

Balancing Teaching and Preaching, Pt. 2

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Preacher: Pastor Wolski

[0:00] I need to pass on a warning to everybody. Something came in the mail. A handwritten letter came in the mail to the church. And so I want to pass this on to the church.

And the statement is very short and succinct and very to the point. And it says, If you are not teaching and following God's word in Acts chapter 2, you are doing the devil's work and you will lose your soul.

End of statement. So I wanted to pass that on because if it's true, I don't want you people to lose your souls. And I don't want to be doing the devil's work either.

Acts chapter 2. So somebody's stuck on... I can tell you there's a little business card here with some Bible verses on it.

And then the last thing says, Read Acts chapter 2. Find out how God wants you to be added to his son's church. The only church God approves of and Jesus died for.

[1:06] And the reference for calling themselves... Let the cat out of the bag here. The church of Christ. The reference is Romans 16. The churches of Christ salute you. The only church in the New Testament...

The only church the New Testament letters are written to. Google Church of Christ and find the congregation near you.

So I'll just pass that on to everybody here. If you want to do that, go ahead and Google Church of Christ and find a congregation near you. And then you won't lose your soul. And you'll find out that you can be the one that Jesus died for, God approves of.

And a bunch of baloney. Acts chapter 2. The Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descending on the disciples. And them speaking with other tongues. And somebody wants signs so bad.

And then getting baptized in the name for the remission of sins. It's funny. If Acts chapter 2 is it. And if that's the pattern. Then what's up with Acts chapter 3 or 4 or 5 or 6?

[2:13] Why doesn't the Apostle Paul preach this stuff? Why is it just... Man, it's sorry. I'm not here to get into that. But I just wanted to pass on the warning.

So we're going to pick up where we were last Sunday. And last Sunday we spent the majority of the Sunday school hour kind of defending teaching.

And it really wasn't my desire to defend it. You may seem like it's not even necessary to do. But because there's been such a falling away from what some call the old paths of Bible preaching, and in our day it's not...

It's undeniable that pastors in many churches just give a talk or even meet in small groups. In many cases you go to service and there's not even a pastor to sit under.

There's just a group and a leader of the group. And you get to have discussions. And Bible preaching is just gone in several circles. Even in conservative, certain conservative Christian, maybe not King James Bible believing circles, but in some that are evangelical, preach the gospel, want to see souls saved.

[3:29] They still... The spirit of their services and delivery of the Word of God is just kind of an expository walk through the Bible thing that is more what we would put in the realm of teaching.

And so because this is happening, and there's this falling away from what some feel is just the old-fashioned straight shooting, old-time religion preaching, it's my contention and belief that many have overreacted in putting that down and exposing that.

They've overreacted in order to resurrect the thunder and to bring the book back into the churches. And in doing so, they've undermined Bible teaching. And I'm telling you, I'm not just making stuff up so I can have something to talk about here.

But what comes out of that is this emphasis on preaching so hard that it undermines or makes teaching seem secondary or of less importance. I've even heard preachers that I think are good preachers, but I don't know why they get off on us, but they make these comments.

They've even made comments of some good Bible institutions that are teaching and training men for the ministry. And they've made these off-handed comments like, all you're doing is sitting around in a classroom teaching, teaching, teaching.

[4:48] And I think, what is wrong with doing it? Why would somebody go off and shoot at that instead of shoot at the guys who aren't preaching the Bible? And so I want to bring us back into this balance.

I want to make sure our minds are set on what this is, what's right about it, and not overreact to anything that's happening in our day and get ourselves out of balance.

I remember, I don't know if it was my dad when he was here, or if it was another brother, maybe Brother Gipp was here. It might have been him, Brother Gipp, when he was talking about when he was in Bible school and how the second coming of Christ, the rapture, seemed so close to them. They were so on fire for it. There were some books going around, and it was really a popular topic. And even Dr. Ruckman dating the rapture. Back in those days, he was teaching this thought. And they were so on fire for it that people were leaving Bible school, leaving getting trained to get busy in the work because Christ is coming back. And some men had a better balance in their minds saying, no, if Christ comes back, I want to be found where he told me to be and not trying to do something that he didn't call me to.

