

FIGHTING THE NOBLE WARFARE

THE ATTACK ON THE CORPORATE TESTIMONY

Paul has been a vessel of the testimony of Jesus, and in that testimony he declares: “I have fought the noble fight.” Now this is a difficult subject to speak on. We are reticent to talk about the devil, the enemy, and his works because we must not give him undue credit. We see from the Bible that—especially in the last days—when the enemy is exposed for the evil that he is and he knows that his time is short, then he fights against the testimony of Jesus.

Most of you remember that picture in Revelation, chapter 12. As the chapter opens we see a woman in heaven about to give birth, and directly in front of her is the devil himself who wants to devour this child. This is a picture of his hatred for the testimony of Jesus. And so, although we do not want to speak too much of him and his ways, neither do we want to be ignorant of his schemes. And so we see our brother Paul passing on to Timothy instructions and revelations regarding the realities of the last days.

II Timothy 2:14-26—Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearer. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.’ Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

II Timothy 4:1-5—I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Let us pray:

Our Father, we thank You for the revelation in Your precious word. Even as Your Spirit tells us that in the last days there will be great complication and trouble in the church, we hold before

us these scenes presented in the word, and we measure them against Your promise: “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Help us in these last days to stand in the victory of Your building work, and pour out Your grace upon us that we may endure whatever hardships are necessary to pay the price for Your testimony. Now dear Lord, refresh us by Your Spirit. Give us attentiveness and open hearts. We thank You for this time together, and we pray in the precious name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE LARGE HOUSE

This portion of Scripture from II Timothy shows us the context in which Paul says, “I have fought the noble fight.” And here Paul is instructing Timothy as to the way of the recovery of the testimony in the time of the large house. You will notice in chapter 2:20 that Paul says, “In a large house, there are various vessels.” We know that there was a clear testimony of the Lord Jesus on the earth because each of the churches that were gathered in different locations held the candlestick of the testimony of Jesus. And by the time of Paul’s writing thirty-some years after the church had begun, there had been tremendous growth and many people had been saved. But with this tremendous growth, there had come about a loosening of the truth that is in Jesus.

We notice in I Timothy 3:14-15 that Paul talks about the church of the living God: “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

How wonderful was the church! She preached the true gospel of Jesus Christ; but she also lived in the reality of the life of Jesus Christ so much so that the church could be said to have the pillar and support of the truth. This meant that if anybody attended one of those assemblies—above the preaching and above the activities—people could see the Lord Jesus in the midst. But when we get to II Timothy, we have this picture of a large house. In my own understanding, of course, we do not have this defined any further. But I believe that it is an indication of something that has begun to change.

When the church is in its state of grace, there is a gathered life together and ministry in the kingdom. But when we read II Timothy, we see that the kingdom work has greatly expanded. There are many servants of God traveling from place to place preaching the kingdom gospel, but among these many workers who are going out, not all of them are noble vessels. Some are gold and silver; some are earthen. And even though the kingdom gospel was going out, it seems as though the emphasis was being changed to ministry. There were many workers in kingdom ministry, but the assessment had changed. The standard in the church is the life of Jesus, but as the kingdom work expanded, there had come other standards. There were some people who aligned themselves with the gold vessels, others with the silver vessels. There are many vessels in the large house, but there can be only one standard in the church—that is the life of Jesus Christ. The church is not a comparison of who is a better preacher. The church is an assembly with the Lord Jesus in the midst.

Timothy wanted to be a faithful servant, but there was a proliferation of many servants and even some compromise there among those workers. What is Timothy to do? Should he forsake the assembling of the brethren? If the church becomes corrupt, is it better to pull out of the church? Or should Timothy start to organize Keswick conventions and speak on the matter of the overcomer on an individual basis? No, he is not to do these things because the testimony of Jesus is a corporate testimony. And we can see in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, that there are those who hold the testimony of Jesus and overcome in all seven of those churches. And so Paul is

telling Timothy to be faithful, to continue to preach sound doctrine, to endure hardship, even realizing in those days there were servants of God who just tickled the ears. Nevertheless, Timothy was to be faithful there in Ephesus or wherever he was ministering the word of God.

