As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart ³² and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them... (NIV Numbers 16:1-33)

- b) Those in the New Testament simply assumed the idea of Old Testament apostleship, only applied to a new era of redemptive history when grace and mercy has been fully displayed and extended to the nations.

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve-- designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. (NIV Mark 3:13-15)

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me (Gk. *apostellō*), even so I am sending you (Gk. *pempō*)."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (ESV John 20:21-22)

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers...¹⁷ "he (Judas) was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry (Gk. *diakonia*)...²² one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ...²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen²⁵ to take the place in this ministry (Gk. *diakonia*) and apostleship (Gk. *apostolē*) from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias... (ESV Acts 1:15-26)

- <1248> diakoni, a *diakonia* {dee-ak-on-ee'-ah}

Meaning: 1) service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others 2) of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men 2a) of the office of Moses 2b) of the office of the apostles and its administration 2c) of the office of prophets, evangelists, elders etc. 3) the ministration of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection...

Origin: from 1249; TDNT - 2:87,152; n f

Usage: AV - ministry 16, ministration 6, ministering 3, misc 9; 34

- c) Thus, those in the New Testament view their apostleship as a governmental responsibility in *serving* the Body of Christ. Apostleship is not a privilege to be exploited in this age for the riches, honor and long-life of the commissioned servant.

I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though I am nothing.¹² The things that mark an apostle-- signs, wonders and miracles-- were done among you with great perseverance...¹³ How were you inferior to the other churches, except that I was never a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong! ...¹⁷ Did I exploit you through any of the men I sent you?¹⁸ I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course?¹⁹ Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening. (NIV 2 Corinthians 12:11-19)

- **Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God ("commissioned by God" ESV). (NIV 2 Corinthians 2:17)**

For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to

men... ¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things. ¹⁴ I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children... ¹⁵ For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel (cf. leader of the household). (ESV 1 Corinthians 4:9-16)

- d) Apostles are thus the “foundation” of the Church—accountable to the Lord, the “cornerstone”—leading the saints in righteousness and holiness until the consummation of the Kingdom.³

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens (i.e. Gentiles), but fellow citizens with God's people (i.e. Jews) and members of God's household (sojourning unto the Kingdom), ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (serving the whole house), with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord (awaiting the messianic consummation). ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit (cf. resurrection). (NIV Ephesians 2:19-22)

2. Prophets

- a) Old Testament and New, prophets have always been fundamentally defined as those who foresee the restoration of all things by means of the Messianic Seed.

- <4396> profh,thj *prophētēs* {prof-ay'-tace}

Meaning: 1) in Greek writings, an interpreter of oracles or of other hidden things 2) one who, moved by the Spirit of God and hence his organ or spokesman, solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, and in particular such as relate to the cause and kingdom of God and to human salvation...

³ Much publicity and hype has been made recently over the supposed restoration of the apostolic ministry, i.e. the “New Apostolic Reformation”—“I needed a name... For a couple of years I experimented with ‘Post denominationalism’. The name I have settled on for the movement is the New Apostolic Reformation.” [C. Peter Wagner, *The New Apostolic Churches* (Regal Book, 1998), 18.] This reformation assumes a network of charismatic individuals who assume the right to lead the Body of Christ into its glorious end-times dominionist destiny. However, the vast majority within this movement are post-millennial in their eschatology, lack a clear context of the resurrection and kingdom for the activity of the Holy Spirit, and thus little stress the centrality of humility, meekness and love as the backbone for the apostolic ministry.

The undergirding ideas about ecclesiology and the Church within the New Apostolic Reformation are informed by Kingdom Now theology, and as such the Church is the manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. This harkens back to its Catholic roots (i.e. “apostolic succession” and the ultimate decision making power of the episcopate which developed in tandem with metaphysical dualism), since the leaders of the Church *in practicality* are the ultimate governing authority of the Church, rather than the Body relating directly to the Head (resulting in things such as the Shepherding Movement). Jesus rebukes this attitude directly in Mt. 23:8ff, and it is inherently militated against within a messianic worldview, which fosters a relational network within the Body functioning in mutual submission under a common governmental Head enthroned in the heavens above (e.g. Acts 16:6). This is the only hope for the Church at the end of the age which will grow increasingly dis-integrated under the pressures of the eschatological distress. Every individual within the whole is to be trained to directly listen to and obey the Holy Spirit for guidance and leadership.

Origin: from a compound of 4253 [Gk. *pro*; “before”] and 5346 [Gk. *phēmi*; “to declare; to say”]; TDNT - 6:781,952; n m

Usage: AV - prophet 149; 149.