[5:55] And there was that going on. Getting a little too excited for something and not staying put where God told you to be, getting the training, almost despising the teaching, because I've got to get out there and get preaching.

Now, before we proceed with this any further, I want to try to explain something to you as I understand it. And if I am, I'm just going to put out what I understand, and you judge my words and find Ephesians 4.

And I'm going to read this verse in verse 11 again about these offices, these gifts to the local church, or to the body of Christ, rather. Here, verse 11 says he gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers.

So we've already commented on this showing that the pastors and teachers is one office. They're not two different people. It's the same office, the same person. And he's called to be a pastor and a teacher.

But what I want to focus now is the first two, the apostles and prophets. As far as we know from the Word of God, they have faded out of view. Their position is not relevant as the sign gifts have ceased, as God was still working on His people Israel.

[7:14] And the healings and the signs and the miracles were active early in the book of Acts, where some of our brethren would love to park. Those offices have been rescinded.

They're not active today. Men are not prophesying, thus saith the Lord, outside of the Scriptures. There's no open revelation from God. The Scriptures, the canon has been closed.

It is finished. It is completed. And the apostles, there's no men being sent to heal and to work works. And the signs of the apostles that are wrought among you, Paul said, that's also set aside.

So the other two offices that exist are evangelists and pastors and teachers. That's the verse.

That's the offices that we have here. Evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

I want to look at these two, just kind of compare them or contrast them just a little bit, and try to show you what I think may be a cause for some men to try to steer people away from teaching and put the emphasis upon preaching.

[8:19] Now, these are two distinct offices. They're separate. They are not the same. They may seem similar to you based upon your experience, because both would be men that handle the Word of God, that are in the ministry, that are preachers.

And you may see them as equals, and there's no trying to put one above the other, but they are different. We have to acknowledge that. They are similarities, but yet there's differences. And these offices, I want to say they're, in my view, they're somewhat limited to their purpose.

What is the purpose of a pastor and teacher? Then his office and his role is limited to that office, what he's gifted to do and supposed to do. Same with the evangelists.

What God gifts an evangelist to do is limited relatively, not maybe completely boxed in, but limited somewhat to that office, his role to staying in that and to doing that.

An evangelist is not a pastor teacher. A pastor is not evangelist, although Paul did tell Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. And so I say these are separate offices with separate roles, but they're not boxed in that they don't complement each other, or even it'd be more of a loose fence with a gate between them, that there is some leeway there, some overlap maybe is a way to say it.

[9:45] So an evangelist, let's talk about an evangelist just for a little bit. An evangelist is someone who carries a message. You see the word angel inside there?

An angel is a messenger, delivering a message. That's one mean of an angel. An evangelist is an evangel. And so he comes to evangelize.

Evangelize in our day is traditionally deemed converting someone by the gospel of Christ. If you're an evangelist or if you evangelize the heathen, you're getting them saved by the gospel.

I'd say that the office today is more than just preaching the gospel to the lost, but an evangel or an evangelist comes to deliver a message from God.

Maybe not like I have a word from the Lord for you today, but he's delivering truth from the word of God to a people. It may be a gospel. It may be a message of repentance.

[10:43] It may be a message to a bunch of saved Christians that need to get their hearts back on God and back in the word of God and get turned back to things that they know are right. I believe God can send an evangelist into a local church to evangelize in the sense of delivering a message, getting them back to what God wants them to be.

Philip is the only one in the Bible known as an evangelist. He's called the evangelist. I think it's Acts 21, Philip the evangelist. And what do you know about Philip? Well, you know in Acts chapter 6 that he was one of those holy men that was full of the Holy Ghost, rather, full of wisdom, and they call them the first deacons.

But he was also in Acts chapter 8 sent. He went down to Samaria and began preaching Christ to them in Samaria. And then the Holy Ghost says, Hey, Philip, I want you to head down to Gaza, because just go.

Leave Jerusalem, go down to Gaza. And as he went that way, he ran into this eunuch from Ethiopia. And he showed him, preached unto him Jesus. And so as an evangelist, he is evangelizing in Samaria.

