God whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight.
Hear us we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

So it is the hymnwriter tells the story of creation. God spoke and
chaos and darkness fled, took their flight. Scripture tells that same story
with these words: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the
deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God
said, let there be light and there was light.

Darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Before God spoke, there is the deep, the waters, a symbol for chaos.

Within the deep there was no life, no order, no purpose, chaos. But when God's
word came, then there was light, order, life.

The story of the flood is the story of God letting chaos loose once
more. Where once his word had held back the waters, providing space for life,
because of sin God let go, he gave the world back to the deep, and all died
but those he preserved on the ark.

Water as chaos is such a powerful symbol in scripture. The children of
Israel come to the Red sea, pursued by Pharoah's army. God pushed aside chaos,
the waters, so that his children might escape, then when Pharoah's army pursues
them through the sea bed, God lets Chaos have its way, in the waters return,
and Pharoah's soldiers are drowned.

Or Christ, walking on the water, demonstrating his power over chaos.
And Peter shares in that power, walking with Jesus until fear leaves him sinking.

Most of all, baptism. We went down, under the waters, overwhelmed by
chaos, drowned like Pharoah's army, or the people in the flood, Then God raised
up a new creation, his new son or daughter, to be overwhelmed by chaos no more.

Yet today, chaos is like a sea rising all around us. I heard the second
letter to Timothy describe the last days and I say, that's us: In the last
days therewill come times of stress. For **will become lovers of** **lovers of money, proud, arrogant,** **abusive** disobedient to their parents, un-
grateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce haters
of good, treacherous, reckless, **swollen with conceit,** lovers of pleasure
rather than lovers of God, holding the form of religion but denying **the power of it.**

**Chaos.** That is what is happening in our homes, in our classrooms, in
government. Chaos. People are being ruled by what they feel, what they

These words were written to Timothy: But as for you, continue in what
you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it
and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which
are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All
scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, for
correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be
complete, equipped for every good work.

Scripture is inspired by God, God breathed is what the word means. It
is God breathed, not so we can argue how the creation is taught in our schools, but that the chaos in our lives might be driven out by God's word.
Scripture is God breathed that it might be useful to us, guiding and directing
us in our living. Scripture is God breathed, that we might believe
in Christ and have everlasting salvation. Scripture is God breathed, inspired
that Christ who is the word of God might be our light in the darkness of this
world.

The news papers say day after day, if we can just find the right govern-
ment program, we will win the war on drugs. If we can just administer the
severe enough penalties we will drive the drunk driver from the road. If we
can just create the proper educational programs, then the schools will became
effective once again.
And so we wait for someone to solve all these problems. For some teacher
or minister to train our children, for our children to change so we no longer
need yell at them, for our spouse to change so our home will no longer
be such a shambles. We wait and fail to do the one thing that can make
any difference. We fail to let God rule over our lives with his word.

God has breathed into scripture that through it he might be in charge
of your life. God has inspired scripture not so we can have a Bible we can
worship, but that through these sacred writings our whole lives will be given
to worship our Lord. God has breathed into scripture, that through his word
day after day chaos and darkness will be driven out of you and you will be
his new creation through faith.

Today I intended to preach about missions. About telling others. About
giving our money that the chaos in our neighbors hearts and lives might be
replaced by Christ. But giving money can never replace giving of our hearts.
We, who have spoken the word, who have heard the word, we stand in need of the
chaos and darkness being driven out and faith in Christ being poured in. To
scripture is where God sends us, that we might be instructed, corrected, reproved,
trained. To scripture is where God sends me and you that we might be prepared
for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

God whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,
hear us we humbly pray and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious
ray, let there be light.