

EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 5: Righteous Rule Must Be Modeled

["Moving from Sword to Scepter" by Wanda Alger](#)

RIGHTEOUS RULE MUST BE MODELED

Prophetic Charge to Pastors

With all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

The balance between preaching the Word of God and not offending the sheep is increasingly challenging. The divisive issues being addressed in our nation are forcing us to make hard choices. Do we stand on the unchanging standards of Scripture, or do we compromise the message, thinking we are appealing to more people?

The Lord showed me the cost of this battle through another dream. It should serve as a warning to pastors who don't recognize the enemy's agenda in hijacking the pulpit and the voice of the Church. The first scene indicated what God is doing through the next generation concerning the coming harvest. The second scene showed how some pastors are misinterpreting the spiritual battles behind the political agendas and falling into a trap.

I saw a young man paint a beautiful mural on the side of a building in his city. It was a modern-day proverb that drew attention from everyone in the community due to its profound message and creative expression. As I was watching, I knew in my spirit it was revealing Christ! Though not promoted as a "Christian" message, the underlying message was giving glory to the Creator Himself. A woman beside me, a nonbeliever, was also struck with the message and was greatly stirred. She even asked me, "Is this God!?" I was amazed how this fresh expression of the gospel had power to reach the lost.

Next, I saw a pastor. He was standing at the foot of the steps to the city courthouse, getting ready to make a speech. He was wearing a cleric's robe and was excited about this opportunity to address his community. I caught him to tell him how excited I was about this amazing open door to preach the gospel and point people to God. But this pastor, whom I knew, was not "himself." He had a crazed look in his eyes and seemed to be highly distracted by all the attention from the crowd. Not only was he speaking gibberish, but he was very effeminate. He acted like someone else entirely and wasn't even listening to me. Instead of preparing to share the gospel with those who had been stirred by their hunger, this man of God was now a delusional performer preparing for the spotlight. As I saw him turn to give his speech, I woke up grieving in my spirit for this lost opportunity.

Due to the prayers of many, this next generation is being drawn by the Spirit to express and reveal Christ to the unsaved in ways we have never seen before. The Spirit of God is hovering over the land and providing many divine appointments to reveal the glory of God to those who are searching. Praise God! And yet, the pastor in this dream isn't even in his right mind. He no longer saw reality through spiritual eyes, but through the eyes of the world. This warning to pastors is sobering.

If church leaders compromise the Word of God for a lie and give in to the crowds who want an excuse to sin, not only will these leaders become blind to what God is doing, they will lose touch with eternity's plan and totally miss the coming harvest of souls. They will miss this window of opportunity; but worse yet, they themselves will become delusional in their thinking and become a pawn in the enemy's hand.

It is not an accident that the pastor in the dream looked and acted like a female. Though people through the generations have always dealt with

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sin, it wasn't until our nation began to embrace homosexuality that we began to experience all other forms of evil.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.... Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done (Romans 1:24-25,28 NIV).

One of the goals behind this demonic spirit is to strip men of their God-given authority as fathers to a fatherless generation. If they can be emotionally neutered and stripped of their identity in Christ, their authority will be greatly diminished. If the Church continues to embrace this kind of compromised lifestyle, we will reap the consequences from a host of other evils. We must pray that the Father's love can be extended through our kindness in order to bring them to repentance. We must realize the bondage they are in if we are to help set them free.

These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved (2 Peter 2:17-19).

The call is clear. We must pray for our pastors and those who lead congregations in our local communities. The fact that the pastor in the dream was standing in front of the courthouse indicates the spiritual authority that God has given the shepherds (see Jeremiah 3:15). They are to be the

voices in local communities as moral compasses and champions of righteousness! We must pray for them to be faithful to this call and not give in to the fear of man.

Pastors and Politics

Many pastors are reluctant to talk about political issues in their churches because of the potential backlash from members. The fear of losing congregants or financial support is an underlying concern for many church leaders when addressing controversial topics. There are also those who believe that legislative issues and governing policies have no place in church life. However, we must separate politics from government and wrestle with some serious questions:

- Is it possible for the Church to be a unified voice in the public square on relevant issues?
- Is it possible for believers to agree on the Word of God concerning critical legislative issues?
- Is it possible for pastors to empower their congregations without getting politically divisive?

In our 25-plus years of pastoral ministry, we have wrestled with these same questions. Yet, we have learned to empower our congregation from a Kingdom perspective and not a worldly one. Rather than addressing political differences, our goal is to provide a solid biblical foundation from which believers can build a proper understanding of biblical morals and values, godly government, and Kingdom practices.

Where in previous decades we didn't see morality being legislated in this nation, we are now seeing elected officials passing laws and bills that not only censor our voices as believers but force us to join in practices that go directly against God's Word. It is no longer an option for pastors