GOD'S STANDARD FOR HIS HOUSE

In the large house, there is confusion. Who is the gold vessel? Who is the silver vessel? What are the standards? And Paul reminds Timothy that God has a standard. We see in chapter 2:19 that the firm foundation of God stands, and there are two inscriptions on this seal that are stamped upon His children. First, the Lord knows those who are His. Our God is not confused by the multitude of professing Christians. Many may say: "Lord, Lord," but the Lord knows those who are His. And the second part of the sealed inscription is that everyone who names the name of the Lord abstains from wickedness.

Hence, we can see that Timothy has a noble fight to fight for the testimony of Jesus in the corporate or in the church. And this is the fight: "Timothy, bear the testimony of Jesus in such a way that others may be encouraged by that testimony, and you can be an honorable vessel for the recovery of God's testimony."

THE TESTIMONY OF THE CHURCH

Now we just want to look at the schemes of the devil in regard to this corporate testimony. We know from our Lord Jesus that the enemy comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy; and this is certainly true regarding the testimony of the church. His schemes are very much the same as we have looked at regarding the individual. His goal is to draw the church out from under the headship of the Lord Jesus, and he will use two methods that we will speak of here. One method is by deception whereby he draws us out from under the headship of Jesus Christ. The second strategy is to wear the saints down.

Right at the beginning we have to admit that the enemy, with all his schemes, has no power over us as long as we walk in the light. But the enemy has an ally within the church—our flesh. And that is usually his plan of attack to take the testimony and steal it from the church. Of course, he cannot do it if we are holding fast to the Head, if we are living by the life of the Holy Spirit and sensitive to the Spirit's anointing, if we gather together with first love and simple devotion to our Lord Jesus, and if we do the first works.

As you might recall, He told the church of Ephesus in Revelation to repent and do the first works. Now this is variously defined, but I think it is pretty simple. We are to worship the Lord with all our heart, gather together and pray in the Spirit, fellowship with one another and share what we have, and witness the gospel. Now we know that the enemy cannot really touch such a church. More than that, the Lord is jealous for His church and He does protect us and put a hedge about us. We are protected from the enemy much more than we ever realize, because the Lord loves His church and wants to prepare her to be His bride.

LIFE REPLACED BY RELIGION

However, the enemy has his schemes, and the first way he would draw us out from under the headship of our Lord Jesus is by replacing the life of the Lord Jesus with religion. If we had to look at Paul's letters and speak upon that which he battled against the most, it would be the inception of religion among the saints. There is something in our fallen flesh that loves religion.

In the churches of Galatia, there were probably many new Christians just full of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God. Here comes some teachers who say, “Oh, you are not circumcised. Do you truly want to be a holy man of God? Then you must be circumcised.” Those young Christians may have thought: “Well, it hurts, so it must be religious and therefore good. I will prove my loyalty.” But Paul said to them: “Do not let anybody steal that liberty you have in Christ Jesus.”

SATAN INVENTED RELIGION

Religion is the enemy’s first inroad. Does that surprise you? You would not think the devil would want to introduce religion. But actually, he invented religion—in Babylon. You remember how the sons of men tried to climb the tower of Babel to be like God. Satan says, “I want to be like God.” And from the earliest days, before even Babylon became the first of the four great empires, it had developed a very intricate religious system. By this religion you could control your fate and destiny. By this religion you could appease an angry god. The Babylonian religion included astrology, the worship of many idols, the adoration of a virgin mother, a hierarchy of Magi. It is a very complex system, and Satan is behind the invention of religion. He especially loves it when religion gets into the church.

When we talk about religion, we do not mean good religion, the right kind of religion that James talks about (see 1:27). We are talking about the outward actions of man. The enemy would try to replace our grace-filled life with effort and works. He provides a counterfeit of duty for the simple devotion that we had. He replaces the simplicity of our devotion and life in Christ with a complicated religious knowledge—terms, phrases, and secrets, that can only be understood by those on the inside.

We are aware that Paul talks about mysteries in his letters, but he says they are all revealed by the Holy Spirit to God’s children who are in Christ Jesus. It is our birthright as born again people to understand the mystery of God, the mystery of Christ, the mystery of Christ in us, the mystery of the gospel. These are ours! But religion is very complicated. I have to admit, I have heard Christian messages that are so complicated I cannot understand them. This matter of religion is so subtle.

