

GOD'S D-MANDS FOR MEN

By Charles W. Doughty, 1975ⁱ

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30

We are still looking for men to stand in the gap. My, how great the gap is getting between God and man. The booze, the illicit sex, the divorce, the wayward children, the disobedience to law, the brazen defiance of all that is good and noble today is ever widening and increasing the gap between the just, holy God in heaven and the sinful, cursed inhabitants of this transgression-stricken planet. I sought for a man... but couldn't find one. With violence, rape, dishonesty and immorality reigning supreme, surely ONE just, holy man of God should step forward and be counted for righteousness' sake... But NONE COULD BE FOUND! How pitiful, how sad.

We are looking for men. Just the other day they had an ordination trial in the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Synod. They refused to ordain a man to the ministry because he stated that it would be against his scriptural conscience to ordain a woman to the so-called "lay ministry." Another similar case occurred in the Episcopal Fellowship, when a priest was fired from his rectory for refusing to ordain a woman to the priesthood. The whole thing is irrelevant. God is not looking for women to stand in the gap as leaders, HE IS LOOKING FOR MEN! God knows, if you get the men, you will also get the women. Imagine the difficulty these Presbyterians and Episcopalians are going to have if they open the Scriptures to Titus 1:6-8, speaking of the Elder, as defined from the Greek, the PRESBYTEROS, "age," and EPISCOPOS, "overseer:"

"If any be blameless, the wife of one husband... a lover of good men."

You see, these denominations would have to change the Bible to suit their fancies. Thank God, you and I are members of a free church with nothing to obey but the Word. You know, it is a tremendous irony to me that these same denominations think nothing of ordaining homosexuals (something God deplores – Romans 1:26-28) and even men who deny the virgin birth of our Lord and Saviour, and yet at the same time dismiss a man for believing what the Scriptures say about men being in positions of responsibility and authority. Read 1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 14:34-35, Colossians 3:18, and 1Timothy 2:11-13 and marvel with me at their inconsistency.

Now, before any one labels me a “woman hater,” allow me to assert my God-given, scriptural position. I don’t mind being hated for my disposition, but if you are going to hate me, make sure you know my position. I consider holy women a gift from God. God gave them to us as helpers. I could not make it without my wife. I could not make it without my godly mother’s prayers day and night. I could not make it without three fine women in the office, who work for God without complaint and grudge. I have been richly blessed by a number of holy women in this congregation who have cheered my soul, encouraged my faith, and who agree wholeheartedly with God’s teachings on authority. They do not want authority, shun it, and praise God for their men who step out into leadership positions. It is the woman who has a henpecked husband who gives us the trouble. Maybe it is his fault. She is the way she is because he is the way he is. Most women respect a man who assumes his God-given authority. They love him and, like Sarah, call him “lord” (1 Peter 3:6).

Another issue that needs to be cleared up is the one concerning “women suppression.” Our enemies say we suppress the women. They don’t know what they are talking about. The women around here have more work to do in one day than those in other so-called New Testament churches do in a year, where the women “run the show.” Ask any Christian Workerⁱⁱ how busy she is ministering to the sick and shut-ins, the friends of the deceased, the prisoner, the destitute, the orphan, the widow, accompanying her husband on his calls, sending care packages to the soldiers, and keeping up with all the love feasts of the church, just to mention a little of her work (read the Christian Workers chore list), and you say women are suppressed? Read Titus chapter 2 about the job of a Christian woman at home and in church, teaching with other women and children, and you will realize their duties. Your quarrel is not with Brother Doughty, it is with The Almighty God!

Listen, Sister, the reason you don’t want to accept this arrangement is because you are just like the Devil, the hippie, and your juvenile delinquent child. You are too proud. You want to run the show, give the orders and be the “head cheese” of the organization. You don’t want to be a humble, godly, modest woman, spoken of in the Word (1 Peter 3:1-6). You don’t want to take orders and help your husband be a leader, help the preacher, and work for the furtherment of the whole congregation. You rebel, as did your father, the Devil, because you do not want to work in the shade of humility for the cause of the church collectively; you want to be in the limelight. Well, friend, I have news for you, this women’s liberation just doesn’t work. God is against it. Women who were made by God to be a helpmate to their husbands, beside taking little children’s hands to guide them into mature wisdom with a humble, lowly, modest, sweet, soft, meek, and exquisitely beautiful grace (that man could not imitate in a thousand years of practice) are as fitted to run the affairs of the Lord’s church as a one legged man competing in the high hurdles race. It is appropriate for some women’s meetings (not all, but “some”) to be called “circles” because that is what they keep the church going in--circles.

Reminds me of a cage of monkeys I saw in the zoo, a lot of activity, but nothing really being accomplished. Now, you women, who take your fellowship seriously and mean business for the Lord, and don't want to have "gab-sessions" but rather uplifting prayer, Bible study, and work fellowships that eventuate in the saving of a soul: Doesn't it make you feel good to see the family of a deceased person whom you have helped come to the Lord? How about when a person is converted at one of our love feasts? You measure a real successful women's group the same way you measure that of a board meeting. Not how much talking you do, but how much work you get done. And just for the record, we have the finest Christian women in the world right here in our assembly, and I know personally that as long as they live, they are going to keep the Christian workers true to the above ideals.

