

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION FOR THE CHURCH LIFE

Message Five

Concerning the Gospel in the Schools

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 2:4; John 4:35-36; Dan. 11:32; Ezek. 1:5-14.

- I. The gospel work should begin with the children; the children in elementary school should be nurtured by the children's work; when they enter junior high school there will already be a gospel work with the junior high students; then as they proceed to high school, they will be cultivated by the gospel work in the high schools—2 Tim 1:5-8, 3:15-17.**
- II. The propagation of the gospel is aided by the availability of education; with regard to spreading the gospel, this is an unprecedented opportunity in the Lord's recovery—John 4:35-36; Luke 19:13:**
 - A. We have thousands of "fish" around us, and many saints are burdened for the gospel in the schools; this standard of education and the backing of the church are our "capital."
 - B. With this "capital" we need to spend time to study a scientific way to preach the gospel in the schools.
 - C. The most crucial matter in a scientific approach is to conduct thorough research; we should do research from a number of perspectives to obtain statistics—Luke 15:4, 8.
 - D. There is a large fishpond in front of us, and the resources of the church, including the brothers and sisters, are rich; however, we should not think that this provision is sufficient in order for us to succeed in the gospel work in schools; we must find the right methods and not go according to our old ways—cf. Rom. 7:6.
 - E. We must take a new approach in the work and abandon the old ways; we need to study a new and scientific way to change the way that we labor and make progress; in order to achieve a tenfold increase on the campuses we need to study, to labor, and to improve daily—1 Cor. 15:58.
- III. We do not need to create any more opportunities; our need is to grasp the opportunities that are available; to labor is to grasp the opportunities—Dan. 11:32; Matt. 11:12:**
 - A. If we lose the aspiration to create new prospects and new opportunities and instead hold on to our old meetings, we will eventually be discouraged.
 - B. Only this kind pioneering spirit can stir up the interest of the young saints and cause them to rise up to follow and also serve—cf. Ezra 1:1-3.
 - C. Such a pioneering spirit will become our family heritage, and the young saints will be useful and capable; may we not lose this pioneering spirit ever again—cf. Num. 13:30; Josh. 1:3-9.
- IV. In order to coordinate together to preach the gospel in the schools, there needs to be a number of saints who will receive the burden to facilitate the gospel in the schools—cf. Ezek. 1:5-14:**
 - A. We need to have five groups of saints: two or three co-workers who take the lead, the younger full-timers, the part-timers, the saints who work in the schools, and the saints who are students.
 - B. If a school looks promising for the gospel work, those who labor in that school should consider moving close to it—cf. Acts 28:30-31.
 - C. When our homes are receiving stations, we can contact students on a daily basis, and the care that we render will not be routine or formal; this is the most effective

way to labor among the students in high school and in junior high school—Acts 2:46-47.

- D. By the time a person who is saved in junior high school finishes college, he would have received at least seven years of cultivation in the truth, and it will be difficult for him to fall away—Prov. 22:6.
- E. If we can weave such a gospel net in the junior high schools, the high schools, and the colleges, it will uphold all our saved young people.

V. There are many practical needs in leading the gospel work in schools; the way to succeed is to begin with the basics and to begin small; any endeavor that does not begin with the basics and does not begin small will fail sooner or later, because there is no foundation—cf. Zech. 4:6, 10:

- A. The base for receiving the gospel work in the schools is the home, and the home unit is the most stable base—cf. Acts 16:34.
- B. We should use the homes as the base to promote the work; the home is the most basic unit—cf. Josh. 24:15.

VI. At the very beginning of the Lord's recovery, whether in the work related to the church, the gospel, or the students, we always tried to avoid inciting people; we have had much experience in this regard and have seen that whatever comes out of incitement does not have the value of life—1 Cor. 3:8; Matt. 5:16; 7:22-23:

- A. Currently, the move of the work in many places depends too much on incitement, especially the work of the high school and junior high students; it seems that locality after locality has not paid attention to the testimony of the genuine work of life—cf. Gen. 2:7,9.
- B. Consequently, we need to spend some time to pray before the Lord not only for an open door in all the colleges and high schools but also for some among us to be raised up to bear the burden in life; we do not want any incitement but a genuine burden of life—1 Thes. 2:7-8, 11; John 21:15.
- C. Only the kind of work that comes out of genuine prayer, genuine burden, and paying a great price is of life, has the issue of life, and is eternal—1 John 3:16; Jude 21:
 - 1. We love the Lord, fellowship with the Lord, and receive the Lord's dealing; in the Lord's dealing, we receive His burden; after receiving a burden, we need to pay a price—Matt. 20:28; 2 Cor. 12:15.
 - 2. This is the way to lead the church, and this is also the way to carry out the work with the junior high and high school students; that the brothers and sisters will receive a burden related to the students; this applies also to the children—Col. 3:12.
 - 3. We need to come together to pray specifically for the students' work that the Lord would open the door for us and raise up burdened ones to carry out this work; this is a desperate need—Phil. 1:8.