I want to ask you a few questions to consider. How did the seven churches in Revelation get that way? How did religion come in and replace first love? How could Thyatira worship and discuss the deep things of Satan and have a false prophetess leading the assembly? How does religion get in? It is so amazing, isn’t it? Another question: how did the Catholic Church get the way it is with so many superstitions, magic replacing faith, a hierarchy of levels of ministers. That was the church back in the first century. How did they accumulate all of this religious business? Surely we could ask that question throughout church history, and perhaps we should ask it even of ourselves today. How could that which began in recovery in Germany, in England, or in China become what it is today? The enemy hates the recovery of the testimony of Jesus. It is a mystery. How did the leaven of flesh get into the lump? How did that mustard bush become a huge tree upon which evil birds nest? When did the enemy sow those tares into the field of wheat? Even as Jesus says in the parable of the wheat and tares, “An enemy has done this.”

FALSE DOCTRINES AND TEACHERS

The second matter of deception works right along with the first one of religion. We see from the Scriptures that the second scheme of the devil is to raise up doctrines and teachers to deceive.

We will look at some Scriptures from Romans so you can see what Paul and the others are saying about this matter. We realize that the church in Rome was still a young church, but this deception of teaching could already be seen by Paul.

“Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting” (16:17-18).

In the letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4:14, Paul is talking about the growth and maturity of the church: “As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by the craftiness in deceitful scheming.”

And we know by the time of the apostle John’s letters, those deceitful teachers were everywhere. We will look at II John 7: “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.” This shows us that the enemy’s scheme and device is sending out deceitful teachers.

Now we will go to I and II Timothy. Our brother Timothy has a lot on his plate as a servant of God, and much of it involves dealing with false teachings and deceptions.

I Timothy 1:3: “As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.”

Chapter 1:18: “This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.”

Chapter 4:1: “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

Chapter 6:20: “O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.”

II Timothy 2:18: “Men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.”

Chapter 3:6: “For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses.”

Chapter 3:13: “But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Now these are just in the letters to Timothy, and this is still in the earlier days of the church. But the spirit explicitly says that the enemy will use deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, and these teachings will draw us away from our Lord Jesus Christ.

TEACHERS WHO ARE COMPROMISED

Now I would like to summarize these various passages with three different deceptions. First, there are teachers whose morals and conscience are compromised. Paul says, “We must keep faith and a good conscience.” However, some have been shipwrecked, but they are still teaching.

But once you live in deception—that is, pretending to be righteous when you are not—your teaching will be a deception because you will develop doctrines that affirm your own flesh.

TEACHERS DRAWN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH IN JESUS

There is also a second group of these teachers who have been drawn away from the truth as it is in Jesus. In Ephesians 4:20-21 we see a very important principle. When Paul is exhorting the Ephesians to turn away from the ways of the world, he says, “But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.”

Those who teach, who are apostles and prophets and teachers in the body of Christ, must teach the truth as it is in Jesus. And what does Paul mean by this? In this particular instance he says, “You can see by looking at Jesus and His life as He walked on earth how we ought to walk. We are to walk as Jesus walked, and you have learned this. This is the truth in Jesus.

In Jesus, there is a balance of truth. He is both human and divine. And there is both a normal human aspect to our life and a spiritual aspect. Jesus is the truth. He is the truth objectively and the reality subjectively. When we discover the truth in Jesus, there is a balance in our teaching. But if we turn from this truth, teachers fall into deception. As an example, teachers might become obsessed with a particular doctrine. Now we know all truth has to be held in a balance, but when we overemphasize a particular doctrine, we lose balance and fall into deception. Even though it is an aspect of truth out of balance, it becomes extreme and leads people astray.

We see as we read these various verses that some of these teachers have left the truth in Jesus and followed after the philosophy of this world. Now, they begin to teach from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They develop complex doctrines, theories, speculations, and philosophies. But they do not promote truth; rather, they promote religion.

TEACHERS LED AWAY BY DECEIVING SPIRITS

Then there is a third kind of teacher, and they have been led astray by deceiving spirits. We read this in I Timothy 4:1: “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”

People can be deceived by what they think is the Holy Spirit when really it is evil spirits. And so John tells us in his first letter: “Test the spirits” (see 4:1a). There is the Spirit of truth and the spirit of hell. And our Lord Jesus exposed those who held the deep things of Satan in the church of Thyatira.

You are probably wondering why we even bother to share this. We are aware that today, in Christendom, there are many deceitful spirits. There are those who are empowered by spirits producing counterfeit experiences, and many of God’s people are being taken captive. We are not talking even of far off lands but even here in America it is happening.