Now, I can say these things, because I am an Evangelist. God called me and gave me that right. God revealed to one such Evangelist, Titus, that he had the right to "*set in order the things that are wanting and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed for thee.*" (Titus 1:6). So I am looking for men. I can sympathize with Ezekiel when they are hard to find. You – women - should be looking for men also... real men, not sissies. If you already have an upright-walking male of the *Homo sapien* species, then pray to God he will become a man. Such gigantic men are always attracted by the gospel.

I. Declare the Gospel

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men, [Jew, Gentile, and women] unto me." John 12:32

If you are looking for something else, you won't be happy around here. All we have to offer is the Gospel - take it or leave it. Many resent the Evangelist hammering out book, chapter, and verse – it gives them a pain in the neck. I would to God it gave you a pain in the heart. When the men of Israel heard the first Gospel message, they were "*pricked in their heart and said to one another, men and brethren, what shall we do?*" (Acts 2:37)

II. Draw Men

If you get the men, you get the women. The Gospel attracts men. This is the reason you read of the household conversions of the centurion Cornelius and the jailer of Philippi. Once the head of the house is converted, he leads his family to Christ. Many a woman knows the heartache and grief of having an unconverted husband. Imagine the great burden of trying to raise children for Christ under the same roof wherein dwells a scoffing, mocking, horrible example of a father.

We are guilty of a serious mistake when we try to make converts of the wives without first consulting the husband. I am so in earnest at this point, that I may well label such attempts as being anti-New Testament in practice. I recall frequent examples of women who did not want their husbands to know about their conversions. They thought he would be harsh and unsympathetic, only to discover that he was pleased to be treated with the honor and dignity of knowing what his wife was doing. I have stated many times, "Mr. _____, you are the head of your house and you have the honored respect of knowing just exactly what God wants your wife to do." Many times the wife is thoroughly shocked to hear her husband say, "Well, honey, I am going, too." It comes as no surprise to Bible students to speak to the man and all who were in his house.

Of course, there are always exceptions. Take, for instance, the woman at the well who had many husbands, or Lydia, the seller of purple who was unmarried, and those divorced or widowed women whose souls must be saved. I actually believe that God extends more mercy to these who hear the word, believe it, and live and raise their children by the same, than He does to the family of some shirker, slacker, deadbeat man who cares not whether his wife and family go to hell.

But if you are a man who loves your wife and family; if you have any decency about you; if you are kindly disposed to God and man; and if you want the best in life, you will be happy around here. You will find the best of men in this world, worshipping God with their families, trusting completely in the death, burial, resurrection, intercession, and soon coming of Christ; and you will be drawn unto Him who was lifted up once and for all.

Indeed, I am looking for men. Ordain elders, ordain deacons to help these overseers, and get a strong army of men in the community to move upon Satan's strongholds to tear down and destroy. While I preach, I am on the lookout for men. While I pray, I am on the lookout for men. In my study I am looking for men. They must be found. Every church problem is a leadership problem, and every leadership problem is a man-power problem.

III. Decree a Functional Eldership

Let us ask an honest and very important question: "WHY DOES GOD WANT ELDERS?" Notice, the Evangelist was to go to the cities to seek and ordain elders. A church is only as good as her eldership. These men are called "pastors" (Ephesians 4:11) and "bishops" (Acts 20:28). They were to oversee the affairs of each local New Testament church.

I wonder how New Testament is your congregation? Turn to James 5:14 and test it. "*Is there any sick among you? Let him call for the preacher of the church...*" Is that what it says? Of course not, but that is what most of you do, and you have the audacity to call yourself New

Testament! Most elders have never been taught what their job really is. You show me one scripture that teaches an elder should pray at the Communion table. Yet, to most church boards, it would be an unpardonable sin if they quit doing it. We major on the minor. We are silent on the things the Bible says and vocal on the things the Bible does not say. Show me in the Scriptures where it says a deacon should pass the plate. Yet, we are meticulous about that and say nothing about his duties to the widows (Acts 6). We are professional majors on the minors. Is it any wonder the men do not take their work seriously? In most congregations only about one-fourth of the leadership attend Sunday evening assembly with any regularity at all! I would hate to even mention Wednesday prayer meeting. Perhaps you heard about the preacher who called off prayer meeting because of lack of interest from the leadership. A year later, the elders found out about it and fired him.

