

Hello. We will begin the eighth lecture on pastoral theology. /At this time, we will study the pastor and church school teachers.

**/11. The pastor and church school education.** /The Lord personally commanded us to teach in the church. /In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

/The verse says, "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." /"Teaching them to obey." /Teaching is an important calling of the church. /The church must first share the gospel with unbelievers.

/Then they receive salvation and do God's works. /Then believers must continue to grow through teachings. /Church schools were established after the Reformation. /The church taught through its schools after the Reformation. This has continued even to this day.

/Generally, believers do not think that education is related to church growth in any way. /However, statistics say otherwise. /Church growth is closely related to the growth of Sunday schools.

/Today, ninety percent of believers in the church have experiences of being taught in Sunday schools. /Eighty percent of pastors have attended church schools. /Therefore, the church must always emphasize the importance of church schools.

/First, the pastor must show special attention and have passion for church schools. /Now, let's first look at the necessities for successful teaching in church schools.

/(1) Requirements for successful church school education. /A. Problem with teachers - the successes and failures of church schools depend on the qualifications of teachers. /World education is continuously improved through studies conducted by experts.

/In order to be an elementary school teacher in world education, one must graduate from a a four-year university. /Then he must continue to attend seminars and educational programs in order to qualify oneself to be a teacher.

/However, there are no systematic problems like this in church schools that train and educate teachers. /Furthermore, because of the lack of volunteers in the church, many who are not qualified become teachers.

/As a result, Sunday school teachers simply manage students during worship services. /In this state, church schools cannot fully carry out its functions. /The church will decline in the future.

/Sunday school teachers have the great responsibility to nurture the souls of children they are entrusted with. /Adults receive God's spiritual food during valuable worship services

on Sundays.

/In the same way, the Bible that the children learn about through their Sunday school teachers is important food that will save their souls. /Therefore, pastors must show great interest in discovering and training devoted teachers.

/Pastors must find adult believers who have full confidence in their salvation, and who are faithful, and appoint them as teachers. /Then pastors must consistently show interest and show teachers how important the calling of Sunday schools is. /Pastors must regularly plan seminars for teachers, and must make sure that the souls of the teachers are awake.

/B. Problem with facilities - there must be room for church schools in order to effectively implement church school education. /It would not be effective to put young children and teenagers in the same small sanctuary for worship.

/It would be best for an educational building just for church school students. /However, if church conditions do not allow for this, the times and place for worship must be properly adjusted so that students of different age groups do not mix.

/There must be continuous interest for church school facilities as not to give the impression that any other services other than adult services are subordinate services.

/C. Problem with finances - there must be financial support in order to properly carry out church school education. /However, there are cases where people become stingy about spending money on church schools.

/Even if there might not be the bearing of fruit right away, church school education is extremely important for the future. /Therefore, pastors must be generous with support for the church school education.

/D. Problem with systematic curriculum - the lack of facilities, teachers without training, and perfunctory curriculum cannot result in effective teachings for students who suffer from studies at school all throughout the week.

/Pastors must have a distinct purpose for what is to be taught at church schools. /It is difficult to expect growth of faith in students when they are given little bits of this and that to learn from.

/If possible, a book of the Bible should be selected at a time so that students can eventually be taught the entire Bible. /In order for this to happen, pastors must first study the Bible well. /Then they must prepare teaching plans for each level of students.

/Pastors must also use the teaching plans to educate teachers. /The teachers must first be blessed by the teachings of God's word. /Then the teachers must deliver the same word of God to the children.

/At times, teachers must have discussions with one another through meetings, and they must strive for improvements with the curriculum of Bible education. /In some cases, the education departments of presbyteries and general assemblies may print teaching plans for church schools.

/In these cases, pastors must first study the teaching plans supplied by the presbyteries and general assemblies. /Pastors must take the teaching plans and teach teachers so that they would properly teach the students.

/The traditional Presbyterian Church has taught the Westminster Shorter Catechism. /The Westminster Shorter Catechism, which is made up of questions and answers regarding important doctrines of the Bible, is the representative inheritance of the Presbyterian Church. /Church schools must teach the Shorter Catechism, and reciting questions and answers with students will be a good course of study.

/Problem with believers' cooperation. /Believers think that they have fulfilled their responsibilities by sending their children to church schools. /They put the responsibility of their children's faith onto the church. /However, church education is accomplished through joint efforts of the church and parents.

/Church schools cannot be effective through one-sided efforts. /There 168 hours in a week. /However, it is not right to think that faith-based education is complete with just one hour of Sunday school a week. /Hence, pastors must continuously emphasize the need for believing families to teach their children at home.

/Families must read the Bible and pray together at least once a week. /The church must also plan programs that parents and children can partake in together so that faith may be passed on to the next generation.

/For example, one Saturday early morning service each month can be set aside for parents and children to attend together. /It is also good to invite parents to banquets in Sunday schools. /In any case, pastors must study and help parents.

/Pastors must efforts to make faith-based education more effective in Sunday schools. /Next, let's discuss the practical operation of church schools.

/(2) The truth of the operation of church schools. /Church schools are operated with the division of age groups. /The divisions are generally like the following. /Preschool department, ages 0-15; elementary department, ages 6-13; junior high and high school department, ages 14-19; youth department, age 20 until marriage.

/The organization of each department can be adjusted according to church circumstances. /First, let's discuss the preschool department.

/A. The preschool department. /If children who have not yet started school were

compared to a tree, they would be fragile sprouts. /Children in this age group are at stage in life where they absorb information with their hearts and minds for the first time in their lives. /Glenn Doman, who studied the brain development of children, said the following.

