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## C.O.G.A. LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

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TOPIC:

# "The Greatest Calling" (Part -1)

FACILITATOR

**Bishop Cecil Reid**



CHURCH OF GOD APOSTOLIC, INC.  
PO Box 1686, N. Wilkesboro, NC. 28659  
Telephone (336) 772-2922

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# "The Greatest Calling" (Part 1)

By: Bishop Cecil Reid

## Objectives:

To encourage and strengthen the minister and his proficiency in ministry and to consolidate congregations

## Scripture:

**2 Timothy 4:1-5, 6-7 (NKJV) Paul's *Valedictory/ Farewell***

### I. The Oath of office of the President of the United States

A. The Oath of office of the President of the United States is the oath or affirmation that the president of the United States takes after assuming the presidency but before carrying out any duties of the office.

#### B. The Presidential Oath or affirmation:

***– "I, George Washington, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, – So help me God."***

- a. Taken from the United States Constitution, article 3, section 1, clause 8
- b. It consists of 39 words
- c. With his hand on the **Bible** as he stands before the **Chief Justice** who will administer the oath

### II. The Charge of every Minister of the Gospel

A. The Charge of every Minister before beginning his or her ministry. Standing with Bible in hand before a senior minister of the Christian Church (or Presbyter), they receive the same solemn charge that Paul gave to Timothy, a young minister, in his farewell letter - **2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV)**

#### B. The Charge of:

***– "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke,***

***exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. Be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”***

1. It consists of 60 words
2. They receive the same solemn charge that Paul gave to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV))
3. With hands on the Bible as they stand before a senior minister (or Presbyter)

### **III. Comparing the Result of the Oath and charge**

- A. **The President** having taken the oath of office (the highest executive office of the land), can now bring his influence over billions of people of the United States of America, and even the world.
- B. **The Minister** who takes the charge of the ministry (as an ambassador of the kingdom) is now privileged to bring his influence over a few people even the world.

1. Timothy's congregation numbered only a few (about 15 at the time).
2. **Jesus' commission was to the whole world!**

- C. Which of the two: **The Oath of office of the President of the United States** or the **Charge of Ministry** carries the most weight and responsibility?

Answer: **The Ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

- **It encompasses not just a region, a nation, but the world!**
- No other office of leadership in the world is given such rigid responsibility as those who minister the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- D. **Why such a rigid charge?**

1. Because it embraces God's eternal plan for man's salvation. Set in motion in the Garden of Eden – 4000 years ago.
2. It holds the mystery of godliness and is a carbon copy of the ministry of Jesus Christ, God manifested in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).
3. **Everyone who hears the message of the minister or preacher will be judged, including the preacher himself at the coming of the Lord.**
4. **Because eternity is stamped on it!** (Eternity is at stake)

#### IV. Examining The Charge:

A. – ***“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;” (2 Tim.4:1-5)***

1. **“I Charge you”**– To exalt earnestly in matters of extreme importance

A. **A Charge** is more than a command, for **it carries with it a moral obligation to be carried out ...**

2. **“Before Jesus Christ:”**

a. **whose messenger you are**

b. **whose salvation you are to proclaim**

c. **Who will judge your accuracy and performance**

d. **Who is coming to judge the world** (both dead and alive) **by what you preach**

3. **“Preach the Word.”** In light of all of this: – Paul issues to Timothy and to all of us this charge – **PREACH THE WORD!**

4. **The Audience before you is more than human.** It is in the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ!

A. **Therefore, the preparation** of every message/sermon and our ministry, **is to do so with Jesus in mind**, who not only will hear your message and see your ministry **but will judge you and everyone** who will be exposed to your ministry (hear that word) **at his coming.**

B. **Angels also make up your audience** - who are perplexed or marvel at how we can “preach the gospel with the Holy Ghost anointing sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into” **(1 Peter 1:12).**

5. **This Charge is based on the context of Ephesians Chapter 3**

A. **(vs. 14)** – *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, **knowing of whom thou has learned them;**”*

B. **(vs. 16 – 17)** – *“All Scripture is given by the Inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**: 17 that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished (equipped) unto all good works.”*

1. **for doctrine** – (to tell someone what to believe),

2. **for reproof** – (to tell someone what is wrong),
3. **for correction** – (to tell someone how to correct a wrong),
4. **for instruction in righteousness** – (to tell someone how to live)
5. **that the man of God may be perfect** – (Gr. "*Artios* "proficient, capable") – *that is having everything needed to do what God wants*
6. **thoroughly furnished** – (thoroughly equipped) **unto all good works."**

*Principle:* **God's inspired Word, properly used and applied, provides all we need for life and ministry.**

**6. Paul gives a similar charge in:**

- A. **1 Timothy 5:21** – "*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring, one before another, doing nothing by partiality*"
  1. **preferring:** without prejudging a matter ahead of the facts
  2. **partiality:** favoritism or, preferential treatment is to be shown to no man.
- B. **2 Timothy 2:14** – "*Of these things put them in remembrance, **charging** them before the Lord that they **strive not about words to no profit**, but to the subverting of the hearers."*

**7. We are charged to be Faithful to the duties for which we have been called:**

- A. **2 Timothy 2:4** (NKJV) – "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, **that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.**" (CTBAS)
- B. **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** – "Let a man so consider us, as **servants of Christ and stewards of the ministries of God.** Moreover **it is required in stewards** that one **be found faithful.**"

Continued In Part-2