

### **Christians should Insist that their Pastors “Preach the Word.”**

*“And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual,”* (1 Cor. 2:13). When the Apostle Paul wrote his First Letter to the Corinthian congregation, the congregation was suffering from internal strife and division. We might say that it was a congregation of cliques. Members had fallen in love with the men who had served the congregation in the past. Paul wrote about this when he said, *“For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? <sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth,”* (1 Cor. 3:4-7).

Paul was moved by the Spirit to point out to the people how the Church is built. The holy Christian Church is not built with words of wisdom coming from the mouths of men. The Church is built by the Holy Spirit, who through the revealed Word of God calls people to repentance and faith. Paul planted the Word of God; Apollos watered with the Word of God, but God gave the increase. The Holy Spirit touched the hearts of the hearers. With the Law, He convicted them of their sins; and as sorrowing sinners, they found their hope and forgiveness in the message of the Gospel, which Paul preached. Earlier he wrote, *“<sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified,”* (1 Cor. 2:2). Foremost in his preaching was the cross.

Today, it is no secret that many church people are “church shopping,” and “church hopping”! Why? Some might have various personal reasons, but primarily, many are not being spiritually fed. Many clergymen are too timid to call sin, “Sin!” while others are asking, “What do the people want to hear?” Their chief concern is what they must say and do in order to remain popular with the people. They do not plant or water with the Word of God. The Gospel, which is the Good News that we are saved not by our works but by God’s grace through faith in Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again to redeem us, is also ignored and contradicted by many clergymen.

Christians should insist that their pastors “Preach the Word,” (2 Tim. 4:2) – that is – God’s Word, not their own word, or politics or the so-called news from the most recent headlines! Pastors should heed the words of the prophet, “Show My people their transgression” (Is. 58:1), and then, “Preach the Gospel,” (Mark 16:15), to sorrowing and troubled sinners.

Pray for your pastors so that they will proclaim the Word of God in all its truth and purity, through which the Holy Spirit calls sinners to repentance and faith. Then the Christian Church will grow and flourish, all to the glory of God!