



**Dr. Shelton Smith**  
President and Editor



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Dear Sword Friend,

When I am especially burdened and when I have a great need—and especially when that burden and that need concerns the ministry of the Sword of the Lord, *it has been my practice to do two things:*

1. Talk to the Lord, and
2. Tell our friends.

*You have been our friend,* and for that *I am deeply grateful.* I cannot tell you how much that means to the ministry here and to me as well.

But here is what I need you to know.

The summer of 2015 has been very challenging for us. As much as I dislike the term, we have had a significant "summer slump."

As you might imagine, not **EVERYTHING** we do is popular. Nonetheless, *we still believe right is right* and *wrong is wrong whether or not what you are doing is popular.*

Every time we sound the trumpet of warning, it awakens some folks who don't want to hear the alarm.

In other words, taking a stand is not without consequences. Even some of our brethren turn away from us because we keep standing.

But as the apostle said, "None of these things move me" (Acts 20:24). We are more than ever determined to do things the Bible way and do so without flinching. As Paul concluded, "...so that I might finish my course with joy."

In the fragile society of 2015, even in Christian circles, the truth is offensive to a lot of people—and they do take offense when you tell them what they need to hear.

**We understand that,  
and we expect it; but it hampers  
our bottom line.**

When churches and individuals get upset, some of them stop shopping at the Sword, and others of them cut off their giving.

From my mail I could give you countless such examples, but it also happens in my meetings.

For example:

In New Mexico a man stormed the book table screaming at me. A friend literally restrained him and held him off of me.

In Michigan a man made an obscene gesture and shook his fist as he stomped out of the building.

In California a woman said, "My children are very sensitive, and I don't want them to hear anything upsetting."

In Alabama a group of five drove for more than an hour just to try to shout me down when I stood up to preach.

Churches all over the country are caving in, going soft; and they don't want our influence in their congregations.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not complaining, and I'm not discouraged. I'm just being very open to tell you some things so you will understand how things are.

I'm encouraged to believe that perhaps a lot of our friends just don't realize how much we need their support.

It could be that you think your gift would not help that much.

Well, let me assure you, we do need your support; ***and whatever you can do*** (large, small or in between) will help us at this time when we have such pressure.

**If we could catch up  
between now and Labor Day,  
it surely would be a  
huge blessing.**

Most of you know me well enough to know that I don't "cry wolf" unless there's a wolf at the door. I'm just being very transparent, very candid in sharing with you the current needs.

Thank you for being a friend and for considering prayerfully what I have said.

If I hear from you right away, I will be most appreciative. As always, your friend,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Shelton D. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Dr. Shelton Smith  
SLS:wmf

P.S. These times are exciting times to serve the Lord and to be on the front lines of the battles of the twenty-first century.

Thank you for "staying true and standing tall" with us in such times.