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time... ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (NIV 1 Peter 1:3-11)

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (NIV Luke 24:25)

- b) The prophetic ministry is thus simply assumed in the New Testament to be complementary to that of the prophetic ministry in the Old Testament.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.⁴ ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God (concerning the eternal kingdom of the Christ) as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. ^{2:1} But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute (concerning the

⁴ Tim Warner explains, “The Greek word φωσφορος is incorrectly rendered “Daystar” in most translations. The word is NOT φωσφερος - derived from φως (light) and φερω (bearer), as many lexicons have it. It is φωσφορος derived from φως (light) and φορεω (to be clothed with). The English word “phosphorus” (a luminescent element) is the direct transliteration of this Greek word, and has precisely the same meaning. In the masculine singular form, as it appears in 2 Peter 1:19, it literally means, “the One clothed with light.” When Peter wrote, “until that Day dawns, and the One clothed in light arises,” he was referring to the coming of Christ’s Kingdom, and to Jesus as He appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration, “His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.” The “dawning” and “arising” metaphor Peter used is based on Malachi’s prophecy of Christ’s Kingdom (that Day), and the arising of the “Sun of Righteousness,” who is Jesus Christ, (Mal. 4:1-3).” (Tim Warner, “The Coming Millennial Sabbath – Part I: Eschatology of the Creation Week,” *Answers in Revelation*, 12, n.8; available at <http://www.oasischristianchurch.org/air/chiliasm.pdf>).

Kingdom and resurrection). ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. (NIV 2 Peter 1:10-2:3)

- c) Like the ministry of an apostle, the ministry of the prophet is raised up by the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage the Church in its destiny and calling. Without the self-sacrificial spirit of the One whom we serve, the prophet's words are spoken in vain.

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues... ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. ^{13:1} If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing... ^{14:1} Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy... ³ everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. (NIV 1 Corinthians 12:28-14:4)

3. Evangelists

- a) The ministry of the evangelist (cf. Gk. *euaggelizō*) is likewise assumed to be carried over from the Old Testament as one whom the Spirit empowers to make known the good news of the coming Kingdom and Messiah (cf. Hb. *basar*, Is. 40:9; 52:7; 60:6; 61:1; etc.).

- <2099> euvaggelisth,j euaggelistēs {yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'}

Meaning: 1) a bringer of good tidings, an evangelist 2) the name given to the NT heralds of salvation through Christ who are not apostles

Origin: from 2097 [Gk. *euaggelizō*]; TDNT - 2:736,267; n m

Usage: AV - evangelist 3; 3 [Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5]

Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news (Hb. basar, Gk. euaggelizō LXX), Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news (Hb. basar, Gk. euaggelizō LXX); Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him. (NASB Isaiah 40:9-10)

Awake, awake, clothe yourself in your strength, O Zion; clothe yourself in your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean will no longer come into you. ² Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; loose yourself from the chains around your neck, O captive daughter of Zion... ⁷ How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news (Hb. basar, Gk. euaggelizō LXX), who announces peace and brings

good news of happiness, who announces salvation, and says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" ... ¹⁰ The LORD has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. (^{NASB} Isaiah 52:1-10)

- b) Thus, the term "evangelist" is only used three times in the NT (Acts 21:8; Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5), yet it is universally assumed to be a central aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.⁵

...that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent (Gk. apostellō)? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news (Gk. euaggelizō)!" (cf. Is. 52:7) (^{NIV} Romans 10:8-15)

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-- with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine... ⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist (Gk. euaggelistēs), discharge all the duties of your ministry. (^{NIV} 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

- c) Jesus models the ministry of the evangelist, which the apostles also emulate. Like the other ministries of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom is meant to strengthen the Body of Christ and shake the world which embraces the antichrist spirit.

Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news (Gk. euaggelizō) of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. (^{NIV} Luke 8:1-2)

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news (Gk. euaggelizō) of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all... ³⁹ We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem... ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets

⁵ "This title is applied to Philip (Acts 21:8), who appears to have gone from city to city preaching the word (8:4, 40). Judging from the case of Philip, evangelists had neither the authority of an apostle, nor the gift of prophecy, nor the responsibility of pastoral supervision over a portion of the flock. They were itinerant preachers, having it as their special function to carry the gospel to places where it was previously unknown." [M.G. Easton, *Easton's Bible Dictionary* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897).]

testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (^{NIV} Acts 10:36-43)

...God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴ **It was for this He called you through our gospel** (Gk. euaggelion), **that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ¹⁵ **So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.** ¹⁶ **Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,** ¹⁷ **comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.** ^{3:1} **Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord** (cf. euaggelion, 3:14) **will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;** ² **and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men...** (^{NASB} 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:2)

4. Teachers

- a) Like the other ministries of the Holy Spirit, the teaching gift within the Assembly was universally assumed from the Tanakh, which found expression in the first-century “teachers of the Law”.

