

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of Jonas, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."
John 21:17



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

Pastors, Shepherds, Pastor's wives, God's sheep, 'Visitation', caring, looking after, Warning others and much more! PART I

**(THIS IS AT LEAST A
THREE-PART SERIES OF
GREAT IMPORTANCE!
You and your church may
not survive the future
without this).**

**In the days ahead in the
end times and in times of
much more persecution,
we are going to need
REAL Pastors.**

Warm Greetings!

I was a lost sheep in my youth from almost a baby to 17 years old. I am now a Pastor.

It cost me a lot to get to where I am today. From the ages of zero to 17, I had a very small idea of Jesus Christ.

So let's list what is inside of just part I of this issue: (by God's grace Part II will follow within a few weeks, shortly after this edition).

- What or who is a real Pastor? Scriptures to prove this!
- The vital importance of pastor's wives. And what to do if there is no 'wife'?
- How the 'world' is changing rapidly and the True church is going to 'disappear' in the days ahead to some degree, at least in some places.
- The established churches (who use physical buildings) need to change and get ready or face the consequences.
- **THE WONDERFUL REWARDS OF THE PASTOR! (Part II coming soon!!)**

What or Who is a real Pastor? Scriptures to prove this!

And what is a real Pastor? The answer is simple, because it is so both scriptural, and of course therefore, easy to understand. **You can find it in many verses in the Bible, some of which I will share later in these editions.**

The 'Job' of a Pastor in my opinion of over 45 years of 'doing it', is possibly the most difficult job in the world.

This is due to several reasons, which I will come to later in this series.

If, when Jesus calls you to be

a Pastor, or 'Minister of the Gospel', and if you knew in advance how difficult that was going to be, we would probably have an infinitesimally small amount of true godly righteous pastors today.

Very close to zero.

But God did not plan it that way! Praise the Lord.

But we thank God that we don't have to know how hard it will be in advance!! Jesus just calls us, and then we follow Him step by step. John 15:16 is a key verse for this.

But the simplest and most direct message came from Jesus Himself in a couple of places:

A **True** Pastor, upon the time of his calling or shortly thereafter, has to be able or willing to do **three main things**:

- (i) Feed God's People the Word of God.
- (ii) Lay down even your own life for God's true sheep.
- (iii) Be personally aware of the devil's fight against you and understand (ongoing process), what to do about that.

Confirming Scriptures:

**(i) Feed God's people
the Word of God**

John 21:15 So when they had eaten breakfast,

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

1 Peter 5: 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

This is highly interesting; here is the truly great Apostle Peter, the person who Jesus chose to especially feed the flock and the 'Sheep', now articulating the same important Message to his readership, or followers of his Messages!

Peter was faithful to pass on the same message Jesus had imprinted in/on his mind! Praise the Lord. God bless Peter, and all who are called by his name, wake up!

(ii) Lay down even your own life for God's true sheep.

This week I have been reading the Gospel of John with my son each day. We have duly covered John Chapter 10, which is **the main chapter in the New Testament** about shepherds and sheep.

Here is what Jesus says:

10 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All who ever came [a]before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

12 But a [b]hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not

own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.

13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. **15** As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the



sheep. **16** And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. **30** I and My Father are one."

There is so much truth in these many verses; but the bottom line for followers of Jesus is:

are you willing to lay down your life for the 'unborn' in Christ, for those who are not saved and also for our present brothers and sister in Jesus?

The true shepherd is willing to die, the hireling we read above flees when danger is coming and

allows the sheep or lambs to be killed.

The vital importance of pastor's wives.

And what to do if there is no 'wife'? (Coming in Part II, don't miss that!)

It is very clear that in the last days the devil attacks true Christian marriages like never before. There has been an epidemic of divorces among Christians in recent decades, all over the world and especially where feminist ideology is rampant.

Many a pastor also has lost his wife, who just up and left him and their ministry. Or alternatively he was unfaithful, or there was a whole variety of other reasons. Or the Pastor is in ministry, but his wife never attends and does not seem to support him, I feel this is very common. This is also a battle for the congregation,

(Church membership) in some ways; since they don't always understand why this happens with the wife. It is Confusion. God is not the author of Confusion, but of Peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:33

Without a good wife who loves Jesus and believes in this scripture below, it is infinitesimally harder for a Pastor to be effective and bear as much fruit as the Lord would like him to.