In 2008 I spoke to the young people here. I was talking about the truth in Christ, and I happened to mention a so-called revival that was going on in the United States that was being driven by evil spirits. The evangelist himself said he was channeling an angel named Emma and that there were orbs just above him and a hole where he could go up into heaven. So he would go up into the third heaven, and during the meeting, he would tell people to watch out for the angel dust that would fall upon them by which they would be healed. You probably think I am telling a joke, it is so outrageous. Thousands and thousands of people went to this revival from all over the world. They finally had to close it because the evangelist was committing adultery with a woman there, and because of it, he lost his marriage. Therefore, they forced him to stop. When I shared this with the young people, some of them came up afterwards and disputed with me,

telling me that it was a real revival of God. When you see Christians fall under a spell, their eyes glaze over, and they become passive, there is something wrong. These kinds of things are rampant throughout the church.

FALSE WORKERS IN DISGUISE

How can this deception happen? In II Corinthians 11:13 it says, “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

Deceitful teachers look righteous. They claim to be servants of righteousness. They smile; they praise God; they pray; they say they live right. This is their disguise. And they tell people, “This is the right way, this will help you, and this will bless you.” Just as Satan disguises himself, so do deceitful workers.

PEOPLE DO NOT LOVE THE TRUTH

But there is a second thing about this deception in II Thessalonians where Paul is speaking of the coming of the antichrist in the last days. “That is, the one whose coming [the antichrist] is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false” (2:9-11).

Now it is right here that we see our shortcoming. People do not *love* the truth! It is almost as if their flesh *wants* to be deceived. As Paul says, “If somebody comes to you with another Christ or another spirit and talks to you about them, you receive them wonderfully.” That is what he says to the Corinthians. Where is their love of the truth? Where is *our* love of the truth? And so the church falls into deception and loses the testimony of Jesus.

THE WEARING DOWN OF THE SAINTS

There is a second strategy which I believe Satan especially uses on those who truly desire to stand for the Lord—those saints who want to bear the testimony of Jesus. You are probably familiar with the verse in Daniel, chapter 7. In this chapter we see that Daniel received a tremendous revelation about the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds of glory. But he also asked the angel for interpretation about some of the things he saw in his vision, and especially about this one horn that arises out of the ten horns of the fourth beast which is the antichrist.

“And the antichrist will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time” (v. 25).

This work of wearing down is what the antichrist will do when he comes upon this earth in a manifest form. But even today, the enemy will wear down—and wear down—those who would hold the testimony. As this world blasphemes God more and more, it vexes our souls, and the enemy presses us and puts pressure on us to come out from underneath the Lord Jesus. We are called to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, but the constant pressure begins to cause people to react to one another in the flesh. As in the church of Philippi, Euodia, and Syntyche, fellow workers of Paul, began to have an issue with each other. As we live together,

we have to embrace the cross and receive one another in the love of Jesus Christ. But different temperaments and personalities cause conflict in our midst if we are not careful.

Sometimes, the enemy is able to oppress us by sitting on our meetings. I have been in a number of meetings where I could just feel some kind of heaviness over it. Then in the course of time, perhaps we sing a song about the majestic victory in Jesus, and the oppression goes. But the enemy is always bringing pressure upon us to wear us down. As Paul told Timothy, “People will become tired of sound doctrine and want their ears tickled instead.” At other times, the weight of the cross becomes tiresome, especially when we are disobedient, and we look for some new and liberating experience.

Many times in our assemblies, as we feel this pressure upon us, the leadership is tempted to take the meetings into their own hands and run it with human power, and it may sound like this: “So here is what we will do. We will shorten the meeting.” Oh, less pressure! “Ok, brother, only speak 20 minutes.” Less pressure! Or, we organize the meeting, bring in special features, novelties, try to do anything except what the Lord wants us to do, which is come and bow down before His throne and ask Him to give us an open heaven. And if we are not careful, we will even end up doing things in our worship which is not at all in the Spirit.

THE WEARING DOWN OF THE LEADERSHIP

But we know that the vulnerable place in wearing down an assembly is to attack the leaders. Now leaders have enough problems with their flesh, ambitions, and all of that, the same as the rest of us. But we have all seen how the enemy attacks the health, the family, and the well-being of the leaders in the assembly. We should really pray for our responsible brothers. They are working their jobs like everybody else and still giving of themselves. But they are a target of the enemy.