He's evangelizing this man that is lost. And that's an office, to go out and to preach and to deliver a message from God. I believe that God called evangelists, even today of our day, are gifted by God to fulfill their office, to fulfill their role, to preach, to deliver God's message to others.

[12:12] Pastors, differently, pastors stay in one place. Teaching and preaching. Working, training, loving, laboring, but doing it all in one place, giving themselves to one flock.

Always available, 24-7. Committed, devoted to that calling, to that role, to that place. But I want to get to this point here. Remember, both pastors and evangelists are men, at best, and they're both made of the same flesh.

Both have shown, this is my view, this is what I believe I've learned and seen in my own ears and eyes over these years, is that both have shown to be envious of the other's calling.

Because they have a role, but they look over and say, but he, and they want to take part in that.

And this one has this role, but he sees that, and he wants to take part in that. And I'm not calling out evangelists and pastors, or, you know, I'm not throwing anybody under the bus, I'm just saying what I've observed, and seen that these are separate offices, but men that are flesh, they might want something that they weren't given.

And history bears that out, so does the Word of God. An evangelist is given to preach. A gift to preach. Evangelist shows up at a church, and remarkably, people get saved.

[13:44] Where were these souls for the last 351 Sundays? And yet this Sunday, that man shows up, and now they're getting saved?

It's something of God for that role that's gifted the man to preach the gospel. He's not only gifted to preach the gospel, you see that when an evangelist comes by, the people of God get stirred up. In a way that you don't get stirred up every other Sunday. But for something, there's some touch of God, some power of God, some gift of God on that man and on his preaching, that gets you fired up, gets your focus back on truth and what's right, and it's needed.

A meeting stirs you up. That's right. That's of God. And he uses a man to do that. He gifts a man and gives him the power to do that stuff. He gets to see the revivals.

But does the pastor get to see the revival happen? Every Sunday school, every Sunday morning, where's the revivals? It's not the same office. The evangelist, though, he gets to see the results, the salvation, the revival.

[14:54] I remember a couple years ago, Greg brought a couple of family members. Brother Spurgeon was here. And he preached, and two of them got saved that day.

Two men got saved. And that was wonderful to consider that two sinners came into this place, and the Lord showed them their condition, and they received it, and they were born again.

And it was a great thing. And I think, where were those guys all these other weeks? Like, why did it happen? I'm not being jealous or envious here, but I'm telling you, like, it's there, though.

It's in the mind. It's like, when he shows up, they're saved. And then he goes on to the next church, and he says, oh, three were saved. So I'm thinking, why weren't they saved three weeks before, or two weeks before?

Why is it when he shows up, people are getting saved? It's not a trick, and it's not fake. It's something of the Lord. It's a work of God for the office. And the Lord does this.

[15:52] It's his hand. But the evangelist doesn't get to study the Bible like the pastor does. And he doesn't get to handle the deeper subjects of the Scripture. Sure, but sometimes, because we're all flesh, he wants to show that he can.

And he wants to show the church that he knows this stuff, too. He's more than just a one-trick pony preaching the gospel. He can do more than preach the gospel. And he wants to show that I know the Bible, too. And I can handle the Word of God.

And sometimes the evangelist tries to step over into the pastor's role and tries to start teaching noodle nuggets and teaching some doctrines that, in my view, they're not really his place to teach. And I've seen him come in and say some things that are just kind of out there and then leave a little bit of a mess for the pastor to clean up. That's happened more than a few times.

And so evangelists can do that. They can have their role and be gifted for it, and it can go and then try to have something else that's not theirs. Sometimes evangelists are sought for for their advice and for their counsel.

[16:58] And I am not against getting advice from an evangelist. I don't think there's anything wrong with talking to somebody who can take you through the Scripture and show you.

I'm not against that at all. But I can tell you that the evangelist is not the pastor. And it might feel good for the people to come to him, but I've seen them give bad advice.

And if they would have sought the pastor, the pastor would say, no, they're too young in the Lord. No, they're not ready for that yet. No, that's not good advice. You don't know them like I know them. God didn't give them to you to train up and to counsel and to give advice.

