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Preach the Word!

Commissioned for the One-Hundred-and-Fiftieth Anniversary
of Concordia Theological Seminary

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1995

Tune: "Fort Wayne," Carl Schalk, 1995

1. God gave a vision of the need
That Paul might go where God would lead;
So by the Spirit gently spurred,
He went at once to preach the word.
Far distanced from that time and place
The need remained to know God's grace;
Within a pastor's heart there stirred
A prayer for men to preach the word.

Refrain:

Preach the word, at all times, preach the word;
With great care and patience, preach the word!
Correct, rebuke, encourage, and assure—
Preach the word! Preach the word!

2. God blessed that prayer and students came,
Here learned to speak His saving Name;
Their sure resolve was undeterred:
"O Lord, send me to preach the word!"
The need persists, the hour is late;
The workers few, the harvest great.
Lord, bless our prayer for men not lured
From their desire to preach the word.
3. How can the world God's mercy share
Or call upon His name in prayer?
Can they believe who have not heard?
Some must be sent to preach the word.
Unveil, O Lord, our blinded view;
Anoint our eyes with salve from You
That we might see with sight unblurred,
One vision clear: to preach the word.

The music is available upon request from the Office of Advancement
of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.