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## C.O.G.A. LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

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TOPIC:

# "The Greatest Calling" (Part 2)

FACILITATOR:

**Bishop Cecil Reid**



CHURCH OF GOD APOSTOLIC, INC.  
PO Box 1686, N. Wilkesboro, NC. 28659  
Telephone (336) 772-2922

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# "The Greatest Calling" (Part 2)

By: Bishop Cecil Reid

## Objectives:

To encourage and strengthen the minister and his proficiency in ministry and to consolidate congregations.

**Before Time:** "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"  
(Ephesians 1:4)

## Scripture:

**2 Timothy 4:1-5, 6-7 (NKJV) Paul's Valedictory / Farewell**

## IV. Preach the Word!

### A. The one program the church can't do without – Preaching the Word of God!

### B. Why?

1. Without it, the church would cease to be a church.
2. Spiritual malnutrition or Anemia would produce a slow and painful death of carnality that would spread throughout the communities, cities, states, and nations.
3. The word "Iccickbar" would replace our church logo sign.
4. JESUS the "Word"/ Logos would be ushered out of our sanctuaries
5. The Worship of God would be replaced with Self-worship or humanism
6. Our Children will again be offered on the alter Baal and made to walk through the fire
7. The Communion Table would become a banquet table to devils, while we dance to the loud disco beat under flashing scrub lighting!!!
8. There would be no righteous guidelines for homes, marriages, businesses, and government.
9. Hell would be totally released and beautified on planet earth!

## V. The Source of our message

**A. Malachi 2:7** – "For the **priest's lips** should keep knowledge, and they should seek the Law at his mouth: For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts."

**B. Whenever we stand before people to preach**, we are:

1. Recognizing the deity of Jesus Christ
2. Recognizing His righteous judgment

3. Recognizing His return
4. Recognizing His kingdom present and future

**C. The Five Imperatives** (requirement – essentials) **for preaching the word:**

1. **PREACH THE WORD** – to proclaim aloud publicly
  - a. Why Not Sing? - Your musician may not show up.
2. Preaching indicates the **urgency** of the message
  - a. God has spoken and we must deliver his message
  - b. "The King's business demands hast" (1 Sam.21:3)
3. Preaching indicates the **priority** of the message
  - a. Not theories or personal opinions
4. Preaching indicates the **authority** of the message
  - a. You have been given divine authority to preach and must answer to him that gave such authority.
5. Preaching is the **barometer** of the health of the congregation
  - a. It reveals: **How seriously they take** worship and the preaching of God's word.
  - b. If they cannot position themselves under the preaching and teaching of God's word, **they must be struggling in other areas of their walk with Christ.**
  - c. When a dog scratches you know that he has fleas, when a believer has itching ears, you know that he has a sound doctrine deficiency. (**Verses 3-4**)
    1. **not enduring** sound doctrine
    2. **lusting for lies** and turning their ears from the truth
    3. **collecting many teachers** who will tell them what they want to hear
6. Preaching is an **act of divine grace**
  - a. **Jonah 3:2-4** – "and the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. 4. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried and said, '**Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.**' (Only 8 words)
    1. **The Time Element in preaching**
      - A. How long should the message be?
        1. How long does it take to repair your car? – That depends on what is wrong with it!
      2. **Paul preached all night** to those whom he would never see again – but it was punctuated with the miracle of raising their young man from the dead.

