A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG"

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. I don't use the word "BIG" to mean "large in number".
2. The word BIG sometimes means "strong and mighty".
3. I use the word BIG in this lesson to mean "strong".
4. The Lord wants us to be strong -- Eph. 6:10; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 15:1
5. The Lord wants congregations to be STRONG.
6. Let us study some ways a congregation ought to be BIG.

I. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO PREACH ALL THE TRUTH".
1. The church, or congregation, is "the pillar and ground of the truth" -- I Tim. 3:15
   (1) The church cannot just select the part of truth it wants to support.
   (2) If it is to be true to Christ, it must support all the truth -- Matt. 7:21; Eph. 5:24
3. Paul warned night and day about a departure from truth -- Acts 20:31
4. This should be the attitude of a congregation toward the preaching of all the truth.
5. Are be BIG enough here to preach all the truth on every subject?
   (1) Worldliness -- I John 2:15 - 17; James 4:4
   (2) Modesty -- I Tim. 2:9 - 10
   (3) Dancing -- Gal. 5:19
   (4) Divorce and remarriage -- Matt. 19:9
   (5) Institutionalism -- Acts 14:23
   (6) Materialism -- Matt. 13:22; 6:19 - 21
   (7) Denominationalism
   (8) Drinking and drugs -- I Pet. 4:3; Gal. 5:20
   (9) Fornication -- I Cor. 6:18; I Thess. 4:3

II. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT ALL THE TRUTH"
1. Paul said the time would come when members would not -- II Tim. 4:1 - 4
2. He said there would be a departure from the faith -- I Tim. 4:1 - 4
3. We are to earnestly contend for the faith -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17
4. We are to observe all things -- Matt. 28:20

III. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO EXPOSE FALSE TEACHERS"
1. The church at Ephesus did -- Rev. 2:2
2. John said, "Try the spirits whether they are of God" -- I John 4:1
3. Paul said, "Mark them" -- Rom. 16:17
4. Paul said, "Stop their mouths" -- Tit. 1:11
5. Paul said to refuse or avoid a factious man -- Tit. 3:10
6. John said not to fellowship him -- 2 John 9 - 11
7. Paul exposed Peter -- Gal. 2:11 - 13
8. False teachers must be exposed today -- are we BIG enough to do it?
IV. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO CONDEMN WORLDLINESS"
   1. God's people must "abstain from fleshly lust" -- I Pet. 2:11
   2. They are to "abstain from all appearance of evil" -- I Thess. 5:22
   3. God's children are not to love the world -- I John 2: 15 - 17
   4. We are to deny ungodliness and worldly lust -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12
   5. The works of the flesh -- Gal. 5: 19 -21

V. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO REACH THE LOST" -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Acts 8:4
   1. The church of the Thessalonians -- I Thess. 1: 6 - 8
   2. The church at Philippi -- Phil. 2:15 - 16
   3. Mark 16: 15 - 16
   4. I Tim. 3:15
   5. We are not to become weary in this work -- Gal. 6:9

VI. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO RESTORE THE FALLEN"
   2. James 5: 19 - 20

VII. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO VISIT THE OLD AND SICK"
   1. Matt. 25: 36

VIII. A CONGREGATION OUGHT TO BE "BIG ENOUGH TO GIVE LIBERALLY"
   1. II Cor. 9: 6 - 7; II Cor. 8: 1 - 5
   2. Mal. 3:8