

News and Notes


PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Danny Vaughan** - Jerry's cousin in Ada, Okla., cancer (Multiple Myeoloma)
- Danny Douglas** - Faithful preacher in Tennessee. Prostate cancer surgery.
- Paul Brantley** - Elder at Bellview, Pensacola, Fla. Heart damage and constant pain.
- Earlene Holley** - Sherlene's mother. On hospice care In Elkwood Assisted Living.
- Janice Ruffner** - Roelf Ruffner's wife, Columbia, TN. Blood clots, Fibromyalgia, Lung problems.
- Nancy Reed** - Various health issues.
- Patrick King** - Hemiplegic Migraine.
- Sandy Craig** - Ongoing kidney problems.
- Jo Ann McLerran** - COPD.
- Glenda Marble** - Lexington, Okla., Heart problems.
- Paul Marble** - Glenda Marble's son. Recurrence of cancer, now doing well.
- Charles and Linda Pogue** - Congestive heart failure. Charles having dizzy spells. Linda, BP issues
- Nancy Verkist** - Ellensburg, Washington. Von Hippel Lindau disease.
- Don Smith** - Brother in Christ persecuted for teaching fellow inmates in an Ohio prison.

GOSPEL MEETING BEGINS - Our gospel meeting with Ron Cosby begins this Sunday and closes Thursday. On Sunday, we will eat together immediately following morning worship and meet for afternoon worship at 12:45. Meeting time, Monday through Thursday, is 7 p.m. Ron is a fine gospel preacher and a friend of Jerry and Sherlene for a half-century. Ron and Jerry attended the Elk City School of Preaching where they met in 1968. Please pray for and support this gospel effort. Have you shared the announcement on the church's Face Book page, or indicated an interest in it?

KENYA REPORT - Contributors this week to the Kenya Fund are, Ron Skinner, Lexington, Okla.; and the Eastside church of Christ, Lexington, Okla. We are in the process of writing and printing simple tri-fold tracts that we will put into PDF form and send to Benard so he can print and use them in Kenya. This a very economical way to get tracts to them, and we *know* they will be valuable teaching tools because the Kenya brethren put tracts to great use. They do not leave them in their buildings, but distribute them far and wide. We could learn a lesson from them.

<p>Website - www.necocelkcity.com Face Book - www.facebook.com/nechurchofchristecok You Tube - www.youtube.com/channel/UCjd5rSEV1vXCXn52ouOrXoQ</p>	
<p>Those Who Serve Sunday Morning, Aug. 5, 2018 First Prayer - Landry Brewer Closing Prayer - Dylan Brewer Communion - Earl Reed Offering - Jerry Brewer Sunday Afternoon, Aug. 5, 2018 First Prayer - Patrick King Closing Prayer - Earl Reed</p>	<p>Records - July 29 Bible Class.....13 Mornng Worship.....13 Afternoon Worship.....13 Contribution..... N/A</p>
<p>Weekly Meeting Times</p>	
<p>Sunday Morning Bible Classes.....9:30 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30 Sunday Afternoon Worship.....5:00</p>	



Sound Doctrine

“But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)

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Differences Between Preachers, Pastors, And Their Work

Earl D. Reed

“Are you the pastor here?” This is a question that seems to be directed to many gospel preachers by well meaning strangers from the denominational world while visiting ser-vices of the Lord’s church. In this discussion, we will attempt to clarify the differences between the office and function of a pastor and a preacher. In the New Testament, the terms “elder”, “overseer”, “bishop”, and “pastor” are used to describe the same office. Therefore, while our discussion revolves around the term “pastor” we must realize that *all* of these terms are scripturally acceptable.

Before we begin any study of the work of the church, either collectively or individually, we must first consider the nature of the church itself. Jesus paid a high price for those that would comprise His church (Acts 20:28), and that church *belongs* to Jesus. As the pur-chaser and owner of the church, He alone can decide the terms of its membership, its purpose, and its organization. Therefore, it really doesn’t matter how many people believe that a pastor and preacher are one and the same, because Jesus has *all* authority as to how *His* church is organized, not man.

