

American Council of Christian Churches
73rd Annual Convention, October 21-23, 2014
Bible Presbyterian Church, Apollo, Pennsylvania
“Resolution on the Conference Theme: Upholding the Faithful Word in Fearful Times”

The apostle Paul spoke to the young pastor Titus about what a bishop must be. He must be a man of God “holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Tit. 1:9). Gainsayers are the ever-present enemies of truth. Paul describes them as “many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake” (Tit. 1:10-11). They are religious but spiritually dangerous men. Their influence inflicts real damage to once faithful and thriving works of God. Their mouths must be stopped.

The apostle Paul also spoke about fearful times in his encouragement to young Timothy. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Like those who opposed Moses, these are “men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” (v. 8). Timothy needed to avoid such men and to continue in the things he had learned and of which he had become convinced.

Upholding the faithful Word in fearful times has always been the calling of the man of God. Elijah preached the Word of the Lord in days dominated by the priests of Baal and the wickedness of Ahab and Jezebel. The nameless man of God of 1 Kings 13 came from Judah by the Word of the Lord to denounce the apostasy of Jeroboam as the ten northern tribes were lost to apostasy. Jehu exposed the compromise of Jehoshaphat asking in the name of the Lord, “Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord” (2 Chron. 19:2). In Malachi, Haggai, Elisha, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and many others, today’s prophet finds scriptural precedent for facing the severe difficulty of his calling in our own perilous days.

Therefore, the American Council of Christian Churches, at its annual convention, October 21-23, 2014, at the Bible Presbyterian Church of Apollo, PA, gathers to encourage and to exhort one another to follow the example of holy men of old. Like the pastors of the churches of the New Testament and the prophets of Israel in the days of the Old Testament, we pray for courage in the call of God upon us in our day not to be silenced, but to speak boldly as we ought to speak. Enabled by the same Spirit that has always powerfully animated the man He calls to preach the Word of the Lord, we determine to be faithful to His charge in our day for the glory of our Savior’s name. By the grace of God upon us, we stand together to uphold the faithful word in fearful times.



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