Oh, we call ourselves New Testament, yet when we are in the hospital (or have any kind of crisis) - no matter how much the elders and their men could help us - we still feel that if the preacher hasn't been to see us, we haven't been called upon. We are not New Testament, we are Romanists. We are as clergy minded as Babylon, the mother of confusion. I have preached this truth for years, and it still needs to be emphasized and reiterated. I recall in the early years of my ministry, after having caused a great deal of chaos with a sermon entitled "Something's Missing" (most of which is included in our Leadership Training Manual), that God really blessed this truth. That message emphasized that the trouble in regard to poor attendance, lack of visitation, rotten stewardship, and low morality and spirituality was caused by the absence of a functional eldership. In that same sermon, it was stated that if the evangelist was free to do the job God called him to do, and the elders took over their assignments God called them to do, the preacher could cease being an administrative clergyman and the church could begin to progress along New Testament lines. There was a lot of trouble. Some left the church saying, "No matter what the Bible says, that is what the preacher is supposed to do today." To add to my miseries and woes, I discovered with heartache that while I was evangelizing lost sinners, one of my dear, neighbor, sister church "pastors" (he was the only pastor on the board that was paid because he graduated from Bible College, and the church didn't have an evangelist) would go to the hospital and call on our sick folks and ask, "Has Brother Doughty been in to see you lately?" Talk about the "knife in the back" routine. Well one day he called on the wrong person. This dear Christian sister of mine after pondering that question retorted, "Of course not, my elders have been in to see me; he is out evangelizing lost sinners, and that is where you ought to be." My, was that old preacher embarrassed. He told me later he just hung his head, said good-bye, and walked out. A lot of people are going to be saved because of the attitude of that Christian sister of mine.

If the elders see to it that the sheep are pastured, the weak restored, the wayward counseled, and the spiritually sick in general disciplined, the evangelist would be free to study,

teach, evangelize, and watch the church grow. Jim Smith, who left our “type of brotherhood” because of its horrible church polity (government), said that when he found a certain non-instrumental congregation, the elders interviewed him as follows. “Jim, we want you to study at least four hours a day. Don’t worry about pastoral administration, that is our job, we will take care of these matters.” Jim said, “I almost fell off my chair.” After seven years of heartache with three churches “beating his head against the wall” because of our unscriptural government, what a relief it was to him to receive such definite instructions as Paul gave Timothy in the EVANGELISTIC EPISTLE, *“till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”* (1 Timothy 4:13). Now, if anything smacks of the horrible blunder of Romanism, it is the labeling of the Timothy and Titus epistles as PASTORAL. They were written to evangelists, for both Timothy and Titus were gospel preachers; and although they have definite instructions for decreeing the qualifications and ordaining elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1), the major tone of the letter is a constant, ringing, high-pitched note – EVANGELIZE! Any evangelist would be inspired as he reads the Holy Spirit’s injunctions: *“War a good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience”* (1 Timothy 1:18-19.) *“These things write I unto thee (Timothy)....that thou mayest know how thou ought to behave thyself in the house of God.....”* (3:14-15). Paul commanded the evangelist to rebuke those who would apostatize and practice false doctrine: *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ.....”* (4:6). I had a person quit the church because I preached against Romanism, yet the Holy Spirit told me to do this in The Word. I ought to obey God rather than man. *“Take heed unto thy self, and unto the doctrine...”* (4:16). *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses”* (5:19). This shows the co-leadership authority the evangelist has with his elders in that he is the only one to receive accusation against them. *“Them that sin, rebuke before all...”* (5:20), *“These things teach and exhort...”* (6:1), *“Fight the good fight...”* (6:12), *“Oh, Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust...”* (6:20), *“...Stir up the gift of God...”* (2 Timothy 1:6), *“Hold fast the form of sound words...”* (1:13), *“...Be strong in the grace...”* (2:1), *“...commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* (2:2), *“Study to show thyself approved...”* (2:15), *“But, continue thou in the things which thou hast learned...”* (3:14), *“I charge thee...Preach...reprove, rebuke, exhort, (4:1-2), “...ordain elders...”* (Titus 1:5), *“...Hold fast the faithful Word...”* (1:9), *“...Rebuke them sharply...”* (1:13), *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine...”* (2:1), *“Exhort servants....”* (2:9), *“These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority...”* (2:15), *“Put them in mind to be subject...”* (3:1), *“...these things I will that thou affirm constantly...”* (3:8).

Every God-called evangelist should study these above admonitions daily. Every Christian should want this kind of preacher. Saving souls is the most gigantic task in the universe, and I want my preacher to know what he is doing. If I had a doctor diagnose my disease as a migraine headache, when in reality I had a brain tumor, I would change doctors. I want a man to get the knife out and cut me up a little, if it will save my life. It is the purpose of a good

physician not to make you FEEL GOOD, but help you GET WELL. The same is true of the God-sent evangelist. The above preacher may not live up to your fancies, but your acceptance of his Bible doctrine determines God's acceptance of you. Certainly, we are going to have problems with this kind of preaching. Paul warned Timothy they would turn away their ears and heap up teachers to themselves; but as long as we have a functional, Bible-believing eldership, the situation will remain stable and sure. The Word of God is a safe foundation to stand upon. The preacher is not called to run all over the community holding big babies' hands; he is to preach the Word, and the elders should respect such. If an elder does not back a Bible preacher, if he does not attend all services, if he does not support the congregation with his tithe, talent, time and strength (the same is true of deacons) THEN HE OUGHT TO RESIGN, NOW! If your congregation has a so-called minister, who is in reality nothing but a paid pastor, and he likes that job and the people appreciate his work, then the church should hire a full-time evangelist to work the field, or the pastor ought to resign. The church must not be robbed of an evangelist. There is too much to do and the time is getting short.