Again, I'm not saying you can't go to them and talk Bible. Don't get me wrong. But understand the roles are different. The callings, the gifts, and the positions, the offices, they're different.

So a pastor stays put in one pulpit. And a pastor doesn't get to see the results that the evangelist gets to see going from town to town. And he doesn't get to see the excitement. He doesn't get to see the church come alive everywhere he goes and the blessings and the blessings and the blessings.

[18:06] It's not his calling. He doesn't get to see the excitement. And it can very much happen that the pastor envies the evangelist because when he shows up, everybody comes to church and everybody comes the next

night.

And they wouldn't dare miss a service. But when he leaves, they're back to skipping church again. And they're not as excited and happy. They're back to being grouchy and just the everyday life of a shepherd and sheep.

But the pastor's job is not to raise the roof every Sunday. His job is to faithfully labor in the word and doctrine and feed the flock of God which is among you. So they're separated, okay?

If this is making sense to you, if you've even just seen it, yeah, when he comes around, this happens. And it's not like that everyone. And it's okay as long as the man is content and understanding to stay in his role and to do the job God has fitted him for and called him for.

So all of that, to get back to our study here, that the pastor's job is to preach the word and no less importantly, to teach the word.

[19:20] It's in the name, pastors and teachers. We saw it last week two times. Paul said to Timothy that the pastor is to be apt to teach. The servant of the Lord is to be apt to teach.

He's to be able to instruct and he's to be able to instruct in righteousness using the Holy Scriptures. They're given by inspiration of God. The Scriptures are profitable for doctrine. We might lean that toward teaching.

They're profitable for reproof. If we had to choose, we might lean that toward preaching. For correction, maybe even that's preaching. For instruction in righteousness, that might lean toward teaching.

But I don't know that I have confidence in saying one is for the other. They so closely go together, it's hard to separate either of those categories. So today we're going to continue the study of identifying some teachers or some means of teaching mentioned in the Bible because it is important and we should be very cautious of what teaching we receive.

The position of pastor stands out very clearly. We don't need to discuss that any further. But there are others. I think another one that stands out very clearly is parents. And I don't need to take you back into Deuteronomy 6 and run any scripture on that.

[20:37] It's pretty understood. Parents are to teach and to train up their children in the ways of God, in truth and righteousness. It's not the Sunday school teacher's job. It's not the pastor's job to bring up the kids in the home.

It's the parent's job to teach them what's right and what's wrong. And that's pretty easy. But there's others. Let's go to 1 Corinthians chapter 2. And I'm going to go to John 14 if you want to grab that. If not, I'll read it to you. Not that important that you get there. But 1 Corinthians 2, get there. And the next teacher or means of teaching, and these don't always get completely separated to their own group.

They all work together perhaps. But this one is the Holy Spirit of God that teaches using the words of God. The Spirit of God, using the words of God, teaches men.

I want to start in verse number 10 and read down to verse 13. 1 Corinthians 2, verse 10, But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit.

[21:52] For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of God, save the spirit of man which is in him. Sorry, the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him. Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

The words of God are the teachings of the Holy Ghost. We don't hold up the self-help books, the words that man's wisdom teacheth, and proclaim that to you.

But with the Holy Spirit inside of us, we hold up the word of God. We speak, verse 13, which things also we speak, we speak the words that the Holy Ghost teacheth.

This is the words that the Holy Ghost has given, has taught. If you can picture, if I held up a book that was like from Dr. So-and-so of how to do this and how to do that, this is what man's wisdom teacheth.

[23:09] And if I stood here, and that's what I presented to you, then I am speaking what man's wisdom teacheth, but instead I'm teaching or speaking what the Holy Ghost teacheth. I hope you understand that.

He's speaking and referring to the words of God, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

So the Holy Ghost teaches man using the words of God. The Spirit of God inside of you is what illuminates your mind. You'll see that in a second. John 14, Christ said, It was the Holy Spirit that taught these men.

It was the Holy Spirit that guided these men after the departure of Christ. He led them and guided them into all truth. He gave them the New Testament scriptures. He taught the disciples how to proceed from this moment forward.