3. **The 2018 World Series Game 3**, which saw the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Boston Red Sox by 3-2 on a Max Muncy walk-off home run,
  - A. **It took 18 innings to complete the game**
  - B. **A total game time of 7 hours 20 minutes** (*Yogi Berra would have said: "it ain't over till it's over"*).
  - C. **56,000 attendees** (at Dodgers Stadium) **set outdoors for the entire game!**
  - D. **The cheapest ticket cost - \$ 882.00** and up!
  - E. **Why? – They love the game – they loved and support their team.**
  - F. **Jesus might have something to say about this.... Matt. 5:20** – *"Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."*
  - G. **2 Timothy 3:4** – *"Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."*
7. **Preaching is called the foolishness of God** (1 Cor. 1:18)
  - a. **1 Cor.1: 18** – "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."
8. **Preaching is to dismantle legalism**
  - a. **There is a legalist desire in all of us** – (*How much can I do and be safe/saved and talk about it to others*)
    1. How much of the foot, hand, mouth, or eyes need to be on the line before you are considered out of bounds?
    2. **Preaching is God's "instant replay!"**
    3. **You can't have worship without TRUTH** – The truth is the knife of God's word (Abraham and Isaac.)
9. **Every time we speak of Jesus, you create an atmosphere for miracles!** - **The atmosphere around you becomes charged, with both heaven and hell put on Amber Alert.**
  - a. **Peter at Cornelius house** – "While Peter yet spake these words (*the life, death, burial, resurrection, and reign of Jesus – vs. 36-43*), the Holy Ghost fill all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44).
  - b. **Peter and John before the Council** – "Commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus" (Acts 4:18) *Don't speak anymore in his name, because you bring his blood upon us.* (Acts 5:28).
  - c. **The cripple man at Lystra who heard Paul preach**, received faith for his healing and was commanded to stand upon his feet – "And he leaped and walked" (Acts 14:8-10)

- d. **"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that **every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10 –11)
  - e. **Jesus confirmed His word:** – "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them, confirming the word** with signs following." (Mark 16:20)
  - f. **Acts 14:3** - "long time, therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, **which gave testimony unto the word of his grace**, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."
  - g. **Hebrew 2:4** – "**God also bearing them witness**, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"
  - h. **The Hearts Burned in the disciples** as Jesus opened to them the scriptures about Himself (Luke 24:26, 27, **31 to 32**)
  - i. **As Jesus was teaching:** "The power of the Lord was present to heal them" (Luke 5:17).
  - j. **The 70 disciples told Jesus**, "The Devils are subject unto us through thy name." – Jesus responded: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:17 – 20)
  - k. **Healing in the church in Gaffney, SC.** during mealtime (no music)
  - l. **Healing of the lady with the broken arm in a cast**
  - m. **"I am not ashamed of the gospel** of Christ: for it is the power of God unto (something) salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Rom.1:16)
  - n. **Song:** "Sing it over again to me, the wonderful words of life." (Played on a ukulele)
10. Preaching, is God's way of **keeping the saltiness in the salt** (Matt. 5:13)
- a. As believers we are the salt of the earth – we preserve and season the world around us.
  - b. **Saltiness can leave the salt** rendering it "to be good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (vs.13).
  - c. There is no other way, or resource to produce salt crystals in the believer other than The Word of God.
11. **Jesus stands up to good preaching**
- a. **Stephen**, a newly appointed deacon of the church, was brought before the Council who were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke (6:10).
    - 1. He was so anointed that those who saw his face, saw it as the face of an angel (6:15).

2. His message (the longest in the New Testament), brought deep conviction and gnashing of teeth to his audience.
3. At such time Stephen said, "*Behold, I see the heavens open, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God.*" (Acts 7:56)
  - A. **(vs. 57–58)** – "Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him:"
  - B. **Jesus stands when He hears this kind of preaching!**

12. **Preaching provides the understanding for our song of triumph**

- a. **To Sing the New Song - The victory song of every redeemed Christian is recorded in Rev. 5:9,13**  
*"You are worthy ... For you were slain and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation... Blessings, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever."*
- b. **How could we have known the riches of his blessing, glory, and power to sing such an anthem? – ONLY BY THE PREACHING OF HIS WORD!**
- c. **That's our song**, the song that we will sing to our Savior. – **Learn the lyrics, – love and cherish them – let them become the fabric of your life – live them – that when we do sing, – all that is within us will glorify him!**
- d. Among this mass multitude – Will your voice be heard?