

The Pursuit and Spreading of the Truth through the Publications of the Ministry of the Age

Scripture Reading: Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20; 1 Tim. 3:2b; Col. 3:16; Jer. 15:16; Psa. 119:103

I. If we study Acts carefully, we will find out that it is not only the Spirit of God that is mentioned; the word of God is mentioned as well; it says that the word of God flourished, multiplied, increased, and greatly prevailed—Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20:

- A. The fact that the word of God grew and multiplied indicates that the believers and the churches were filled with the word and were one with the word—Col. 3:16
- B. In order for the word of God to grow, multiply, and prevail, we need to enjoy the word of God's grace; we should receive the word of grace in such a way that we become God's word, that is, God's speaking—Acts 14:3; 20:32.
- C. The truth is nowhere but in the Bible, yet the Bible needs an opener.
- D. We should immerse ourselves in the ministry of the age, the New Testament ministry, the ministry of the word that opens up the Word and releases the unsearchable riches in the Word to betroth us to Christ as our Husband—Acts 6:4; 8:30-31; 2 Cor. 11:2.

II. The elders in the churches need to enter into the truth and be good mothers who teach the saints in the local churches; then every church will be a “scholarly family”; when we open our mouths, the scholarly fragrance will be there—1 Tim. 3:2b; 5:17a; 1 Thes. 2:7; Col. 3:16:

- A. I hope that in every church each household would teach the truth and study the truth; if every brother and sister in the church would do this, we would all become a house of scholars, and whatever we utter would be a scholarly composition—Acts 2:42, 46-47:
 - 1. I hope that the elders in each locality will give the saints some help and encouragement so that each household will have a supply of spiritual books.
 - 2. The saints can place a copy in various places within their homes, on their dining table, on their nightstand, on their bathroom counter, and in their kitchen to make enjoying the Lord's word in every place convenient for all the members of their family and even for their guests.
- B. Every saint will become a “scholar”; then when we go out to speak the truth, we will be knowledgeable and able to clearly and logically present the truth—Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19

III. We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word:

- A. It is not a matter of quantity but a matter of endurance. You must endure this kind of Bible study.
- B. Sometimes the elders need to give the saints some direction, some encouragement, and some incentive—Acts 17:11-12; Matt. 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:2.

IV. As leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord's truth—Jer. 15:16; Psa. 119:103; 19:10:

- A. I am also burdened that all the leading ones should have a real burden to pray for the saints in their locality that the Lord may stir up their interest, their seeking heart, and their spirit to seek after the Lord in His truth:
 - 1. You do not seem to care whether this is a dying matter or a living matter.
 - 2. You leave the matter of the saints' getting into the Life-studies altogether up to them.
 - 3. This way of getting into the truth has become an orphan with no father and no mother, with no fostering. This has been the situation in some of the local churches.
- B. The elders need to read more, especially the Bible and the Life-studies; if they take the lead to read, the brothers and sisters will follow; hence, the elders need to take the lead to learn the truth—Rom. 12:8b; 1 Pet. 5:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16.
- C. We must have a proper attitude and be positive and aggressive, doing our best to urge people to read His word—Rom. 12:11; 1 Tim. 4:13; Titus 1:9:

1. We need to lead the saints into the real, right and proper realization of the need of the Bible and also of the help of the Life-study Messages and the Recovery Version.
2. The most important burden of the book service is not to care for the inventory of books but to study and find a way to spread every book into all the homes of the saints in your locality and, once the books are in the homes, to find a way to deposit their contents into the saints' hearts—Col. 3:16.

V. In this way the Lord's truth will spread widely, and there will be a real revival—Isa. 11:9:

- A. We need to pick up the burden for the spread of the Lord's recovery—2 Tim. 2:2, 15:
 1. We need to show all people and especially to the Christian community that we are a group of believers who are full of the knowledge of the divine truths; this will be a strong testimony —1 Tim. 2:4; 3:15.
 2. We need to give the Lord a way to have a recovery full of life and full of the knowledge of the truth so that we can be those who preach the gospel, teach the truth, and minister life—2Tim. 3:16-17.
 3. "I am deeply burdened by the fact that many who love the Lord Jesus and seek Him have been deceived and frustrated. We must find a way to share with them the spiritual riches the Lord has provided us. Many who truly love the Lord are starving. We must take up the burden to supply them with food. We all need to be good ministers of Christ, serving others with His riches. Let us first be nourished ourselves and then minister this nourishment to all the people of God" (Witness Lee, Life-study of 1 Timothy, p. 72).
 4. "You...need to consider yourself, in particular where you are in relation to the carrying out of God's New Testament economy. What is on your heart? What have you seen as a heavenly vision regarding the divine economy? How will you carry out the vision you have seen? Let us all spend time before the Lord in order to be filled with the burden of God's New Testament economy" (Witness Lee, Life-study of Acts, pp. 588-589).
- B. Since we are in the spreading stage of the Lord's recovery, we should endeavor to propagate the divine truth revealed in the Bible by using our publications and radio broadcasts (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:15; 4:17):
 1. We should consider various ways to distribute our publications in order to release the truth; if the saints in the churches discover effective ways to spread the truth, they should inform and coordinate with the serving ones at the Living Stream Ministry office—Col. 3:16a.
 2. We should also consider additional ways to propagate the truth, such as direct mail, television, newspapers, Christian periodicals, magazines, and bookstores—Rom. 1:7, Eph. 3:3-4.
 3. We should labor not only to distribute our literature but also to broadcast the truth through radio broadcasts; we should set up radio stations in strategic places throughout the earth for the propagation of the truth—Acts 9:20; 13:5; Acts 19:8.
 4. In order to meet the financial needs related to the spread of the truth by using our publications and radio broadcasts, we need to practice giving our material riches to the Lord according to 1 Corinthians 16:1-3.
- C. "Let us all be filled with the riches of God's New Testament economy and then carry out the burden for God's economy positively and aggressively. We all can become aggressive if we are filled and saturated. I hope that in the coming years there will be a great increase for the Lord's propagation. May there be a real stirring up throughout the earth!" (Witness Lee, Life-study of Acts, pp. 483).

VI. "I wish to live on this earth and witness with my own eyes the truth of the Lord not only being printed into books through our hands, but also being sent through us to every part of the world and prevailing in every place. I absolutely believe that this will hasten the Lord's return because it is through this that the Lord will prepare His bride." (The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity, p.163.)