Often we see our leadership getting older and feeble, and often they make this mistake. They have been faithful, but they have not raised up Timothys to carry on. And then the enemy begins to work in his strategies.

When it comes to attacking the testimony, he is not one dimensional but multi-dimensional. There is a dear brother and sister, and suddenly they decide they should retire—but not from a job. “We have been serving God in the assembly long enough. It is time for somebody else. We quit.” At the same time, one of the responsible leaders gets a job and moves far away. Suddenly, the enemy attacks, and we are not ready. He attacks from several sides, and we suffer loss. This is a reality among assemblies that desire to hold the testimony of Jesus.

BE FAITHFUL

What is Timothy to do when he sees all this going on? He cannot produce this testimony even when he sees the church in declension. What are we to do when these things happen? The first thing is to wait because God knows. The Scriptures clearly tell us that the Lord knows these things are going to happen. The Lord knows those who are His. He predicted these things would happen. But we see something wonderful in the mysteries of the kingdom of God. The Lord is using all of this tribulation, even these setbacks, for something secret and something wonderful. What is it? The Lord has a treasure buried in this field. The Lord sees His precious pearl being developed. Behind the seeming victories of the enemy is actually the waiting of the Lord for His bride to be prepared. The Lord knows. So what should we do? “Timothy, be faithful. Fight the noble fight. Preach the word. Preach sound doctrine. Do the work of an evangelist.” We need to be faithful.

Will you be faithful to the Lord even though things decline around you? There is something the Lord is doing. He is creating a noble vessel. He is teaching us how to overcome by His life. Why does Timothy need to be faithful and continue to preach? The church needs to repent but can only repent if it sees its true state. The church will not repent if she thinks she is doing good, like Laodicea. But perhaps, through the preaching of the truth, some will repent and come to this truth. So be faithful.

PRAY FOR A REVIVAL OF THE CHURCH

There is another thing we need to do, and that is to gather together with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart (see II Timothy 2:22). We fear the Lord, pray to the Lord, intercede, and ask the Lord to revive His work. Do you have this prayer in your heart that was in Habakkuk? “Lord, revive thy church in the midst of the years” (see 3:2). Do you think the Lord will not hear your prayers? We need to gather in faith and confess our sins as an assembly and ask the Lord to revive us.

Here is a prayer in Isaiah, and it seems to me that the Lord must answer this prayer. Oh, how the Lord wants to reveal His Son in all His glory. “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence—as fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence!” (64:1-2). This is a prayer for revival. We are asking the Lord to open the heavens and reveal Himself.

Revivals always result in many people being saved. But actually, revival comes when the people of God repent and get right with God. Oh, rend the heavens and come down. And then the Lord can recover His people. The Lord knows and desires a testimony on this earth. For the glory of His Son, the Lord *must* have a testimony of Jesus upon this earth. Will it be among us? Or will He pass us by? The Lord’s eyes look to and fro across the earth for those who have a heart for the testimony. It is not a matter of how perfect we are, but what is our heart? Do we want to see the Lord recover His testimony? The Lord is looking for such people to bring recovery—to recover His testimony.

You find the Lord raising up those who can stand for the testimony. History teaches us that He uses vessels who have a connection with that which happened in the past to pass the torch to the next generation. History teaches us that He sovereignly connects them to other people who have the same heart. It also teaches us that the Lord can quickly recover what has been lost. When you read through church history and see those moments of recovery, it is truly a work of wonder how the Lord was able to recover the reality of the church among some simple people.

The Lord knows those who are His. The Lord has His purpose and His time. Now, are we willing to fight the noble fight for this corporate testimony? Oh, that the Lord’s life might be the standard of our assembly again. May He find some young people with a heart for Him who will bring in the next recovery. Surely it is time for the Lord to revive His work. Surely it is time for the Lord to recover His testimony again. May He find those pure hearts before Him and in His mercy open heaven once again.

Let us pray:

Revive Your church in the midst of the years, oh Lord—not for our sakes but for Your sake. And we pray that Your Son would be glorified. Help us to be faithful and fight the good fight. Give us wisdom and keep us from deception. We say that the Lord Jesus Christ is our Lord, and that there is no oppression of the enemy that can hold us down. Help us to stand in the victory of

Calvary. Gather us together with those with a pure heart that You may recover Your church in these days. We pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen.