What This Church Needs This New Year

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. We stand at the very beginning of a New Year!
2. This is always a good time to look at ourselves and our needs.
3. We need to look at our needs as individuals and as a congregation.

I. WE NEED SOUND GOSPEL PREACHING!
1. Paul told Titus to "speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine" (Tit. 2:1).
2. What kind of preaching is proper for "sound doctrine"?
   (1) Bible-centered preaching.
       1. Our preaching should be centered in the scriptures (2 Tim. 3: 16 -17).
       2. Paul urged Timothy to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2).
       3. Peter said, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;" (1 Pet. 4:11).
   (2) We need doctrinal preaching.
       1. I Tim. 4:16
       2. When we fail to preach doctrine, the church drifts into error!
   (3) We need preaching that deals with the pressing problems which confront us.
       1. John the Baptist dealt with Herod’s sin problem (Mark 6:18).
       2. Paul said the unfruitful works of darkness are to be reproved (Eph. 5:11).
       3. Paul told Timothy he was to "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1 Tim. 1:3).
   (4) We need courageous preaching.
       1. Paul requested the prayers of brethren that he might "speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6: 20).
       2. We need men with moral courage.
           (1) To stand against the crowd.
           (2) To stand alone.
           (3) To stand against apostasy.
           (4) To stand against worldliness.
           (5) To stand against compromise.
           (6) To stand against friends when they are wrong.
   (5) We need effective preaching.
       1. Effective preaching will bring about change in the lives of people.
           (2) It will bring growth in the lives of Christians (Matt. 28:20).
           (3) It will turn men from error (2 Tim. 2: 24 - 26; James 5: 19 - 20).
II. WE NEED ALL THE MEMBERS ATTENDING ALL PERIODS OF BIBLE STUDY!

1. We need to attend Bible class because it is spiritually rewarding.

2. Things we gain from Bible classes:
   (1) We gain information about our duty as Christians (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 5:12; Acts 20:28).
   (2) We gain edification (Acts 20:32).
   (3) We gain growth (1 Pet. 2:2).
   (4) We gain protection against sin (Psa. 119: 11; 37:31).
   (5) We gain encouragement (Heb. 3:13; Heb. 10:24).
   (6) We gain understanding of what is sinful (Heb. 5:14).

3. Why the Bible should be read and studied:
   (1) To rightly divide (2 Tim. 2:15).
   (2) To understand it (Psa. 119: 130; Eph. 3: 3 - 4; 5:17).
   (3) It guides us (Psa. 119: 105; 73:24).
   (4) God’s word saves us (Rom. 1:16; James 1:21).
   (5) We need to study it because it will judge us (John 12:48).

III. WE NEED ALL THE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE WORK.

1. We are to work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12).

2. We are to always abound in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58).

3. We are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph. 2:10).

4. We are to be zealous of good works (Tit. 2:14).

5. We are to maintain good works (Tit. 3:8).

6. We must have a working faith (Gal. 5:6; James 2:24).

7. God will not forget our work and labor (Heb. 6:10).

IV. WE NEED COOPERATION OF ALL THE MEMBERS.

1. We must be united (1 Cor. 1:10; 12: 25 - 27).

2. We must be of the same mind one toward another (Rom. 12:16).

3. We are to be like-minded (Phil. 2:2)

4. We must strive together (Phil. 1:27).

5. We must love one another (1 Pet. 1:22).

V. WE NEED TO RESTORE ALL THOSE NOT LIVING RIGHT.

1. Those overtaken in a fault (Gal. 6:1).

2. Those who have erred from the truth (James 5: 19 - 20).

3. The unruly are to be warned (1 Thess. 5:14).
VI. WE NEED ALL THE MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE WORK WITH THEIR MONEY.

1. I Cor. 16: 1, 2
2. 2 Cor. 9: 6 - 7
3. I Tim. 6: 17 - 19

VII. WE NEED MEMBERS WHO LOVE TRUTH.

1. Only those who love the truth will be saved (2 Thess. 2:10).
2. The truth makes men free (John 8:32).
3. We must buy the truth and sell it not (Prov. 23:23).
4. The truth will make enemies out of people who do not love it (Gal. 4:16).

VIII. WE NEED MEMBERS WHO REALIZE WHAT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP MEANS!

1. We are to be responsible to one congregation.
2. We can't be members and be gone all the time.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us all determine we are going to do better in the year ____________.
2. Are you here and out of Christ? Won't you come?
3. Are you here and have become unfaithful? Won't you come?

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