

X Marks The Spot  
Old Union Ministers' School  
March 23, 2006  
Presented by Jimmy Hogue

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16

Objective: To show that the Lord has a purpose for every man that has been called to preach. He also has a time and place for each man to fulfill that purpose.

I. Have you ever watched the show "The Price Is Right?" Many times when contestants are called to the stage, they are so excited that they are almost out of control. Bob Barker, the shows host, calmly and patiently directs a jumping, screaming person to the "X" on the floor, marking where he wants them to stand at that particular point in the program.

As preachers, if we were allowed to choose our place and time of service, we would be like the contestants on "The Price Is Right," just jumping around without any direction whatsoever. The Lord knows where we will be the most effective in our preaching, so He marks the spot where we need to be. (Luke 5:1-9)

II. The Commission which the Lord gave to His church is found in Matthew 28:16-20. This Commission gives the church the purpose she is to fulfill while she is here on the earth. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that the Lord gave His church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to aid her in fulfilling this commission. If they are working where and when the Lord wants, their work will edify the body of Christ, which is His church.

- A. Apostle - One who is sent forth. There were 12 original apostles. The church elected Matthias to fill the office that Judas left when he betrayed the Lord. Paul, who was the apostle to the Gentiles, was called in due time. Some believe that there were other apostles such as Barnabas and Silas, maybe even others. However, there was one qualification of an apostle that only those living in the days of Christ could have met. According to Acts 1:22 and I Corinthians 9:1, an apostle must have been an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus, thus ending this office with the death of the Apostle John.
- B. Prophet - A public expounder or one who explains in some detail the scriptures.
- C. Evangelist - One who announces good tidings. Philip, one of the seven deacons of Acts 6, was referred to as an evangelist. (Acts 21:8) Paul told Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. (II Timothy 4:5)
- D. Pastor - One who has the oversight; one that feeds or is a shepherd. We refer to the pastor as the under shepherd, because Jesus is the great Shepherd, the

head of His flock. The qualifications for bishop or pastor are found primarily in I Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:5-9.

- E. Teacher - Instructor or one who helps another to understand. There are many ways to teach, but by example is one of the best.

III. It has been said that God works in mysterious ways. The way God calls and uses His ministers may seem mysterious to us sometimes because God's ways are not our ways. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

IV. The Lord calls men to do His work and to fulfill His purpose according to His will. He chooses the work they are to do. Not only does God choose the work, but He also chooses the time and place where the work will be done. The Lord's work is not left to the discretion of human judgment. Not even men like Noah, Moses and Paul were permitted to choose their place of service.

- A. Noah - God had a purpose for his service. God chose the time and place. (Genesis 6:1-22)
- B. Moses - God chose the time for Moses to go back to Egypt. (Exodus 2:11-25; 3:1-10; Acts 7:20-34)
- C. Paul and Barnabas - The Holy Spirit directed the Church at Antioch to ordain Paul and Barnabas for the work which God had for them. The Holy Spirit directed Paul to his place of service. (Acts 13:1-3; 16:6-10)

V. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the time and place of our service.

I Corinthians 2:9-11 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

- A. The Spirit reveals God's will for us through the Bible. II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."  
You can trust the Bible. It is God's word to man. What the Bible approves, God approves. What the Bible forbids, God forbids. God says what He means and means what He says.
- B. The Spirit reveals God's will for us through the circumstances of life. Genesis 37:1 through Genesis 50:26 - By the circumstances in Joseph's life God led him to Egypt to be used in the preservation of Israel.

Genesis 45:7-8 - When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers he said, "And

God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

- C. The Spirit reveals God's will for us by "The Still Small Voice" that speaks to our heart. We can hear "The Still Small Voice" if we listen to God rather than listening to the things of the world.

I Kings 19:1-21 - When Elijah was running from Jezebel fearing for his life he heard many things of the world, but then there was that "Still Small Voice" that spoke to him to reveal the work that God had for him to do.

VI. Try the Spirits. In I John 4:1-6 the Apostle John warns us to try the spirits because many false prophets are gone out in the world. The devil is walking about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.

Conclusion: X marks the spot where the Lord would have us to be in His service. He will put us there in His way and in His time if we are willing to allow Him to work with us and through us. May we be like Samuel was when the Lord spoke to him and say, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." (I Samuel 3:10) Whenever and however the Lord chooses to speak to us, "Thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21)