It was the working and the teaching of the Holy Ghost in them. Come to 1 John, all the way to the back. 1 John chapter 2. 1 John chapter 2.

[24:30] John writes some things to help these that are being deceived.

Verse 26. Verse 26. These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you. And ye need not that any man teach you. But as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as I have taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The Spirit of God that God puts inside of the believer guides and teaches and illuminates and makes connections that otherwise you would never see, nor perceive, nor understand.

You would reject them. It would make sense to you. It would be just false. It would be spooky or superstitious. But with the Holy Ghost inside of you, he brings the scriptures to life, because they are living.

[25:39] The words of God are alive. They're quick and powerful. And you need him to access this, to understand this. So the Spirit of God teaches using the words of God.

Now, I'm not going to promise that if you read your Bible faithfully, that the Holy Spirit's going to just unlock everything. He's going to start giving you revelation that he's given to nobody else. If you'll just give yourself to the book, I can't promise any of that to you.

There are deep things of God. There are mysteries. There are things unknown and undiscerned, yet written in black and white right in front of all of us. I've had these words my entire life.

And there are things in these pages that are just hidden from view. Truth that has not been revealed, or at least not been disclosed. If God's going to disclose some things, maybe regarding future events, or just an understanding of some things, the more you get in the Bible, the wilder it gets, and the deeper it gets.

Dr. Uckman used to say, that book ain't got no bottom. And for a man that's taught it, and preached it, and been in it for 50 some years, he still comes out saying, it's infinite.

[26:49] It just goes, and goes, and goes, and goes. He's never found the bottom. He's never had all of his questions answered. It's just too much. It's a holy, living book.

And it's the mind of God. I think Brother Sam Gipp would say, that if I knew the whole Bible, and everything about it, then I'd be God. And I'm not God. And so that book has got some stuff in it, that only the Holy Ghost is going to reveal.

I'm not telling you, he's going to reveal it to you, if you get yourself into it. But every truth that we have, and understand to be real and right, came from the Holy Spirit of God.

It came from his illumination, from understanding. He's opened the mind of men to the truth of God, and he did it using the words of God. Now, in addition to teaching truth and doctrine, the Holy Spirit also gives direction.

He also teaches and instructs men in what his will is, and what he wants to be accomplished in this earth. In Acts, we'll turn to it. I think it's Acts 13.

[27:51] Acts chapter 13. And so the Holy Ghost will not only teach doctrine, he'll also instruct in what I'm calling direction.

Verse number 2, it says, As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul, for the work whereunto I have called them. And in verse 3, they fasted,

prayed, laid hands on them, sent them away.

So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed, and there they go, on a missionary journey, to go minister the gospel, to lost all around that area.

It was the Holy Ghost that sent the direction, that gave them direction, and the timing, and when, and where, and who. I heard a guy, this wasn't too long ago, maybe two or three weeks ago, on the radio, talking about this passage, and he said, it says the Holy Ghost said, now somebody called in, asked a question about the Holy Spirit talking to us, and he says, well it says here that the Holy Ghost said, separate me, and so they, and his statement was, they had to hear him, and the church gathered together, had to hear the voice of God.

It was something, and I thought, you fool. Like, it's, the verse before it, there's prophets, certain prophets. So if, the Holy Ghost said it, it was through a prophet, right there in the church, and that was an office, that was active in that time, and age, it's not that hard.

[29:31] Anyway, you don't have to get something weird going, and then, that just lead, misleads people today, into a listening for some audible voice, and to gather together in a group, and pray until the Holy Ghost shows up.

It's just, poor teaching. Anyway, getting back to this, the Holy Spirit teaches. He's a teacher. He guides into all truth. He'll guide men, into what his will is on this earth.

He's guided me, and a few times in my life, where there were certain things, certain moments, where he was instructing me, in the will of God. In one case, it was, whether to go to Bible school, or not, like, when?

And there was a year, of kind of, in limbo, where I didn't know, what to do. I knew that the Lord had, I knew it was right, I knew to go, I knew all of that, but it was, is it right now?

