

And so we ordain tonight a Bible Presbyterian minister -- to be a minister, to present the Word of God and to show people how they can be saved; to be a Presbyterian minister, not some new group or cult but a carrying on of the tradition reaching back to the days of the apostles, the tradition of the teachings of the Word of God (??), that tradition which finds a continuous existence at least through the last 400 years through the followers of John Calvin and of John Knox and of others. But, not only that, but a Bible Presbyterian minister -- one who will stress the fact that our message is from the Word, one who will stand upon this positively, ~~one~~ who will speak out in no uncertain terms against those who will lead the people of God astray; one who will gather the sheep without a shepherd, and lead them beside the still waters, in the strength that God gives and in accordance with the instructions that His Word contains.

Now, let's take just one second to look at the passage with which we started, and see how these thoughts are all contained in it: Ephesians 4:11-15. "He gave" -- Presbyterianism stresses the sovereignty of God; we don't make a minister; we set one apart that God has set apart for the purpose. "He gave" Why? "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body." We don't establish a minister simply to say things in a vacuum, we establish him to reach people, to get to people's lives, and to reach their hearts and minds and show them how their lives may be made worthwhile, by following the teachings of the Book that God has given. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Sheep without a shepherd He wants to turn from darkness unto light and then to grow in grace, to come to this unity, to grow into the stature of the fulness of Christ, "that we henceforth be no more children ... of doctrine" -- there's your sheep without a shepherd carried about by the slight of man and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive. Some people say, It is bitter to take the attitude of