- <1320> dida,skaloj *didaskalos* {did-as'-kal-os}

Meaning: 1) a teacher 2) in the NT one who teaches concerning the things of God, and the duties of man [cf. Jewish religion; John the Baptist; Jesus; apostles; Paul; false teachers]...

Origin: from 1321 [Gk. *didasko*; “to teach”]; TDNT - 2:148,161; n m

Usage: AV - Master (Jesus) 40, teacher 10, master 7, doctor 1; 58.

But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. ⁹ **And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven.** ¹⁰ **Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ.** ¹¹ **The greatest among you will be your servant.** ¹² **For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.** ¹³ **Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.** ¹⁴ (MT Insertion) ¹⁵ **Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.** (^{NIV} Matthew 23:8-13)

- b) As those who taught the Mosaic Law were suppose to be teaching in such a way that encouraged and strengthened the people in their sojourning (cf. consecration and holiness), so also are teachers in the New Covenant suppose to spur the Body on toward love and good works in preparation for the Kingdom.

Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered... ³⁵ Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time. (NIV Daniel 11:33-35)

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish... ⁵¹ Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven (and the delay therein) is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (NIV Matthew 13:47-52)

- c) During the age of darkness, dwelling in a body of death, the Church desperately needs teaching that sheds light and brings hope, without which the human soul shrivels and dies.

Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge ("acknowledgment" NIV) of God in the land; ² there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed... ⁴ Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest. ⁵ You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; and I will destroy your mother. ⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children... ⁹ And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. (ESV Hosea 4:1-9)

- **The Levites... instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. (NIV Nehemiah 8:7-8)**
- **Where there is no revelation ("vision" KJV/NASB/ESV), the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law. (NIV Proverbs 29:18)**
- **And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (NIV Acts 6:2-4)**

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men... ³ Likewise, teach the older women... ⁴ Then they can train the younger women... ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned... ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all

men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope-- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness...
(^{NIV} Titus 2:1-14)

5. Pastors

- a) Closely connected to the teaching ministry is the shepherding (i.e. "pastoral") ministry of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, it is the dominant glue that holds the Assembly together.⁶

- <4166> poimh,n poimēn {poy-mane'}

Meaning: 1) a herdsman, esp. a shepherd 1a) in the parable, he to whose care and control others have committed themselves, and whose precepts they follow 2) metaph. 2a) the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church

Origin: of unc. or.

Usage: NASB - pastors 1, shepherd 13, shepherds 4; 18.⁷

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ... ⁶ My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth... ¹¹ Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out... ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land... ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down... ¹⁷ Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats... ²⁰ I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep... ²³ And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. (^{ESV} Ezekiel 34:2-24)

- He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹ from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. ⁷² And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. (^{NIV} Psalm 78:70-72)

⁶ No other metaphor is used more often in the Bible concerning leadership than that of pastoral care (cf. Gen. 48:15; 49:24; Num. 27:16-17; 2 Sam. 24:17; 1 Ki. 22:17; 2 Chr. 18:16; Ps. 23; 28:9; 74:1; 77:20; 78:52-53; 80:1; 95:7; 100:3; 121:3-8; Ecc. 12:11; Isa. 40:11; 49:9-10; Jer. 2:8; 3:15; 10:21; 12:10; 22:22; 23:1-4; 25:34ff; 27:6; 31:10; 49:19-20; 50:17-19; Ezek. 34:1-10; 37:24; Am. 1:2; 3:12; Mic. 4:6-8; 5:4; 7:14; Nah. 3:18; Zech. 10:3; 11:4-17; 13:7; Matt. 9:36; 10:6; 15:24; 18:12-14; Mark 6:34; Luke 15:3-7; John 10:1-29; 21:15-17; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:1-4).

