

Getting Past the Status Quo: Arise, Shine for Light Has Come!

Stop Preaching to the "Choir"

Testimony Treasures, Vol. 3, p. 83.

Role of the Minister in Organizing [the Church] for Service (p.83): "Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labor successfully. Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received.

Work for Church Members (p.82): "When God's people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath service will be filled with power."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 19.

Organize the Church for Outreach: "The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, NOT on the ministers. Let them learn to work as Christ worked; [for] ...we are pilgrims and strangers on this earth.... Let us work with such earnestness, such devotion, that sinners will be drawn to Christ. ...With Christ's love burning in their hearts, they are to go forth to win sinners to the Savior."

Gospel Workers, 1915, p.363.

Evangelism 101 - How are we to work (p.363)?: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, minister to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them: 'Follow Me.'"

Evangelism 101 - What do we have to do (p.364)? "Of equal importance with public effort is house-to-house work in the homes of the people. In large cities there are certain classes who cannot be reached by public meetings. These must be searched out... AND diligent, personal effort must be put forth in their behalf."

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The Acts of the Apostles, p. 267.

Evangelism 101 – First things first! "...By... faithful adherence to the truth they... give to others the light which they had received."

Gospel Workers, 1915, p. 301.

Our Problem - Churches are Dying: "...Our churches are dying for the want of **teaching** on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths." [The church is NOT a theatre and the pulpit is NOT a stage!]

Christian Service, p. 73-74, 83.

Christ's Solution - Churches Can Come Alive: "Who is this,' they ask, 'arising as the dawn, fair as the moon, pure as the sun, so utterly captivating'" (Song of Solomon, 6:10, TLB). "A working church is a living church. ... It is not ...great display that **God requires**, but the **harmonious action of a peculiar people...**" which must take the place of "...cold formalism that is now prevailing among us. [Cold formalism] **MUST [surrender] to the living energy of experimental godliness**" (Gospel Workers 1892, p. 137).

Medical Missionary, p. 332.

A Living Church: "The Lord is calling upon the men and women who have the light of truth for this time to engage in genuine, personal missionary work. ...There are great blessings in store for those who fully surrender to the call of God. As such workers undertake to win souls for Jesus, they will find that many who never could be reached in any other way will respond to intelligent personal effort."

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Heaven's Guidelines for Church Structure:

Our Only Safety: 'It is written.' "...Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Cor 2:5, NKJV). "...You break the law of God in order to protect your man-made tradition..." (Mark 7:13, TLB). "...The Lord pleads with you still: 'Ask where the good road is, the godly paths you used to walk in, in the days of long ago. Travel there and you will find rest for your souls..." (Jer 6:16, TLB). Let us journey together along the good road and discover what Jesus wants!

Gospel Workers, 1915, p. 171, 175-176.

Short Sermon: ['Preach short' (Evangelism, p. 183)]. "The one appointed to conduct Sabbath services should ...not always give so long a discourse that there will be no opportunity for those present to confess Christ. **The sermon should frequently be short, so that the people may express their thanks giving to God.** Gratitude-offerings glorify the name of the Lord. In every assembly of the saints holy angels listen to the praise offered to Jehovah in testimony, song, and prayer.

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 361.

Interactive Sabbath Service with Bible Reading, Prayers & Testimonies: "...Our Sabbath meetings should... [give] opportunity... for those who love God to express their gratitude and adoration. ...It is NOT necessary... to preach a sermon or to occupy a large part of the time of service. **A short, interesting Bible reading will often be of greater benefit than a sermon.** And this can be followed by a meeting for prayer and testimony."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 7, p. 19.

Not Expect a Sermon Every Sabbath: "There are times when it is fitting for our ministers to give on the Sabbath, in our churches, short discourses, full of the life and love of Christ. But **the church members are not to expect a sermon every Sabbath.** ... Our ministers are NOT to spend their time laboring for those who have already accepted the truth"

Counsels for the Church, p. 249-250, 265 & 269-270

Reverence in God's Presence: "The little companies assembled to worship God on His holy day ...**should believe that the Lord Jesus is an honored guest in their assemblies**" (Exo 31:13). "...The Lord is in His holy temple..." (Hab 2:20, NKJV). "...Reverence My sanctuary..." (Lev 26:2). "Common talking, whispering and laughing should NOT be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. ...If when the people come into the house of worship, they have genuine reverence for the Lord and bear in mind that they are in His presence, there will be a sweet eloquence in silence. ...True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. ...When the meeting is opened by prayer, every knee should bow in the presence of the Holy One, and every heart should ascend to God in silent devotion.

Sabbath Etiquette: "It is as ruthless a violation of the law to occasionally use the Sabbath for secular business as to entirely reject it; for it is making the Lord's commandments a matter of convenience. ...To keep the Sabbath holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character."

Gently Reprove Sabbath Violators: "**Ministers of Jesus should stand as reproves to those who fail to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.** They should kindly and solemnly reprove those who engage in worldly conversation upon the Sabbath and at the same time claim to be Sabbath keepers. They should encourage devotion to God upon His holy day

Public Prayers: "...Prayers offered in public should be short and to the point. ...Many tedious prayers are offered, which are more like giving the Lord a lecture.... It would be better if those offering such prayers would confine themselves to the one that Christ taught His disciples to offer. ...It is often because secret prayer is neglected that long, tedious prayers are offered in public. ...**Such prayers frequently result in bringing others down to a low level of spirituality.**"

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Translating Rhetoric into Action

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 51.

