

“WHAT DO PASTORS LONG FOR?”

(2Corinthians 11:16-33)

August 6, 2017

Quite honestly, ministry is **HARD**. Satisfying – yes, even sometimes joyful, but honestly and truthfully difficult.

I. Paul's CREDENTIALS and the church

- **The Judaizers and FALSE credentials**

These foes of the church used their “credentials” to **HARM** the church rather than help it.

- **The Apostle and VALID credentials**

By contrast, Paul was a **HELPFUL** friend to the church.

II. Paul's SUFFERINGS for the church

He has served Christ faithfully and has often suffered for it:

- **He was imprisoned often for the gospel**
- **He was whipped and beaten on numerous occasions**
- **He faced death time and time again (stoning/snakebite)**
- **He experienced shipwreck, weary miles, sleepless nights, hunger & thirst, cold and poor clothing, harrowing escapes**
- **He bore a daily burden for the church**

It is difficult for any minister to claim to have suffered in the same way, but a few of these things are **FAMILIAR**. The most prominent is bearing a **DAILY** burden for the church.

What does a Pastor want/ need from the church?

- **UNITY -**

Fighting and disagreements, especially over petty issues, drain the **LIFE** out of ministers. **Jesus prayed:** *Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one ...* *John 17:11*

- **TRUST I take very seriously the charge of the Bible:**

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1Corinthians 4:2

Trust always goes **TWO** ways, and you must earn and keep the trust of your pastor. A healthy church must have trust.

- **THIRST for God and his Word-**

It is frustrating to feel like he needs to **PUSH** people to read it – especially Christians!

Praise the Lord. Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands. Psalm 112:1

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Psalm 119:16

“My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.” Luke 8:21

- **Servant HEARTS - The paid pastors are never to be the sole workers in the church. Mere pew sitting is a SIN.**

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1Corinthians 3:9

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

1Peter 2:16

- **GENEROSITY - I am preaching to the choir here, because this is an area I feel we have been truly BLESSED.**

But, we must be diligent in teaching and encouraging OTHERS to join in the blessings of tithing – for the health of themselves and the church:

*The wicked borrow and do not repay, but **the righteous give generously.*** Psalm 37:21

- **Gossip KILLERS- Some of the greatest Christians I know are those who stop gossip in its tracks, knowing it is SATAN'S tool.**

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:6

*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.***

Proverbs 6:16-19

God hates those who share falsehoods and stir up dissension in the church. Gossips, BEWARE!

- **Support (having his BACK) -**

The majority of the 1500 couples who are leaving the ministry in America each month, are leaving for THIS reason.

It is imperative that key members of the church PROTECT them.

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

Be unified, establish trust, crave the Bible, serve God and others, be generous, kill gossip and support your leaders.

If you do those seven things, which are all supported by Scripture, ANY minister would be pleased and proud to serve this congregation.