/"Even the greatest scientist does not attentively observe the movement of objects as children of eighteen months to four years of age do." /Thus, church education of preschoolers is extremely important because of the great impact it has on children's lives.

/Pastors must properly foster teachers who truly love children and will devote themselves to their calling and to the souls of children. /The majority of children in this age group will be away from their parents for the first time in their lives.

/Therefore, it is necessary for the church to train these children so that they would adjust well to the community. /Children must be guided with love rather than strict rules and discipline. /Children of this age group will not know how to read.

/Therefore, it is best to use rhythmic movements or multimedia materials. /Children must be induced to gain interest and participate in church education. /It is most important to teach the truth of the Bible.

/It is wrong to think that children will not understand the Bible because they are young. /Young children have souls. /Thus, when teachers pray diligently and teach the Bible, the young children will understand the Bible.

/Of course, teachers must make efforts to make the truth of the Bible concise and easy to understand. /Teachers must be careful not to exaggerate in order to make the Bible fun, or distort God's word.

/It is definitely a good opportunity to lead preschoolers to church, and it is also a good method of indirect evangelism to the children's parents. /Sometimes, unbelieving parents might attend church out of curiosity as to what their children are learning at church.

/It is easy for parents to attend church if their children partake in choir or dance routines at Easter, Christmas, or other seasonal holidays. /Because parents of preschoolers are usually in their twenties or thirties, they are hopeful subjects of evangelism for the future of the church. /Next, let's discuss the education of children of ages 6-13 in the elementary department.

/B. The elementary department. /Children in the elementary department have communal experiences in preschools or at school. /Therefore, children of this age group must be taught the truth in more depth. /Teachers must teach children that the church is a place of worship to God, and that they must treasure and love the church.

/It is at this stage in life that children must be trained to memorize important Bible verses. /It is good to have children memorize one or two Bible verses each week. /Teachers must lead Bible memorization contests a few times a year so that children would actively

participate in memorizing Bible verses.

/Children are very active at this time of age. /Long worship services or studying times can be ineffective. /Children are also very imitative at this time of age.

/Therefore, teachers must not only teach, but they must be a good example to children in whatever they do or say. /Next, let's look at the education of children of ages 14-19 in the junior high and high school department.

/C. The junior high and high school department. /This is a time when children go through puberty. /Therefore, teachers and pastors must especially show interest in children in this age group. /Teachers and pastors must leave open the doors of their hearts and doors of conversation for these children.

/If they show reprimanding attitudes to deviant students, the students might get hurt and it could trigger defiant attitudes. /Teachers must love their students and show attitudes of understanding for their students.

/There must be a relationship in which students can approach teachers and discuss their troubles with them. /Students in this age group must be induced to actively participate in various church activities other than Bible education.

/Teachers must help students feel a sense of belonging to the church. /Next, let's look at church education of the youth department.

/D. The youth department. /The youth department consists of people who should be treated like adults. /However, they are not yet completely mature. /They face problems regarding school, work, the opposite gender, marriage, and etcetera.

/Therefore, they are at a time in their lives where they need systematic education and training. /The youth have personal communal experiences through college and work, and thus, they need the establishment of thorough Christian values.

/In order to accomplish this, the church must teach the youth about specific topics such as a view of the world, a view of occupation, a view of the opposite gender, a view of marriage, and etcetera. /The youth must also be encouraged and trained to serve as Sunday school teachers.

/The youth must also be used as workers for volunteer work. /Above all, the youth must be guided so that they would meet spouses of faith and establish families of faith. /They must be guided so that they would settle into the church and become workers of the church in the future.

/In addition, there is also the need for establishment of systematic Bible studies for the adult community. /A time for a systematic study of the Bible and doctrines before Sunday worship services will be a great contribution to faith-based education for adults.

/It is also good to hold Bible study programs during the week. /Housewives and retired seniors have time during the week. /There must be regular lectures or Bible studies for them that is aimed at growth of faith. /Next, let's look at special retreats.

/(3) Special retreats. /It is best to hold one summer Bible school once a year for the elementary department. /The summer Bible school program is usually held for three to four days. /The Bible school is literally a school that teaches the Bible.

/When we teach children the Bible in depth, we teach them to be born again as believers with confidence in their salvation. /Not only that, but we can lead unbelieving children to the church through Bible school, and it can lead to a revival in Sunday school.

/Through the deliverance of biblical knowledge and the Bible school, teachers and children can personally grow close with each other. /The most important thing is to hold training courses for teachers months before the Bible school is held so that teachers can receive training.

/We must first teach teachers about what they are to teach at Bible school. /The teachers must remember the information, and must prepare well during the remaining time.

/Teachers must help children to grow into true Christians through effective Bible school teachings. /It is good to hold two retreats a year for junior high and high school students and the youth.

/It is best to host retreats at secluded locations that are amid nature and away from the noisy city. /The first purpose of retreats is to strengthen the faith of the youth through the Bible and prayer.

/For this to happen, the leading pastor must prepare what to preach to the youth a long time before the retreat takes place. /If circumstances allow, it is also a good method to invite guest speakers.

/The youth must not only hear God's word, but they need time to read God's word as well. /The pastor may teach students to diligently read the Bible, but there are times when he does not actually guide them to read the Bible.

/If a certain amount of biblical passages are chosen in advance, the leaders and students can read the Bible aloud together, and this can be a good opportunity for students to receive new grace and challenge.

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/The second purpose of retreats is for communication within the community. /The youth especially need time of spiritual growth through communication and cooperation with fellow peers.

/Thus, students will eat together and have fellowship with one another at retreats, and they will grow close with one another. This will have a great impact on their personal spiritual growth.

/With this we will conclude the eighth lecture on pastoral theology. /Thank you.