Now, I realize that I am stepping on a lot of "pastor's" toes, but beloved, I am shooting at your heart. Maybe you are content to be an administrative pastor. Well, bless your heart, we need you. You are worthy of double honour (pay) if you can preach, teach, and pastor (1 Timothy 5:17); but why rob the church of an evangelist? Be big enough to step aside if you are torn between being preacher, pastor, administrator, and chief clergyman; and do the ONE THING that God has called you to do best. The job is not being done, because ONE man is trying to do the work of TWENTY and God wants TWENTY MEN to do the work. Hey, elders, put out the extra money, hire some specialized men as full-time pastors and educators, in addition to the evangelist and/or evangelists. Now is the time for multiple ministries called forth by apostolic teaching, and if the educated functional eldership blesses it, look out Satan!

Let me review a little. God's demands for men thus far have been DECLARE the Gospel, DRAW men, DECREE a functional eldership and now:

IV. Discipline Disciples

Observe that the root idea is the same in both words. A disciple of Christ is always disciplined. Here is the lost teaching in the modern-day among the people who call themselves "Christians Only." When is the last time the elders called for the discipline of a wayward member? A backslider? A troublemaker? A flagrant sinner? If you are 60, you have probably never heard of such a thing, and yet you wonder why your congregation is so unspiritual. The reason is, you have let sin go on so long unattended, that they mock God's Word and God's men. The only person who has ever been thrown out of most congregations is the preacher, and he is not so great a sinner as a lot of people make him out to be. I heard recently an

appalling statistic that the average stay for one of our preachers with any congregation is less than two years. I do not know how accurate that is, but from backyard experience, I know it is not very far from the truth. Do you know why this happens every two or five years? I give you two good answers.

First, Satan knows that a man always accomplishes more for God in a long ministry (the largest and strongest churches in the world have had preachers no less than twenty years). Secondly, the preacher leaves because the elders have not the integrity, knowledge, courage, nor the commanding respect to get rid of the troublemakers who bring so much grief to a true Gospel preacher and/or his family.

Obviously, such scripture as 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 escaped their attention (yet they call themselves New Testament): *"I wrote unto you an epistle, not to keep company with fornicators."* Paul then clarified, we are to disfellowship not the world's fornicators; but those that claim they are brothers. These people who are covetous, extortioners, idolaters, railers, drinkers, and unspiritual are miserable; and they love to attack the church and make the congregation miserable, especially the preacher. So, you get rid of the best man you have and keep the trouble. Your congregation had 300 people in 1950, 295 in 1960, 300 in 1970, and you now have a grand total of 298 in attendance. Sad, indeed. God won't bless you. You have sin in the camp. Your people act no different than 90% of the world, and the other 10% probably act a little better than yours.

Without doubt, one of the finest young ladies I know came to be immersed one evening. We discussed her responsibilities to God and among other things mentioned she would soon receive the Holy Spirit. I asked her if she knew what the Holy Spirit did in a believer's life. She did not know. "Well," I said, "He will make you holy!" Most people do not even know the meaning of that word. They must think being holy means living in a hole, because most of them have the lowest moral standing in the community. Anyway, I proceeded to tell this lady that she will be different... talk different, act different, and dress different than the people in the world. I asked her if she still wanted to be immersed, and after a pause, she said, "Wait until I send for a bath robe, I don't want to have to wear a mini-skirt again." Bless her heart, she is now married to a fine young man in the congregation and I have never seen her wear a mini-skirt since. Christ's disciples are disciplined.

Someone asks, "What do you do with people who fight against these truths?" You and I both experienced the little groups of troublemakers who group together and promote a little sect of misery. Well, the Bible says, *"A man that is a heretic (schismatic) after twenty five years reject."* (Titus 3:10) That is NOT what it says, but I know of church members who do not accept New Testament doctrine or discipline who have been in the congregation longer than that. I am thinking of a woman whom we baptized. She was convinced that her denominational

baptism was not scriptural; but was not fully persuaded that Christian immersion was essential to salvation. I stated clearly that I did not want her to come down the aisle unless she realized she was lost and going to hell without this obedience. She came down the aisle with her son and daughter and before I took her confession, I whispered into her ear, "Are you convinced that immersion into Christ is essential for salvation?" She nodded in the affirmative. Now, this woman enjoyed religion, but she was not able to rightly divide the Word. All day long she listened to radio broadcasts condemning baptism and other New Testament ordinances and before long, she was right back where she started from. I heard a rumor that she asserted herself her opinion that baptism was not essential in the women's Sunday School class. I went immediately, to verify it. Alas, she said it was true. I had no alternative but to confess the harm that she had done to the body of Christ in lying to both God and man; but more so, harming her own soul. I asked for her baptismal certificate back. She said it was only a piece of paper. To that statement I agreed, but I stated I wanted all thought of our baptizing her for remission of sins removed. She did not believe it and it did her no good anyhow. Do you know that woman refused to hand over the certificate? To this day she has it. Maybe she is keeping it for a fire escape measure just in case immersion was important. How foolish, if she doesn't stand for God's Word now, He will be ashamed of her then.

