

## FAITHFUL TEACHERS

Our lesson text contains two Greek imperative moods (commands) given to Timothy by Paul.

- The first Greek command is “Be strong” (endunamoo / p.m.impv.2ps) – **GRACE**.
- The second Greek command is “commit” (paratithemi / a.m.impv.2ps) – **FAITHFUL TEACHERS**.

When we formed DSBC in 1974, I taught the Pastoral Epistles to establish the doctrinal foundation to our local church. After studying this very passage of Scripture, I was led to commit my pastoral ministry to these two commands. For the past 34 years, I have led DSBC by these two important Greek imperatives.

**This lesson will study four aspects of the historical background to our grace ministries and the training of men and women for ministry.**

**1. In 1980, we acquired our present facility and began assembling a seminary staff and curriculum for training faithful teachers of the word of God and evangelism – “Entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”**

In 1985, we held our first class in our seminary named the School of Biblical Theology (SBT).

We believe that it is the responsibility of the church to train and ordain men for ministry - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (2 Tim.2:15; 3:16-17)

Since 1985, we have graduated 16 faithful teachers of grace and the word of God from the SBT. We have mentored another 5 in distant training. DSBC offers an excellent seminary training on the basis of grace **“Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”** [Ernie Knapp is a M.I.T in SBT.]

In 2002, under the leadership of Evangelist Chuck Farmer, we developed the first year of the SBT into a special Ambassador ministry program called the Chaplain School (2 Cor.5:18-21). “Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Cor.5:20)

Since 2002, we have graduated 50 men and women from the Chaplain School. “In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.” (1 Tim.4:6)

**2. In 1990, I felt deeply committed to preparing doctrinal grace teachers for 20 major cities in these five southeastern states.**

<b>Alabama</b>	( <u>Huntsville</u> , <u>Birmingham</u> , Montgomery, and <u>Mobile</u> )
<b>Tennessee</b>	(Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Knoxville)
<b>Mississippi</b>	(Meridian, Tupelo, Jackson, and Hattiesburg)
<b>Georgia</b>	( <u>Atlanta</u> , <u>Rome</u> , <u>Albany</u> , <u>Savannah</u> , and Augusta)
<b>Florida Panhandle</b>	(Pensacola, <u>Tallahassee</u> , and Jacksonville)

In 1990, we formed the SEYC to reach the youth within these states. In 1995, we set a goal of reaching 5000 youth in 10 years. We accomplished it in 2005 by evolving into 3 summer camps.

By the end of 1990's, we were in **14 of the 20** cities. Presently, we are in **8 of the 20**. This makes us very aware of the angelic conflict within our region (Eph.6:11-17). "And not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." (1 Tim.3:6)

We are often asked how we establish doctrinal bible studies groups in these cities?

**3. We are always looking for grace bible teachers already there to direct interested believers to them (1 Cor.3:5-9).**

Many times men will come to us from these cities to attend our SBT and return or go to another city where there is interest in study for spiritual growth – "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet.3:18)

We are always looking for believers in any metropolitan city of these states that are interested in spiritual growth through bible study. When we find them, we provide a qualified grace teacher and program for spiritual growth (Heb.5:13-14).

They provide the grace teacher room and board – "And into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it; and abide there until you go away." (Matt.10:11)

The grace teacher provides any additional living cost by working or by raising his support like a missionary (1 Cor.9) – "For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God." (1 Thess.2:9; 5:12-13)

**4. We consider all the men who graduate from the SBT to be in full time Christian service (FTCS).**

**Presently, we have five in our congregation (Gary Horton, Al Rosenblum, Tony Butler, Jeff Deloach, and Joel Thompson).** Graduation from the SBT does not mean he is ordained.

Ordination requires a different standard of qualifications that includes his wife and children (1 Tim.3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

They either have tent-making jobs but not career jobs or they raise their support for ministry or a combination of the two (Acts 18).

How they are identified in the church depends on their spiritual gift and ministry training and experience.

For example, Gary Horton, Tony Butler, and Jeff Deloach are ordained evangelists. When Jeff completes his Hebrew requirements, he will be awarded the Master's Theology from the SBT. If he qualifies under our pastoral ordination, he will be ordained for referral to a church by DSBC.

Al Rosenblum and Joel Thompson are graduates of the SBT with the spiritual gift of pastor-teachers (Eph.4:11). Al has been ordained by us and has pastored a church recognized by DSBC. Therefore, he is considered an associate pastor-teacher while attending DSBC. Al is capable of helping with all areas of pastoral leadership of DSBC.

Joel has neither of these qualifications yet and is considered an assistant pastor-teacher while attending DSBC. As an assistant pastor-teacher, he will be trained and mentored in the internal workings of a local church until he is called to a church or the mission field. [The congregation does not hire communicators of the word of God or evangelism. The congregation give to support their ministries. The congregation of DSBC did not hire any of these 5 ministers of this church nor me. The Lord is the head of the church and picks the communicators and the churches (1 Cor.12; Rom.12; Eph.4-5).]