⁷ Matt. 9:36; 25:32; 26:31; Mk. 6:34; 14:27; Lk. 2:8, 15, 18, 20; Jn. 10:2, 11f, 14, 16; Eph. 4:11; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture...³ I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them...⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.⁵ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (ESV Jeremiah 23:1-5)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? ... Feed my lambs...¹⁶ Simon, son of John, do you love me? ... Tend my sheep...¹⁷ Simon, son of John, do you love me? ... Feed my sheep." (ESV John 21:15-17)

- b) The pastoral ministry of the Holy Spirit functions in a general way, caring for and leading the saints in righteousness and holiness in preparation for the age to come. This requires a combination of diligence and compassion, feeding people in due season according to their true needs.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. (NIV Matthew 24:45-46)

- **But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?** (ESV 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness (cf. 1 Cor. 12:29-31).³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers (i.e. shepherds) are few." (NIV Matthew 9:35-37)

- **So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them...⁵ They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip...** (NIV Acts 6:2-5)

- c) Other designations, such as “elder” (Gk. *presbuteros*⁸), “overseer” (Gk. *episkopos*⁹), and “deacon” (Gk. *diakonos*¹⁰), all refer to essentially the same pastoral/shepherding type ministry within the Body.

To the elders (Gk. *presbuteros*) among you, I appeal as a fellow elder (Gk. *presbuteros*), a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds (Gk. *poimainō*) of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers (Gk. *episkopeō*)-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd (Gk. *archipoimēn*) appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (NIV 1 Peter 5:1-4)

- D. Summary – the *whole ministry* of the Holy Spirit, including the gifts distributed to men for the building up the Body, is meant to establish the Church in maturity so that it may function with one accord unto its destiny in the coming Kingdom. If there are any other motives involved in these ministries, then the flock ought to seek new shepherds.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift... ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (NASB Ephesians 4:1-13)

III. THE FALSE MINISTRIES OF FALSE SERVANTS

- A. The Bible warns against those who “disguise themselves as servants of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:15), those who are false apostles (cf. 2 Cor. 11:13; 2:17; Phil. 1:15f; Rev. 2:2), false prophets (Mt. 7:15; 24:11; Lk. 6:26; 1 Jn. 4:1; Rev. 2:20; 19:20), and false teachers (cf. 1 Tim. 4:1ff; 2 Tim. 4:3; 2 Pe. 2:1ff; Eph. 4:14; Col. 2:4ff; Rom. 16:17ff). These are “false brothers” (Gal. 2:4) and “ungodly men” (Jude 1:4), who have “the spirit of the antichrist” (1 Jn. 4:1-3), but what exactly is the root cause of such falsehood?

⁸ Cf. Matt. 15:2; 16:21; 21:23; 26:3, 47, 57; 27:1, 3, 12, 20, 41; 28:12; Mk. 7:3, 5; 8:31; 11:27; 14:43, 53; 15:1; Lk. 7:3; 9:22; 15:25; 20:1; 22:52; Jn. 8:9; Acts 2:17; 4:5, 8, 23; 6:12; 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6, 22f; 16:4; 20:17; 21:18; 23:14; 24:1; 25:15; 1 Tim. 5:1f, 17, 19; Tit. 1:5; Heb. 11:2; Jas. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5; 2 Jn. 1:1; 3 Jn. 1:1; Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5f, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4.

⁹ Cf. Acts 20:28; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:25.

¹⁰ Cf. Matt. 20:26; 22:13; 23:11; Mk. 9:35; 10:43; Jn. 2:5, 9; 12:26; Rom. 13:4; 15:8; 16:1; 1 Co. 3:5; 2 Co. 3:6; 6:4; 11:15, 23; Gal. 2:17; Eph. 3:7; 6:21; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7; 1 Tim. 3:8, 12; 4:6.

***But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-- bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.* (NIV 2 Peter 2:1-3)**

- B. Falsehood in the human condition is rooted in pride and the knowledge of good and evil. After the Fall, the image of man (inward and outward) was broken and distorted. God seeks repentance and restoration through the Cross that our inward man might be renewed and restored in the image of God, even while our outward man continues to perish (cf. 2 Cor. 4:16; Col. 3:10)—and this too will one day be conformed to the image of the Son of God (cf. Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:43-53).

***Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* (NIV 2 Corinthians 4:16-17)**

***Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you... ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming... ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.* (ESV Colossians 3:2-10)**

- C. Conversely, the nature of pride is the *attitude of superiority*, and the simple product of pride is the *conformity of image* to that perceived superiority. Prideful men seek to conform others to their own superiority, and if unhindered he would seek to conform the entire earth to his own image and likeness. This is the core of sin—man seeks not to entrust the world to God, his Master and Creator, but rather he seeks to master and dominate everything unto himself.