People who miss the services of the congregation ought to be disciplined. They should be made to know the harm they do to the cause of Christ and their own souls.

V. Demand Doctrinal Unity

This is the fifth of God's demands for men. Leaders may have different dispositions, but they must all be of ONE POSITION in doctrine. I recall a convert who was on fire for the Lord. He had come from darkness to light and God had been so good to him – he just shared his blessings with everyone. I called him "Joe the Baptist,"ⁱⁱⁱ because he was leading so many folks to Christ. One day, Joe wanted to see where the church stood on the charismatic issue of tongues. He asked one fellow on the side of the church building, "What do you think about tongues?" He said, "Whether there be tongues, they shall cease!" A little later, he went to the other side and asked another fellow, "What do you believe about tongues?" He said, "Whether there be tongues, they shall cease!" After the worship service, he approached me and said, "What do you think about tongues, preacher?" Before I could say "Whether..." he interrupted, "I know, whether there be tongues, they shall cease!" He then added his total surprise at our doctrinal unity. "Everyone around here believes the same thing," he declared.

This is one of the great features of God's Word. Unity is taught throughout Sacred Writ. God doesn't say, "One Lord, 280 faiths and three baptisms;" but states clearly, six times, there is only ONE lord, ONE faith and belief, ONE baptism to obey, (Ephesians 4:4). Is your

congregation in the New Testament? It better be, or you should start looking for another. How many faiths did Jesus start? He only started one church, Mathew 16:16-18! If you tolerate more than one faith, you are liable for hellfire. Jesus did not tolerate 300 different denominations – why should you? *“Now, I beseech you by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together....”* (1 Corinthians 1:10). In what? Name Only? Organization only? Faith only? No, absolutely not! We are to be perfectly joined together – *“ in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* We must agree together in everything. Can you find your church name in the New Testament? Can you find your baptism therein? Do you celebrate the Lord’s Supper as they did? Is your church government there? Your mission? Your activity and holy living also? When you lose your desire to identify with the church revealed in the New Testament, you lose your salvation along with it.

The assertion that He was The Only Begotten Son of God, The Way, Truth, and Life, and that few there be who would find this straight and narrow way, is what got Jesus Christ in trouble with the religious leaders of His day. Just like those who are duped by the Romanists at the Vatican, the restructured Disciples of Christ hierarchy in Indianapolis, and the Fundamentalist from Tulsa or Minneapolis, so the Jews were duped by the Pharisees. They had faith (blind faith) in these leaders and they were sold so easily down the creek. Jesus told them they *“were blind leaders of the blind.”* You know, 300 blind men can’t see any better than one blind man. The Lord pronounces, *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”* again and again in Matthew 23. He uncovered the nerve, called a spade a spade, and disciples came to him afterwards saying, *“You know you offended the Pharisees.”* Jesus asked them, *“Does this offend you?”* (John 6:61). Let them be offended, if they can’t take the truth. *“Every plant that my Father hath not planted shall be rooted up,”* was Jesus’s reply (Matthew 15:12). A woman says, *“My old Grandpa is buried in the Presbyterian church yard, you mean he didn’t go to heaven?”* Listen, God is not the God of the dead; He is the God of the living. I don’t care about your old Grandpa. If he did what the Bible says, he is saved, if he didn’t, he is lost as lost can be. If it will soothe your conscience, dig him up and bury him in our backyard; but for heaven’s sake, do what the Lord commands, whether your ancestors did it or not. You people who are always worried about offending someone: Who would you rather offend, your friends or your God? If you water down the plan of salvation and adjust the Word to suit their fancies, you have God as your enemy.

