

CB - 1/14/68

THE MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR

SCR. READING: ~~EPH 4: 1-16~~

TEXT: ACTS 6:1-4

INTRO: IT IS INTERESTING, AND TRAGIC,
TO SEE HOW MEN IN THE MIN. INTER-
PRET THEIR WORK? SOME EXAMPLES:

- (1) SOCIAL REFORM. MT. 23:29 - TO
PREACHERS
- (2) ONE WORLD.
- (3) CIVIL RIGHTS - MARCHES + JAIL
- (4) CHURCH MEN - ILL. SEM PROF. NOT INTER-
ESTED IN BIBLE TEACHING, OR EXPOSI-
TORS.

(5) VIET NAM - WARLESS WORLD - ILL. PRES.
WHO WENT TO CHURCH - SERMON ON V. N.

WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD TEACH US
ON THIS SUBJECT?

ACTS 6:1-4. THIS PROB. TOOK PLACE TWO
OR THREE YEARS AFTER PENTECOST.

THE CHURCH AT JERU. WAS GROWING. THIS
CREATED.

I. A PROBLEM - NEGLECTED, OVERLOOKED
BELIEVERS. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. (EXPLAIN SIT. THEN - APPLY
TO TODAY.) THE NUMBERS CREATED AN
ADMINISTRATIVE PROB. NO PLAN TO
FOLLOW. ONLY GOD TO TRUST.

THE MAIN PROBLEM THREATENED TO
CREATE OTHER PROBLEMS - FACTIONS IN
THE CHURCH.

II. A PRINCIPLE. THE APOSTLES WERE

MEN WHO KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING - AND HOW? CONSEQUENTLY THERE WERE PRIORITIES THEY HAD - AND IT DOES NOT TAKE LONG TO SEE WHAT IT IS.

(READ V.2) - NOT RIGHT, FITTING, DESIRABLE FOR US TO FORSAKE, ABANDON, DESERT THE WORD OF GOD - TO DO OTHER THINGS WHICH ARE IMPORT. AND NEED TO BE DONE.

VANCE HANNER: "THE PASTOR'S STUDY HAS BECOME THE PASTOR'S OFFICE.

PAUL TO TIMOTHY: 2 TIM. 2:15; 3:14, 15; 4:2

DR M - THE CHURCH'S BAPTISM OF TEARS. MANY THINGS HE WANTED TO SAY - ONE HE DID: "DWIGHT, TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN SOUL."

A PASTOR CAN EASILY DRY UP SPIRITUALLY DOING THE WORK OF THE MIN. NOTHING MUST BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE WORD.

GOD WORKS THROUGH HIS WORD - TO SAVE, TO EDIFY, TO INSPIRE, TO COMFORT, TO REBUKE - AND ON AND ON. WE MUST HAVE THE WORD.

BUT WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT THE PROBLEMS.

III. THE PLAN: MEN! THE PEOPLE SHARING THE WORK. NO MAN CAN DO IT ALL.

E.M. BOUNDS - "MEN ARE LOOKING FOR BETTER METHODS; GOD IS LOOKING FOR BETTER MEN."

WHAT KIND OF MEN? (READ V. 3.)

MEN - APPROVED, WHO HAVE A TESTIMONY.

REMEMBER THIS IS NOT THE CHURCH'S MIN. TO THE WORLD - BUT TO OURSELVES.

MEN - FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND WISDOM.
HOW CAN YOU BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?
CF. ACTS 4:31 (WITH PRECEDING VERSES).

IRONSIDE: "A WORD-FILLED CHRISTIAN IS A SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN." THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN ONLY BRING OUT WHAT IS IN US.
SPIRITUAL QUAL. STAND FIRST FOR ANY MIN. IN THE CHURCH.

WHERE DO YOU FIND PEOPLE LIKE THIS?
THEY ARE PRODUCTS OF THE MINISTRY.
IF WE ARE TO HAVE WORD-FILLED SAINTS,
WE MUST HAVE WORD-FILLED PASTORS.

READ V. 4. PRAYER - MIN OF THE WORD.

H.L. HUDSON TAYLOR - D.E. HOSTE

CONCL. RESULTS? READ ACTS 6:7.