Because I was kind of, at the end of something. Is it right now? And I didn't know, and the Lord had to, give me some insight, and give me personal insight, my own spirit, and mind, and heart. Some, he had to, resolve it inside of me, that no, I want you to wait.

[30:35] And as he said that, I had counsel for my dad, saying go, you should go, I don't think you should wait. And there was other people, in the church, that just thought, if you stick around, you're going to mess up again. But I felt firmly, in my heart, God said stay.

And he gave me direction, and because he did, I ended up, marrying a wife. I ended up, getting, reading my Bible through, for the first time ever. I ended up reading books, about the King James Bible, and getting studied on, getting prepped, prepped for the, three years of, a whirlwind of Bible school, what it was.

The Lord, he knew what he was doing, but he had to give me, that direction, because I would have just, packed up and went, and made a mess. And I wouldn't have lasted, I'm sure of it. He knew that. Another time, well I won't get into things, but I'll just say, that the Lord has given me, direction, when needed.

It's not every day of my life, I don't wake up, and God says go to the kitchen. I just do it. I don't get that voice. I don't listen for that, I don't look for that. But when there's major decisions, to be made, I do not want to make them, without knowing, that this is God's will, and he wants me to do it.

And so I stay back, and wait, and stay back, and wait, until he, through his word, and his spirit, I feel, I feel he gives me, the green light. And it's a personal thing, and I'm not going to pretend, that you ever get that, maybe you don't need that.

[31:53] And if you do need it, then you'll get it. He'll give you the direction, when it's time. But he'll teach his children, using the living words of God. You remember brother, Tyler Decker, that came through here, and we gave him that offering, for his vehicle.

He did a podcast, with some guys, that were, wanted to, kind of highlight, the church plant, and the ministry, he's trying to go, and they want to just, get some exposure out there, and get some support for him.

And so, he sat on a, he sent me this, on a text a few months ago. He did a, a podcast, and throughout, he just gave his entire story. And here he gave us about a, I don't know, a 15 minute version, 10 minute version of it.

There he gave about a, two hour version of it. And all along the way, from stop to stop, he's seeking the Lord, and whether he should go here, or whether he should not, whether he should go to Bible

school, whether he should, and he said, and then the Lord showed me, in this verse, and he has a verse for it, to such and such, and this to such and such, and all of it was just, as clear as day, lining up.

It was not, anything he was reading, into the text, or trying to, make the Bible speak. He was just, praying, seeking God, and a verse came. And it was as, reading the Bible, one just jumps out, and grabs you, and it can't explain it, until you feel it.

[33:07] And when God speaks to you, you know it, immediately you know, this is the Lord, guiding me, answering me, because a piece just, washes away, all the indecision, and it just, eliminates all the fears, it just says, this is right.

And you know it, in your heart, you'll never get, moved off of it, when the Lord speaks to you, from his word. So, the Holy Spirit, will give you that direction, he'll give you that, and, only if, you need it, if he, if he wants to give it to you, if he has a will, something for you to do.

If you don't know, what car to buy, I'm not saying, that you're going to pray and fast, and he's going to show it to you. I don't know, that he's going to answer those, I don't know, that he may, he may not, but, I've never, experienced those kind of things, what I would call, the more trivial things, in life.

It's the major moves, and, and family oriented decisions, that, I could say, that I feel the Lord, has led me from his word, and the Holy Spirit, taught me, instructed me, in what he wanted to do.

There's some other means, of teaching here, I want to get into, but I know we won't have time, to finish this one, so I think I'll save it, for probably two weeks from now, and, I'll just mention it to you, we'll get to it next time, is that, God uses other believers, to teach, or to teach one another, and there's several, means by which, he'll use other believers, in different roles, or in different ways, and so we'll get to that, next time.

[34:32] So, so far, it's this role of pastor, and teacher, that is, God uses to teach, it's very important, and the Holy Spirit, is a teacher, and it's a role, and it's a job of his, and it'd be a shame, for us to overlook it, or undermine it, and to try to overreact, to what some are doing, and then, slide away, from something, that is an absolute necessity, and a work of God.

So, we'll stop here, take a break here, enjoy yourself, some fellowship, and then we'll come back, at 10 o'clock.