The instruction for the godly wife is this in the Bible:

'She will do him good, not evil, all the days of her life.' Proverbs 31:12

A few years ago a brother in the Lord gifted me two books of obituaries of perhaps 100 pastors or preachers of the Brethren church in Great Britain; the books were chronologically compiled by decades, and listed the works of God that each man had accomplished, and his fruit for the Lord.

It was inspiring also to see, that although not many details were given about the pastors' wives, it was usually mentioned in a very positive light and repeated references were made that lauded her as the (usually) primary person who made her husband's ministry possible.

It was good to see this tribute in so many of the testimonies, and it is very true.

I think most godly women understand this and hopefully the pastors as well!

I think this should be a primary prayer for all 'churches' or groups of believers, that they should pray earnestly for the Pastor and his wife, and more on that in the next edition!

How the 'world' is changing rapidly and the True church is going to 'disappear' in the days ahead to some degree, at least in some places.

The established churches (who use physical buildings) need to change and get ready or face the consequences.



In the very last days, the book of Revelation mentions that the Antichrist, (the Beast), 'shall make war on the saints'.

Revelation 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues,

and nations.

The Antichrist continues for 42 months! Obviously another clear sign that believers will go through the Great Tribulation. We covered this in great detail in our 4-part series last year about the Antichrist.

Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

But even now as we look around the globe, there are millions of Christians being killed each year. The net is also closing on Christians in lands always considered to be seemingly safe from such things.

It is like shooting fish in a barrel for the wicked today to capture, kidnap and kill Jesus-believing people all over the world. That is because they meet in easy to find locations like churches made of brick and mortar.

An excellent history of the church in Europe from the time of the Apostles until the 19th century, can be found in the fantastic 500 page book called 'The Pilgrim Church' by E H Broadbent. (Link below)

The main lesson in this truly well-written and remarkable book is that the True Church of God (living by Grace and Faith in Jesus' Words), was always and continuously, generation-by-generation, separating itself over time from both the worldly systems and also from false religion and the power of false government-controlled churches, who always persecuted them and tried to kill them, and frequently succeeding. **We do however, still feel the positive effects of these true churches across the entire spectrum of Europe today.**

There is nothing new under the sun! Ecclesiastes 1:9. The thing which was is also that which shall be. If you are an ardent Christian

you will know or learn to know that the True Church, that is all those people who truly loved Christ and gathered together as much as they could, has usually been underground, or if it was over ground, both forms have always suffered severe and tremendous persecution. I believe you should deeply remember this, dear brothers, and dear sisters.

I wonder how many modern established physical building churches today are aware of what is coming around the corner to and for them.

It would be good if you agree with this message that you could share it with your church and ask the Lord how you could all prepare for the days ahead.

Because surely something is going to happen. How much better to prepare now in small groups with a good network of communications and in home fellowships, so that you can obtain some sense of being at least a semi underground church in case these things arrive at your door in the near future.

(iii) Be personally aware of the devil's ruthless fight against you (as a Pastor or shepherd of God's people)) and understand (ongoing process), what to do about that.

I think we are going to come to this point in greater detail in part II, under the heading of 'Praying for your pastors/leaders/shepherds'. For now, please, can you consider the verses Ephesians 6:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 2:11

Let's close this rather introductory message about the future of Pastors and the requirements for being a good one. I pray it is a blessing. Love is the greatest force of Earth. God's Love.

Of course there are several more important requirements and details, but I feel that these are the two main things, presuming of course we all understand that a Pastor is born again and has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

Until Next week,
God bless you.
Jerry for the WCF Team

Some of the few things that may be coming in Part II and Part III and Part IV of this series, by God's grace.

- How do you know if you have a good Pastor?
- Are you qualified to know that?
- Prayers for your True Pastor (Praying for your pastors/leaders/shepherds)
- **And what to do if there**

is no 'wife' for the Pastor? Coming in Part II, don't miss that!

- **Visitation**
- Coming to a meeting of God in the correct spirit and attitude.
- Helping your Pastor escape over the Wall!
- Loyalty to a godly man.
- Spiritual battles, physical battles, and demonic attacks on your Pastor
- **Warnings** a true Pastor must give to you or the church.
- How to receive these warnings in the right way.
- Who leads the church really, the Pastor, or the elders and Pastor, or the main financial supporters, or all of the above? Easy to answer this!
- **Why is being a True Pastor the most difficult job in the world?**
- **The Rewards of the Pastor!**

The Pilgrim Church: Amazon.co.uk: Broadbent, E H: 9781789430387: Books

A Wife's Responsibility - Successful Marriage Tips for Women | Derek Prince

Amazon.co.uk : pastors wives an excellent page

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