

ORDINATION

Privilege and honor to be speaking on this occasion and to participate in this installation service for Joe Jordan. Joe and Melva special to me. I have known them for 15 years having first become acquainted with them in Argentina and experiencing in the years that followed an increasingly closer bond which has meant much to me personally. This makes me especially appreciative of the opportunity of these next few minutes.

I have one simple thing to say: Word of God must be the central and most imp't element in your personal and ministry life.

I begin by reminding you of the motto of Word of Life from Phil 2:16. In that passage Paul exhorts the Phil to be luminaries (a body that gives light, light bearer) in a crooked and perverted generation. As such we are to hold out the word of life (like a light bearer) to others and hold fast so won't have labored in vain. Both ideas because will hold out what you hold fast. Word which tells of life, source, reception, use and destiny. Be clear light (above reproach, pure=1 Pet 1:19, unblemished). How often seen letters signed by Jack with Phil 2:16 in red ink.

So, Joe, Word must be central in your life (holding fast) and in ministry (holding out to others). Keep Word central in your life and that of WOL for at least 3 reasons which P emphasizes in 2 Tim.

I. It is the prototype, pattern. II. It lays out Path to follow. III. It is what you proclaim. your life and ministry.

I. It is the Prototype, Pattern that governs life and ministry, 2 Tim 1:13. (1) What kind is Word? Healthy. (2) What to do? Have, hold, keep safe esp as generations pass and organizations defect. (3) How get? from P and Scripture today. (4) How use? in faith that it is true works and love as apply. Prototype is drawing that is changed, discussed. Bible is perfect drawing but 2

dimensional. From that build 3 dimensional model (Joe). From that make many copies (people won and trained to hold and live healthy doctrine.

II. It is the Path you need to follow and lay down for others. 2 Tim. 2:15. Rightly dividing=Prov 3:6.make straight paths.Rightly laying out Word as path to be followed. (1)Straight in understanding,interpreting, communicating.Joe phoning me.Good sermons.

(2) No sidetracks however attractive or contemporary. By false doctrine, by imbalances. By hobby horses. By causing others to stumble.

(3) Results. You approved and unashamed.Others correctly instructed.Swim meet. Goal: get to other end. No sidetracks:look at other lanes.Middle line.Count strokes.If have to put feet down, get up and go again. Entire race esp end without DQ. Swim is competition ag self.Others may seem to do better,but give your all.

III. It is to be proclaimed. 2 Tim. 4:2-5. As herald announcing something/someone imp. Opposite Isa 56:10 -Prof. prophets are blind, ignorant, drunk, dogs lying down (don't bark to alert), greedy, looking for own gain. (1) When? convenient/inconvenient. In meetings/out. When response/ none. Set hours/all hours.In turmoil/quiet. Prison/freedom. Danger/peace.

(2) How? Adapt emphasis to need as God sees it but always with longsuffering and doctrine (v2) even when don't want doctrine (v3). Not accommodating desires and itches (v4). With sobriety, hardship, evangelism, complete (fulfilled) ministry (v.5).

Keep learning it so prototype more and more detailed.

Keep living it so path straighter and straighter.

Keep loving it to motivate proclaiming it in your life and ministry. WOL will be in His good hands thru your good hands.

ORDINATION CHARGE

Privilege bec others who could and should do this. Honor bec of close rel Joe and I have. Encouragement and help to each other in ways only we know. Focus on Heb 13:7. Tho addressed to people in churches, it describes qualities of leaders which tonight I exhort Joe to exhibit in his new position of leadership in WOL.

I. Lead People. Lead as leader of a religious body. Rule as military commander. Guide as shepherd. Includes: (1) Out in front. Go ahead. More knowledgeable. Not avant garde (extremist, bizarre, experimental). (2) Greater restrictions. Lev. 21, 1 Tim 3. (3) Work, v17. Watch=sleepless as nurse on critical care. Leadership affects others. 2 Sam 24 David's sin caused death of 70,000. Peter, Gal 2:11-13. Barnabas for good. Sold. Didn't give up on Jn Mark.

II. Speak the Word. (1) Gospel X proclaimed, Jn 3-4, Heb 2:3. And by Paul, Acts 13:46. (2) Discourse deep things to mature, 1 Cor 2:6. laleo. (3) Proclaim by acts of devotion, Jn 12:3 Mary, Martha, Laz. 1 yr wages. No recorded word but act proclaimed even to tonight. Mt 26:13 Laleo. Joe phoning for help. Jack citing vs even in committee mtgs.

III. Model or mimic Faith. (1) Whose? those who preceded them. Some martyred. (2) What faith? Xn life faith, Col 2:6. To live and finish victoriously. (3) How mimic? examine thoroughly their Xn lives in all aspects. Observe sacrifices, willingness to death. Great heritage in Jack, Harry, George.

As you lead WOL lead this flock, saturate self with Word so can speak it to all levels of spiritual needs and maturity, and model the walk of faith of those who have gone before. Want that others who follow you will look back on your leadership and model theirs by it.