

WHAT KIND OF MEN GOD NEEDS

Saturday, February 5, 2011

Text: 2Timothy 2:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Earlier in 2nd Timothy, we saw **"What Kind Of Men God Makes"** ... *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV)
 - a. Fearless men
 - b. Strong men
 - c. Loving men
 - d. Sound men

2. In **2Ti 2:2**, *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* we now find Paul giving a charge to Timothy...
 - a. To teach others what Paul had taught him
 - b. Who in turn would be able to teach others

3. In this charge we learn how the Lord's church was to propagate itself...
 - a. Those who are taught teaching others
 - b. A continuous cycle of learning and teaching

[A very effective and quite adequate method, but it works only when the right kind of men are to be found. From our text (**2Ti 2:2**), consider **"What Kind Of Men God Needs"**; e.g., He needs...]

I. GOD NEEDS FAITHFUL MEN

A. FAITHFUL TO THE LORD...

1. Just as the Lord Himself was faithful, as was Moses - *"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house."* (Hebrews 3:1-3 NKJV)

2. Just as Paul himself was counted faithful - *"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,"* (1 Timothy 1:12 NKJV)

-- Men whom the Lord can trust, depend

B. FAITHFUL TO THE WORD...

1. Holding fast the pattern of sound words, in love and faith - *"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."* (2 Timothy 1:13 NKJV)

2. Continuing in the things one has learned - *"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,"* (2 Timothy 3:14 NKJV)
-- Men who preach the truth of God, and practice what they preach

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C. FAITHFUL TO THE CHURCH...

1. Their own brothers and sisters among whom they will serve the Lord on their behalf.
2. Serving their brethren like Epaphras did the church at Colosse - *“since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, :6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; :7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,” (Colossians 1:4–7 NKJV)*

-- Men whom the local church can trust, depend

[In other words, men "...who not only have received the grace of God, and are true believers in Christ, but are men of great uprightness and integrity; who having the word of God, will speak it out boldly, and faithfully, and keep back nothing that is profitable, but declare the whole counsel of God, without any mixture or adulteration; for the Gospel being committed to their trust, they would become stewards, and of such it is required that they be faithful; and therefore this is mentioned as a necessary and requisite qualification in them..." (Gill).

From our text we note that God also needs...]

II. GOD NEEDS TEACHABLE MEN

A. WILLING TO BE TAUGHT BY OTHERS...

1. Unless men are willing to be taught, God's method won't work!
2. Timothy himself provides a good example:
 - a. Willing first to be taught by his mother and grandmother - cf. *“when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.” (2 Timothy 1:5 NKJV)*

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 2Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14–15 NKJV)

- b. Willing to go with Paul and be taught by him - cf. *“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.:2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.:3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” (Acts 16:1–3 NKJV)*

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-- Men who willing to be students first, then teachers

B. WILLING TO BE TAUGHT BY THEMSELVES...

1. Self-study is an important part of preparing to teach - *“Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Timothy 4:13–16 NKJV)*
2. As illustrated by Ezra the priest - *“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10 NKJV)*

-- Men who do not wait for others to teach them, but study on their own!

[In other words, men who take advantage of every opportunity to learn; whether it be at the feet of someone else, or in the privacy of their own study. They love the truth that much! Then notice that God needs...]

III. GOD NEEDS TEACHING MEN

A. WILLING TO TEACH OTHER MEN...

1. Unless men are willing to teach others, God's method won't work!
2. Again, Timothy provides a good example:
 - a. What he learned from Paul, he was willing to tell others - *“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” (1 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV)*
 - b. Paul could depend upon him to teach others - *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,” (1 Timothy 1:3 NKJV)*
3. Teaching others makes one a faithful minister of Christ - *“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.” (1 Timothy 4:6 NKJV)*

-- Men who do not keep the truth they love to themselves, but share it with others!

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B. WILLING TO TEACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITIES...

1. Not everyone serves as a teacher in a formal sense - *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?” (1 Corinthians 12:29 NKJV)*

“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” (James 3:1 NKJV)

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,” (Ephesians 4:11 NKJV)

2. But everyone should be able to teach others something - *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.” (Hebrews 5:12 NKJV)*

a. Men have different abilities - *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:10–11 NKJV)*

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:3–8 NKJV)

b. Even those who serve with their hands can teach others how to do so.

-- Men who teach whatever skills and abilities they may have!

CONCLUSION

1. For the gospel to spread and the Lord's church to grow, God needs the right kind of men...
 - a. Men who are faithful
 - b. Men who are teachable
 - c. Men who will teach

-- I.e., men willing to serve the Lord!

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In whatever way that is keeping with our abilities and God's will, everyone should be both student and teacher. Remember the words of the Psalmist...

"A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this." - [Ps 22:30-31](#)

"Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come." - [Ps 71:18](#)

"We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children," - [Ps 78:4-6](#)

"One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts." - [Ps 145:4](#)

If everyone was a student and teacher like yourself, would the Lord's church be in existence in the next generation...?