



Ten men slowly gathered on a windy, damp day for some food, fun, and fellowship. It was a special occasion because we were joined by two first timers to our event. They were a welcomed addition and jumped right in to the conversations and fellowship. Dick Zinn brought the doughnuts and bagels – you can't go wrong with doughnuts in the morning! While enjoying our breakfast some interesting conversations came up. Let see, there were talks about gun sniffing dogs, large candy bars and a garage door opener that has multiple attachments to include Bluetooth speakers, extension

cords and lasers to guide your car. In addition, like all old men do, ah, I meant "seasoned", we talked about aching body parts to include knees and elbows. I did find out that we have a concerned member who volunteered to hold down one of our veteran attendees if he agreed to have knee surgery. This thoughtful volunteer was concerned with saving our veteran from the cost of the anesthesia; what a true friend. We have a bowler in our group that rolled a 236 this week! Though he said it was for one game and not the combination of three games; some of us question that.

Mark Gimmi had devotions this morning and the topic was "The Second Epistle to Timothy, What Kind of Men God Needs." The mentoring relationship that existed between Paul and Timothy is clearly depicted in the New Testament. A careful examination of this relationship as it progressed reveals Paul's approach to mentoring Timothy as a minister of the gospel. This approach includes carefully selecting and training him as the right person for the job, equipping him for the tasks of ministry, empowering him for success, employing him for effectiveness, and communicating the value of their relationship.

Early in 2nd Timothy, we read "What Kind Of Men God Makes" (2 Timothy 1:7). He makes Fearless, Strong, Loving, and Sound men. We find Paul giving a charge to Timothy in 2:2 and that is to teach others what Paul had taught him, others would in turn be able to teach others. In this charge we learn how the Lord's church was to propagate itself by those who are taught teaching others there would be a continuous cycle of learning and teaching. Though a very effective and quite adequate method, but it works only when the right kind of men are to be found.

What kind of men does God need? He needs Faithful Men who are faithful to the Lord just as the Lord Himself was faithful, as was Moses - Hebrews 3:2. Just as Paul himself was counted faithful – 1 Timothy 1:12; men whom the Lord can trust and depend on. They need to be Faithful to the Word, holding fast the pattern of sound words, in love and faith- 2 Timothy 1:13. Continuing in the things one has learned – 2 Timothy 3:14. Men who preach the truth of God, and practice what they preach. They need to be Faithful to the Church and to their own brothers and sisters among whom they will serve the Lord on their behalf. Serving their brethren like Epaphras did the church at Colossae - Colossians 1:7. Men whom the local church can trust and depend.

God needs Teachable Men, willing to be taught by others. Unless men are willing to be taught, God's method will not work! Timothy himself provides a good example: Willing first to be taught by his mother and grandmother – 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15. Willing to go with Paul and be taught by him - Acts 16:1-3. -- Men who willing to be students first, then teachers. Willing to be taught by themselves.

Self-study is an important part of preparing to teach – 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Timothy 4:13,15-16. As illustrated by Ezra the priest - Ezra 7:10. 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!

God needs Teaching Men, willing to teach other men. Unless men are willing to teach others, God's method will not work! Again, Timothy provides a good example: What he learned from Paul, he was willing to tell others – 1 Corinthians 4:17. Paul could depend upon him to teach others – 1 Timothy 1:3. Teaching others makes one a faithful minister of Christ - 1 Timothy 4:6. Men who do not keep the truth they love to themselves, but share it with others!

God wants men willing to teach according to their abilities. Not everyone serves as a teacher in a formal sense - 1 Corinthians 12:29; Jeremiah 3:1; Ephesians 4:11. But everyone should be able to teach others something - Hebrews 5:12. Men have different abilities – 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:3-8. Even those who serve with their hands can teach others how to do so. Men who teach whatever skills and abilities they may have!

In conclusion, for the gospel to spread and the Lord's church to grow, God needs the right kind of men...men who are faithful, teachable, who will teach, and willing to serve the Lord! This need is not limited to those of the male gender, the Lord also needs...older women who are willing to teach younger women - Titus 2:3. Young women who are willing to learn from them - Titus 2:4-5. Women willing to serve the Lord!

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 Psalms...

"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." - Psalms 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." - Psalms 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," - Psalms 78:4-6.

"One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts." - Psalms 145:4.

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

Our next LCOC Men's Prayer breakfast will be Saturday, February 10th! Please do consider joining us as we have a great time sharing stories and jokes, eat pretty well, and learn a lot about ourselves, our beliefs, our faith. God's blessings unto all of you.