Jesus was always offending people. He offended them when he said, *“Forsake all...and follow me.”* He offended them when he said, *“Scarcely can a rich man enter heaven.”* He offended Peter when he said, *“The Son of Man... must die...”* and again, he offended and almost lost his entire following when he said, *“Unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of The Son of Man, you have no life in you.”* Thus, I will offend you, but you cannot discourage a man of

God. Some dear, old, soul calls you and says, "I am going to give you a piece of my mind." Tell her, "Hurry up, you haven't many pieces left!" "*Thou blind Pharisee.....*" My, how Jesus demanded people to obey the truth. How he called for a life of total discipline. Notice, he didn't say, "There are a group of men around here who believe in the resurrection, life after death, angels and demons and that is 'Fair-u-see.'" Nor did He say, "There is a group of men around here who do not believe in the resurrection, life after death, angels and demons and that is 'Sad-u-see.'" Without mincing words, He said, "*Thou blind Pharisees...*" You know the reason you can't preach like that? You don't have power. You say, "If only I had twofold the power of Elijah." But you don't want it. If you got it, you would have loneliness, separation, persecution, and trouble. That is why you don't want it. If ten men were filled with the Holy Spirit, they would go up against sin like Jesus did, and put bar rooms and girly shows out of business. But you don't have it. God doesn't trust you. He is afraid if He sent you to the bar room, you would take a drink. If he sent you to the peep show, you would take a peep. The church is filled with fakers. They read these dynamic passages of Jesus shooting down the biggest guns in Jerusalem and they fire their pop guns.

VI. Defend the Faith

This is the sixth D-mand for men. The evangelist should train his people to debate. Titus 1:9-12 says,

Holding fast to the faithful Word as he hath been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: whose mouths must be stopped....

I ran into a Mormon the other day. He prided himself in knowledge more than God. He said that atheists could be saved after death, because it would not be fair for God to refuse them a second chance. He stated the same was true of the heathen who never had a chance to hear the Gospel. I said, "They are going to hell!" "Why?" said the Mormon. I turned quickly to Romans 1:20 and said, "*... they are without excuse!*" At that, he began to rationalize and argue as if scripture wasn't convincing enough. "They are without excuse, Mr. Mormon; that is what God says. You are wrong!" I assured him. Still he persisted, arguing that God wasn't fair. A third, fourth, and fifth time, I fairly shouted, "God is right, and you are wrong, (they are without excuse, you see) God is right and you are wrong!" By this time his eyes were bulging out of their sockets and he was shaking in his shoes. Like a cuttlefish, he left that subject and began to condemn me for taking wages for preaching. "Yes, indeed," I replied, "God wants me to take wages. I mean he is pleased and delighted to see me paid for preaching." While I replied, I flipped the old book open to 1 Corinthians 9:14, "*Even so hath the Lord ordained that they*

which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.” He looked at that and said, “Well, we work for nothing.” “God is right and you are wrong again, Mr. Mormon,” I replied and added further, “You know, it seems like God is always right, and you are wrong.” Again he began to quarrel with the scripture and I exclaimed boldly, “God ordained, (that is He decreed and made it a law) that those who preach the Gospel should be paid. Now that settles it, Mr. Mormon. Maybe, if you live long enough, you will get smarter than God. But as far as I am concerned, He is right and you are wrong, now what else do you have to say?” And with that statement he got up, walked out, and went home.

Beloved, the Word of God is sharp. *“This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith”* (Titus 1:13). Our School of Christian Evangelism^{iv} classes are calculated to teach folks how to debate and defend the scriptures against false doctrine. We must learn to, *“...refute, censor, confute, tax with fault all that is non-Testament, and rebuke...”* (2 Timothy 3:16). All of these amplified words mean to knock the wrong and defend the right. Quit trying to answer for people who are wrong. Sure it is a fight. I get up in the morning, fight all day long and collapse on the bed at night. You are not in heaven yet. If heaven is a rest from warfare and battles, what is going to happen if you have nothing to rest from?

Hebrews 4:12 tells us our sword of battle is the Word:

For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and the marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word is sharp. It tells us of black sin, hell-hot eternity – a long, long, time. It tells of whitewashed sinners in the red blood of Jesus and a heaven to gain. We are in a war. A charismatic from Columbiana got so mad at me; I thought he would punch me out. He told John and Vicki Cosma and me that he knew the Greek language and could give us the several shades of meaning for the word, “prophecy.” I asked him if he could spell the word in the Greek and he refused to comment. I then asked him to recite the Greek alphabet because I could sense he was bluffing, and sure enough, he suddenly had pressing matters elsewhere. “I think you like to try to prove your point, Mr. -----, and as a preacher and leader of men, you will be held all the more accountable in judgment for your doctrine,” I simply said. At that point, he lost the argument and almost lost his cool. Oh, the Word pierces deep into a man’s heart and soul. When the Word reaches into the soul, spirit, and marrow (source of physical life) there will be agony and turbulence in the church. We are in a militant war. There are two kinds of people here, those that produce and those that do not produce.

On a revival trip to Hamilton, Ohio, I stopped at a gas station. The fellow who “filled-er up” had a cornfield behind the station. Examining the stalks, I told him, “Those stalks are not near as tall as the ones in Northern Ohio.” He looked at me with a big grin and said, “We don’t care about how big the stalks are around here, fellow, it’s how big the ears are – that’s what counts.” He chuckled and walked away, and left me there thinking about how that Christ cursed the fig tree for not bearing fruit. We either bear or we don’t. No matter how big the stalks are, no matter how big the building, how plush the offices, how beautiful the carpet, how many degrees the preacher has... GOD WANTS FRUIT, and the fruit of one Christian is another Christian.

