Text: Hosea 4:6

- "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge."
- •II Timothy 2:15
- •Today, our discussion will focus on how church growth is impeded.

•Church growth is impeded through a failure to..... LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

•Matt. 22:23-33; I Peter 3:13-16a; John 5:39; Col. 1:3-10

- •They had grown in <u>faith.</u>
- •They had grown in <u>love</u> for the <u>saints.</u>
- •They had grown in <u>hope.</u>

•*Church growth is impeded through a failure to.....* LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

•How had this growth occurred:

- •They had heard the **word of truth**, the **gospel**.
- •They had learned this from <u>Epaphras</u>, a faithful <u>minister</u>.
- •Increased <u>faith</u>, deeper <u>love</u>, and steadfast <u>hope</u> are developed through <u>constant interaction with God's word</u>.

•Church growth is impeded through a failure to.....

RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH

- •II Tim. 2:15
- •This applies to both <u>message</u> and <u>methods</u>.
 - •Do we understand the difference between doctrine and tradition?
 - •How does this apply to our methods?

- •Church growth is impeded through a failure to.....
 - UNDERSTAND AND EMPHASIZE GOD'S GRACE
- •Romans 3:21-26
- •Colossians 1:11-14; 20-23
- •Ephesians 2:1-10
- •Paul ends every epistle with a statement concerning

grace.