***In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. ³ He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. ⁴ In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God... ¹³ Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? ¹⁴ But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand... ¹⁶ The LORD is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. ¹⁷ You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ¹⁸ defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.* (NIV Psalm 10:2-18)**

See, the day of the LORD is coming--a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. ¹⁰ The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. ¹¹ I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I

will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. (NIV Isaiah 13:9-11)

- D. In other words, man seeks to dominate all men and *disciple them unto himself*. This is the basic drive of the flesh of man, which leads many of the servants of God astray. Rather than disciplining men unto God, in fear of the Day of the Lord, people disciple men unto themselves to fulfill all the wicked motives of the human heart, e.g. pride, greed, reputation, insecurity, fear, malice, immorality, etc. This inevitably results in the abuse of God's people rather than their care.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ... ⁴⁸ **But if that wicked servant** (cf. "false prophets" v. 11, 24) **says to himself, 'My master is delayed,'** ⁴⁹ **and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,** ⁵⁰ **the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know** ⁵¹ **and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites.** (ESV Matthew 24:45-51)

- E. This was the charge of God against the false prophets in the Old Testament, who led the house of Israel astray, rather than focusing their attention on obedience to God and fear of the Day of the Lord.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! declares the LORD... ¹⁰ **For the land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil, and their might is not right.** ¹¹ **Both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in my house I have found their evil, declares the LORD...** ¹⁷ **They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, "It shall be well with you"; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, "No disaster shall come upon you."** ... ¹⁹ **Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked...** ²² **But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.** (ESV Jeremiah 23:1-22)

Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying... ⁴ **Your prophets, O Israel, are like jackals among ruins.** ⁵ **You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it for the house of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD...** ¹⁰ **Because they lead my people astray, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash,** ¹¹ **therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall...** ¹³ **In my wrath I will unleash a violent wind, and in my anger hailstones and torrents of rain will fall with destructive fury.** ¹⁴ **I will tear down the wall you have covered with whitewash and will level it to the ground so that its foundation will be laid bare. When it falls, you will be destroyed in it; and you will know that I am the LORD.** (NIV Ezekiel 13:2-14)

- F. This is the backdrop for Jesus' charge against the false prophets in the Sermon on the Mount. On the narrow path of walking out our salvation with fear and trembling, there will be many false prophets who will come, and though they even bear the signs of a true prophet, they are "wolves" who devour people for their own gain. However, Jesus exhorts his disciples to be faithful leaders, building "houses" of disciples unto God.

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ¹⁵ Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them... ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹ Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" ²⁴ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock... (NIV Matthew 7:14-25)

- ***The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst... ²⁷ Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, shedding blood, destroying lives to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken. ²⁹ The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the sojourner without justice. (ESV Ezekiel 22:25-29)***
- ***Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! ... ³ Her officials are roaring lions, her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning. ⁴ Her prophets are arrogant; they are treacherous men. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law. (NIV Zephaniah 3:1-4)***

- G. Paul warned of the same thing in his own ministry. Leaders would come, and though they seem truthful, their driving desire is to dominate and control people for their own wealth, glory, and renown. Thus, they cannot entrust others to God.

Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three

years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. ³² Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak... (NIV Acts 20:25-35)

- *Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic... ¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." (NIV Acts 8:9-19)*
- *I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. (NIV Romans 16:17-18)*
- *It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. (NIV Philippians 1:15-17)*
- *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power (cf. Is. 29:13; 48:1; 58:2; etc.). Avoid such people. (ESV 2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

H. Paul expounds on the mechanics of truthfulness vs. falsehood in his first letter to the Corinthians. Division and malice were rampant because people were idolizing and following men rather than God, claiming to be disciples of Paul or Peter or Apollos rather than Christ. Paul rebukes them for calling men their masters and warns against building "houses" of believers that will be destroyed on the Day of the Lord.

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who

makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. ¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. ¹⁸ Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." ²¹ So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-- all are yours, ²³ and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God. ^{4:1} So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. (NIV 1 Corinthians 3:3-4:5)

- I. God is jealous for his people, that their hearts would be wholly his. The righteous five-fold ministry identifies with this heart and seeks to establish the church as a pure and spotless virgin on the Day of the Lord, protecting her from false men who would adulterate and ruin her.

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ³ But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. ⁵ But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those "super-apostles." ⁶ I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way. ⁷ Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge? ⁸ I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. ⁹ And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed... ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself

masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ *It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.* (NIV 2 Corinthians 11:2-15)

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ *To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.* ^{2:1} *I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.* ² *My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love,* *so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,* ³ *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* ⁴ *I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.* (NIV Colossians 1:28-2:4)

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴ *On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.* ⁵ *You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-- God is our witness.* ⁶ *We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you,* ⁷ *but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children...* ¹⁰ *You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.* ¹¹ *For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,* ¹² *encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God,* *who calls you into his kingdom and glory...* ¹⁹ *For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown (cf. Is. 62:3; Zech. 9:16) in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?* ²⁰ *Indeed, you are our glory and joy.* (NIV 1 Thessalonians 2:3-20)