



## CrossRoads Notes:

Turn Your Bibles to Acts 6:4 and then verse 7

*Title: Effective Broadcasting – Part 2*

*Theme: Planting the Word of God*

*Series: Essentials for Church Growth*

Acts 6:4 and then verse 7, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to ministry of the word.” “And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.” (ESV)

Introduction: *Effective broadcasting involves having the right seed and having obedient servants of the Lord planting God’s seed in the fields of the world. Just as farmers face the constant battle against drought or flooding, plant disease or insects, or many others elements that can determine the effectiveness of the harvest – Christians face an adversary, the devil, (1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4) who constantly tries to destroy the faith of the Body of Christ and keep those in this world blind to the Gospel. (Ephesians 6:10-13)*

Proposition: *I would propose to you that in this battle of broadcasting that life changing Word of God which points lost souls to Christ, the Bible holds truths to cling to and direction that assures a harvest for the Lord. Faithful seed planters of the Word of God do not fall into the same pattern as the institutionalized church. They follow the example of Christ, who quoted the Word of God in the face of the devil’s temptations. (Matthew 4:1-11) In his exposition of the Book of Ephesians, Dr. Lloyd Jones wrote, “we are not to fight... in our own strength, power, or with our own ideas; we are to use the Word that the Holy Spirit of God Himself has produced.” “...The Holy Spirit enables [understanding of] the Word.” (The Christian Soldier – Lloyd-Jones)*

Interrogative Sentence: *Therefore, just what is our charge? How is the seed of God’s Word fertilized? What is the harvest?*

Transitional Sentence: *Effective broadcasting plants the reliably yielding seeds of God’s Word as it is planted by soldiers of Christ who understand their charge. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 says, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.”*

“I give you this charge” (ἡ διαμαρτύρομαι *diamartúromai*) has the weight of a legal affirmation given with a reminder that God our Father and Jesus our Savior is watching. Their eyes are upon you. Holy Spirit illuminated preachers and teachers take this charge seriously, just as Timothy was to take it. The great Greek scholar

Kenneth Wuest wrote: "This charge is to be obeyed at once. It is a sharp command as in military language..."

The charge is clear, "[Preach the Word.](#)" "...[Preach the Word.](#)" "Preach" (kerússon) means to especially preach, publish or announce religious truth, the gospel with its attendant privileges and obligations, in this gospel dispensation. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament; Enhanced Strong's Lexicon: Wuest Word Studies in the Greek New Testament)

Holy Spirit influenced preachers and teachers courageously proclaim the written Word, no matter the trials they face. Not even the treats of men stop them from obeying their charge. Matthew Henry wrote, "It is not their own notions and fancies that they are to preach, but the pure plain Word of God; and they must not corrupt it." Kenneth Wuest wrote, "The preacher must not present book reviews, not politics, not economics, not current topics of the day, not a philosophy of life denying the Bible based upon unproven theories of science, but the Word. The preacher [or teacher] cannot choose his message. He is given a message to proclaim by his [Lord]. If he will not proclaim that, let him step down from his exalted position." (Kenneth Wuest, *The Pastoral Epistles*, Vol. 2, p.154)

Transitional Sentence: *Preachers who effectively plant the seed of God's Word use the fertilizer of prayer.* 2 Thessalonians 3:1 says, "[Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.](#)" 1 Corinthians 3:7 says, "[So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.](#) The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

The Bible gives Christians their responsibility to be in prayer for the spread and reception of the Word of God. No one comes to Christ unless the Father draws him. (John 6:44) Churches and ministries who enjoy seeing the life changing power of God's Word be brought to life in spiritual hearts are faithful to be in prayer for the Written Word of God to spread rapidly and to be honored among those who hear it.

Transitional Sentence: *When proper administration of preaching the Word of God is done joyously (Acts 6:5) and undergirded with the fertilizer of prayer, there will be a harvest to enjoy.* Act 6:7 says, "[So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.](#)"

When the Word of God is handled correctly it births forth a harvest of cheerful disciples hungry to know the Word of the Lord, bringing compliance to precepts and laws found in the Bible. In the Book of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8) we read of a time when Ezra reads aloud the law of God from "[daybreak until noon.](#)" (Ezra 8:3) The Bible says, "[men, women and all who were able to understand](#)" (Ezra 8:2) "[...listen attentively to the Book of the law.](#)" (Ezra 8:3) In Nehemiah we also read of the Levites "[\[reading\] from the Book of the Law, making it clear, and giving meaning so that the people could understand what was](#)

being read.” (Nehemiah 8:8) We also see that the people of God were broken over their sins and wanted to obey the Law of the Lord. (Ezra 8:9-17)

Fredrick Fogle wrote: “When a true revival, initiated by God occurs in the hearts of Christians, the Holy Spirit will help them to understand that it is real.

In Closing – *Proverbs 29:18* says, “*Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.*” “Revelation” (רְאוּיָהּ □ *āzôn*) as it is used in *Proverbs 29:18* means, receiving Divine communication through instructions of God’s truths. The application: where there is no expounding or good teaching of the Word of God, the people of God and the people in a nation are taken over by the enemy of their soul. Satan actually uses their sinful nature to lead them in all sorts of sinful acts. (Romans 1: 18-32) However, “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance.*” (Psalm 33:12)

The Founding Fathers of the United States of America were God fearing men who were greatly influenced by preachers who obeyed the Word of God. Only the Lord knows who were “born again” Christians, (John 3:3; 3:8) during the time period of laying a foundation for this nation.

One known truth is, during the years surrounding the great revolution period (around 1776), daily newspapers held Biblical messages presenting God’s truths dealing with the issues of the day. (Wall Builders, David Barton; *The Pulpit of Revolution or, the Political Sermons of the Period of 1776*, John Wingate Thorton)

There were men of God who lived out these Biblical truths: 1.) They understood their Biblical priorities. 2.) They broadcast the seed of God’s Word. 3.) As opportunity arose they pointed people to the “Savior of mankind.” 4.) They obeyed God’s given charge. 5.) They believed in prayer. And finally, 6.) They enjoyed the fruit of (omit their) broadcasting the seeds of God’s Word, while experiencing the conflicts and benefits of being faithful servants of the Lord.

Sadly, for several different reasons, the Word of God is not seen in secular newspapers as a whole. Thus, the general public is being lead astray by secular writings influencing the flesh of mankind.

However, just as modern farmers are using new methods of planting seeds and harvesting their crops, the Lord is raising up faithful servants, men and women of God who are using new methods of planting the seeds of God’s Word. They are creating websites that give “*careful instructions*” of the Word of God. They blog, e-mail, twitter, text and continue to look for modern ways to get the Word of God out before the eyes and ears of the general public.

Sadly, most local churches are ineffective in getting the Word of God outside their church walls. Thank God for preachers and teachers who are.

Where does the Holy Spirit of Christ find your heart regarding broadcasting the seeds of God's Word out in the fields of the world? What is your participation in getting the Word of God outside the church walls? God the Father and Jesus Christ are watching. There will be a day of accountability for those who are called to preach and teach the Word of God. There is Word from the Lord for those who are fulfilling their charge, "Well done, My good servant!" (Matthew 25:21, 23; Luke 19:17) Let us Pray!