Oh, if we could get the Church of God roused up, we could put Satan out of business. Joe Bliffen asked for a meeting at Union Port, Ohio. He said, “Chuck, there is so much apathy down here.” I said, “Well, if I come, you will have a war.” He said, “I will take a war any day.” So would I. I would rather have war and walk down the street than have peace and be a pussy-footer. Take the sword and go out and stick it in everybody you can find. Gideon asked the Angel, “Where are the miracles?” I ask the church of today, “where are the miracles?” Why aren’t people being born again? Oh, we have revivals once a year. We hire the evangelist and he preaches. That’s about it. Nobody visits, nobody prays, nobody gets excited and we wonder WHY NO REVIVAL. We go forth in the energy of one, dynamic preacher for a week or two, pack our bags, say “oho hum” and go home. Listen, 120 people prayed for ten days before Pentecost. Nowadays, we are lucky to get 120 people to sing for 10 seconds. We preach for 10 days and pray for 10 seconds and wonder WHY NO REVIVAL. If we would pray like they did before Pentecost, we would have the same results they had on Pentecost.

One more time, let us review the D-mands of:

DECLARING THE GOSPEL
DRAWING MEN
DECREEING FUNCTIONAL ELDERS
DISCIPLINING DISCIPLES
DEMANDING DOCTRINAL UNITY
DEFENDING THE FAITH
DIE

Last of all,

VII. Calling upon All to DIE

Jesus called men to death. After the Word is preached, a man should die. What do you do with a dead man? You bury him, that's what. You put him in water and from that water emerges a new creature in Christ. Napoleon, deadlocked in battle with the enemy, called for some volunteers to engage in a mission that meant certain death. After he made a speech in which he declared, "I am asking for some men to die for France," hundreds of men stepped forward. Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:34-35). Jesus is asking for us to give up our ideas, our commitments, and surrender to the point of death. We are to be his slaves. He is asking for us to forsake all. Paul said, "I die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31). Last year, we asked for volunteers to the new work in Lisbon.^v I shall never forget when John and Marge Cresanto came down the aisle. They did not know where they were going. All they knew was the Kingdom of God had a need and they were going to give themselves. When we consider the circumstances under which they were called to a new work which promised them no security at all, we must realize that they died. This was a death to conveniences they may have known in the past, a death to a life of ease, for a preacher is always busy. There were many wet eyes in the house as we parted ways with our old friends the Cresantos and others.

During the Roman Inquisition, millions of people were slaughtered with the sword of Rome. They shed their blood for the faith. Today, in this free country, we may not be shot to death; but we must die out to the love of sin, Satan and self. We must give up our foolish ways in total surrender to Christ. The Communists say, "We dream of the day when you can walk down the street of any American city and find not a trace of Christianity left." Gus Hall, the former leader of the Communist Party, USA, said, "I dream of the day when the last congressman's guts are used to strangle the last Christian preacher, and then they can swim in the blood they love to sing about on Sunday morning."^{vi}

But we will not be discouraged. God says, "*Vengeance is mine, I will repay.*" Revelation 6:10 says something about that blood also, "*And they cried with a loud voice saying, how long, O Lord, Holy and True, does thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*" God says, hold on. Their time is coming. After Gus Hall, Alger Hiss, and Madalyn Murray O'Hair, and all the rest who hate the church are gone, the church will be marching triumphantly. When I meet those martyrs, I wonder what I am going to say. Stephen will say, "Well, Chuck, I gave my life for Christ. They stoned me to death, the poor souls. As blood ran down my face, I cried, 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.' Brother Doughty, what did you do for Jesus?" And Paul will be there, smiling with joy. "Chuck, they led me out into the arena. The executioner raised his axe. I told him I forgave him before he delivered the blow. My head

fell off and Christ reached down and took the bloody thing and put a crown upon it. Chuck, how much did you suffer for Jesus?" And James will be there. "Chuck, you know those Jews hated me with a fury. They were completely merciless. They attacked me and hit me with everything they could get their hands on. Then, they cut my head from my body, carried me to the top of a house and threw my decapitated, bloody body to the earth. But I was so glad to give what I could for Jesus. Brother Doughty, what have you given?" Oh, Lord, I am such a sissy. I do not know what persecution is. Would to God the Holy Spirit would descend upon us this hour and convict us as to how great cowards we are. Would to God He would loose our tongues and set our hearts on fire with love and service. When someone comes to me and says that old Brother or Sister so-and-so is not treating them right and they feel so persecuted, I feel like bursting out laughing. You call this persecution? All right then, *"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for so persecuted they the prophets in the past."*

Oh how this world is broken down by sin. People, by their illicit sex, doping, boozing, pill popping, raping, murdering, lying, falsifying; cheating on employers, wives, professors and selves, are crying for help. In effect, psyche wards are filled to capacity, hospitals are crowded with patients that doctors can do nothing for because it is "just your nerves," and streets are packed with wayward children of broken homes. The world cannot cover her desperate need of help. She is too proud to admit it, but with tear-dimmed eyes this sin-cursed world looks to the church for help. Faster... faster... And the church is fussing, fuming, fretting, stewing, and splitting hairs over fool things. "Faster, faster," cries the world. "Oh, we have things to do, places to go and persons to visit, romance magazines to read, T.V. to view, and extra jobs to consume our time," says the church. Faster... faster... Lord, is it I?