Invest in Bank of Heaven: [Church budget is a tool for soul winning]. "...Make an investment in the bank of heaven." "We are now upon the very borders of the eternal world..." (Counsels for the Church, p. 83).

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 244.

Lay Members to Go Forth: "...The time has come when every means should be devised... [to prepare] a people to stand in the day of God. ...Do all that [you]... can to win souls to love God and keep His commandments."

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 8, p. 21.

No Progress without Holy Spirit: "The disciples... were weighted with the burden of souls; ...they claimed the endowment... [and] the Holy Spirit was poured out; [and 1,000s] were converted in a day. So it may be now. ...Christians, put away all dissension and give [yourselves] to God for... saving... the lost [Matthew 5:23]. ...The absence of the Spirit... makes... gospel ministry... powerless."

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 50.

Prioritize & Plan: "When... minor matters occupy the attention ...divine power, ...for the growth and prosperity of the church... is lacking.... ...Christians... should gather to ask for... heavenly wisdom... [to] know how to plan and execute wisely. ...The Spirit with God's workers...give proclamation of truth...power...."

The Desire of Ages, p. 584.

Stop Talking & Do: "...Christ's act of cursing the tree... [is] a warning to all churches and... Christians. Those who live for self are like the fig tree, which made every pretension, but was fruitless. No one can live the law of God without ministering to others. ...Some who think themselves excellent Christians do not understand what constitutes service for God. They observe the forms of worship, but without repentance or faith. They say, but do not."

Some Preventative Maintenance Activities

Gospel Workers, 1892, p. 51.

Careful Selection of Speakers: "The reason why there has been so little accomplished by those who preach the truth, is not wholly that the truth they bear is unpopular, but that the [people] who bear the message are not sanctified by the truths they preach. The Savior withdraws his smiles, and the inspiration of his Spirit is not upon them. ...Unconsecrated ministers make the work very hard for those who follow after them, and who have the burden and spirit of the work upon them."

Patriarchs & Prophets, p. 437.

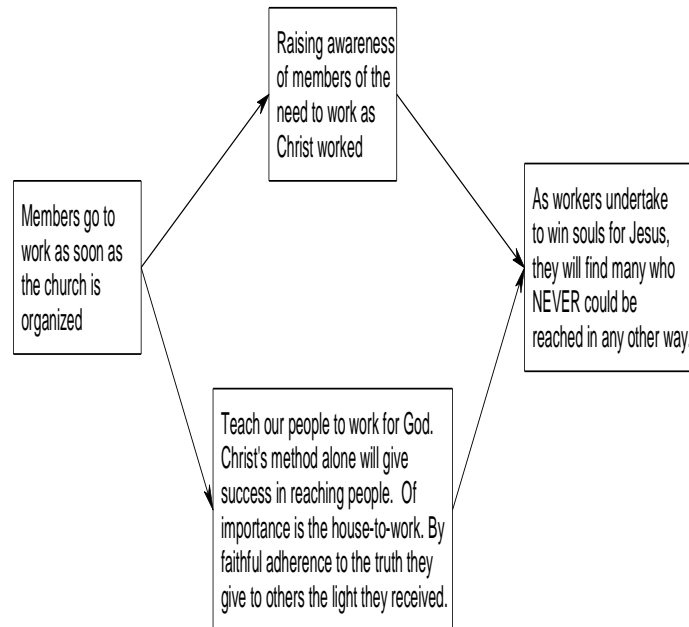
Emphasize Obedience above Sacrifice: ["Rebellion is as bad as... witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshipping idols. ...Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, He has rejected you..." (1 Sam 15:23, TLB)]. "...God still tests His people. And if they fail to endure the trial, He brings them again to the same point, and the second time the trial will... be more severe than the preceding. This is continued until they bear the test, or, if they are still rebellious, God withdraws His light from them and leaves them in darkness."

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 266-267.

Deal with Delinquency: ["...It takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others" (Gal 5:9, TLB). "Remove this evil cancer... from among you, so that you can stay pure" (1 Cor 5:7, TLB)]. "Men [and women] cannot with impunity—[freedom from punishment, harm or loss]—reject the warnings that God in mercy sends them. ...Those who persist in turning from these warnings, God withdraws His Spirit.... ...[And Paul]... enjoined upon the church to separate from their fellowship anyone who should persist in disregarding the instruction given by God's ministers. Yet, he added, 'count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.'"

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Expanding Current Opportunities for Birthing a Living Church!
"A Great Work is to be Accomplished; Broader Plans Must be Laid" (Test, Vol. 5. p.187).



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Sabbath Church Service (SDA Church Manual, 17th Edition, p.96, 80 & John 12:35, NKJV)

1. Announcements
 - a. Related to Sabbath & work of the church (p. 80)
 - b. "All the service should be conducted with solemnity and awe, as if in the visible presence of the Master of assemblies" (CCh, p. 250).
2. Congregation Response
 - a. Hymns (of praise & adoration)
 - b. Prayer
 - i. Short and to the point (p.80, CCh, p.292).
 - c. Offering (for gospel work)
 - d. Hymn or Special Music
3. [Message from the Word]
 - a. Preach Short – Evan p. 183
 - b. "A short, interesting Bible reading will often be of greater benefit than a sermon. And after this can be followed a meeting for prayer and testimony" (CCh, p. 265).
4. Hymn
5. Benediction
6. Silent Prayer
 - a. "Common talking, whispering and laughing should not be permitted... either before or after the service" (CCh, p. 249).