And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

Lord, give us men!

ⁱ "God's D-mands for Men" is one of Preacher "D"'s trademark sermons, a scriptural defense of the role, work, and authority of the evangelist. This is the biblical schematic of church polity upon which the Church of Christ at Mountain View in Winchester, Virginia was based. This sermon resulted from the author's study of church leadership and polity, and was first preached in 1975 at the Lake Mount Church of Christ, New Waterford, Ohio. The sermon was distributed in tract form.

ⁱⁱ The ladies ministry of the Lake Mount Church of Christ.

ⁱⁱⁱ Joe Piersol went on to become one of Preacher "D"'s greatest disciples and soul-winners at Lake Mount during his ministry in the 1970's.

^{iv} The School of Christian Evangelism was a Christian training institute founded in 1973 serving students from several area congregations in the tri-state Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania region. Preacher Doughty served with several faculty members at this time including Clarence Mansfield, Keith Wise, Hoyt Allen, David Fulks, John Cosma, Wayne Holtom, and others. "Grand Opening for a College of Evangelism Set," *Lake Mount Salutations*, September 10, 1973. The SCE was the model for Christian Kingdom College, begun through the ministry of the Church of Christ at Mountain View in Winchester, VA in 1995.

^v Several families from Lake Mount volunteered to plant a new congregation, the Pleasant View Church of Christ, in Lisbon, Ohio, led by John and Marge Cresanto, reported in the *Lake Mount Salutations*, May 6, 1974.

^{vi} Editor's note: The authenticity of this quotation, attributed to Gus Hall, (1910-2000) has been called into question. According to Paul F. Boller, Jr. & John George (1989), Hall was thought to have made the statement at a Communist convention in 1937, and later in 1961, when a national controversy erupted over it in 1962. However when asked by reporters about the quote in an appearance at the University of Oregon in Eugene in 1962, Boller and George reported Hall as replying, "the statement was so vile he wouldn't bother denying it." The quote actually originated as a slogan of the French Revolution. Attributed to renegade Roman Catholic priest Jean Meslier, in his posthumously published *Testament* (1725), the quote is nowhere found in the original, but rather appears in extracts of the work published later by others, especially Voltaire. It reads: "I would like — and this would be the last and most ardent of my wishes — I would like the last of the kings to be strangled by the guts of the last priest." Denis Diderot rendered it in its most popular variation: "*Et des boyaux du dernier prêtre/Serrons le cou du dernier roi.*" "Let us strangle the last king with the guts of the last priest." (Attributed to Diderot by Jean-François de La Harpe in *Cours de Littérature Ancienne et Moderne*, 1840). Diderot's statement also occurs in various forms, *i.e.*: "Men will never be free until the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest." It is hard to believe this quote to be a work of fabrication of anti-communists or Christian Fundamentalists. No group was as familiar with the ideology and propaganda of the French Revolution as were Communist Party leaders. Only a Communist hack, such as Hall, could have come up with such a clever "Americanization" of the French Revolutionary original, converting "king" to "congressman" and "priest" to "preacher." Hall studied sabotage and revolution at the Lenin Institute in Moscow for two years (1931-32) and was the General Secretary for the Communist Party USA from 1959 until his death in 2000, and campaigned for the US presidency in four elections, (1972, 1976, 1980, & 1984.) He received the highest civilian award by the USSR, the order of Lenin, for his work in furthering the cause of Communism in America, which began in earnest in 1934 with his organizing unions among steel workers in Warren and Youngstown, Ohio. In 1937, he helped lead a strike against Republic Steel, Bethlehem Steel, and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, which resulted in deaths at the Republic Steel mills in Chicago and Youngstown. This does not prove Hall to be the source of the quotation, but Hall's actions reveal an equal inclination for bloodshed and revolutionary violence, as he was arrested that year for allegedly transporting bomb making materials for use against the Republic steel mill in Warren. As a Communist leader, Hall would have subscribed to the main principle of Sergey Nechayev's *Cathechism of a Revolutionary* (1869) "the ends justify the means," which would justify lying in the case that the cause of Communism would be negatively affected. While evidence may not exist proving Hall as the source of the Americanized version, Hall was well aware of the controversy which lingered over the quote and he for almost forty years. It is interesting that when given the chance to clarify in 1962, Hall refused to deny making the statement. In later life, Hall apparently deemed revolutionary violence as no longer necessary, telling the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, in 1996, "Socialism in America will come through the ballot box." Ed. jcd