Jesus is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22), He died for it (Eph. 5:25), He adds the saved to it (Acts 2:47), He will judge it (1 Pet. 4:17). Jesus is to be the Lord of each Christian individually, and of each congregation of Christians collectively. Because of His authority, it is His decision as to what constitutes the proper organization of the church.

The different terms for “pastor” in the New Testament are actually just different descrip-tions of the same office. The word “pastor” refers to a shepherd watching over his flock, protecting it from wolves, guiding the erring sheep back into the fold. “Elder” denotes an older person, both physically and spiritually (1 Tim. 3:6). But he not *just* an older person. Elders/Pastors must meet the qualifications set forth in First Timothy and Titus. Specifi-cally, a pastor *must* be a married man with faithful (Christian) children; above reproach;

sober-minded; modest in speech and dress; hospitable; able and willing to teach; not a drinker of alcohol; not violent; or malicious; not greedy or covetous; but rather patient; ruling his own house well with seriousness toward that responsibility; and not a new Christian; having a good reputation with those outside of the church. (I do not intend for this listing to be the basis for the appointment of a pastor/elder. The passages cited should be carefully and prayerfully studied in such a circumstance).

The office of a pastor is a different office than that of the preacher, or evangelist. Most, if not all, denominations use the term “Pastor” to refer to the preacher. However, there is not one instance in the New Testament of there being just *one* pastor in a congregation of the Lord’s church. Pastors are referred to in plurality in each congregation (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2,4,6,22,23; 16:4; 20:17-18; 22:5; 1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5; Jas. 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1).

We need to clarify one thing at this point. A pastor/elder/bishop can be a preacher and a preacher can be an elder, but according to the Bible, they aren’t the same office. For example, an evangelist is a “preacher of the gospel; one who declares good tidings” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*). Paul said that Christ appointed “some evangelists, and some pastors” (Eph. 4:11). Paul lists pastors and evangelists as *separate* offices and works. Some believe that only preachers that travel the country (circuit preachers) are “evangelists”. However, Phillip was referred to as an evangelist in the first century, and *he* was located at *one* place, Caesarea (Acts 21:8).

Also, the qualifications for a bishop/pastor/elder require him to be the “*husband of one wife*” (1 Tim. 3:1-2). This would preclude any single men from being preachers if “preacher” (evangelist) and “pastor” (bishop/elder) were synonymous. And, a bishop is to have faithful children (Titus 1:7). This would preclude a childless man from being a preacher.

So, a preacher is not a pastor unless he is (1) qualified by God’s requirements to be one, (2) unless he is appointed, or ordained, to be one by the congregation he preaches for, and (3) only if he is one of a plurality of pastors on equal footing (no “head pastor” or “assistant pastor”). This should clarify the pastor/preacher error. While a qualified man can be both—they are not mutually exclusive offices—being *one* does not automatically make him the *other*.

And while many today, even in the Lord’s church, expect the preacher to do the work of a pastor, that is not his job! From whence came the idea that the only one that could correct an erring brother, visit the sick, study with the lost, and counsel the discouraged was the preacher? It is a certainty that James did *not* say “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to have a *preacher* who will visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

Paul told Timothy to “*do the work of an evangelist*” (2 Tim. 4:5), therefore, we must conclude that there is a “work” for the evangelist. The misconception is that it is the “work” of a pastor or overseer. What then is the work of the evangelist? Paul answers that question for us in his epistles to two evangelists, Timothy and Titus.

Paul gives Timothy a solemn instruction, a charge, that he “*preach the word*”. This is the

foremost duty of the evangelist. The very word “evangelist” is derived from the same root as the word “herald”, and signifies the basic duty of all gospel preachers. As the herald would take the message of a king and proclaim it without any addition or alteration, so the evangelist preaches the word of God without fluctuation (2 Tim. 4:1-5).

Also, the preacher is charged to commit the gospel to faithful men who, in turn, commit the gospel to other faithful men (2 Tim. 2:1-2). In this way the gospel is propagated throughout time. While we have God’s word in written form, the need is still ever present for faithful men to study this word (2 Tim. 2:15) and proclaim it to others.

It is true that the evangelist, as a Christian, is charged to visit the sick and the erring, to do good to all men, and live a life of Christian example to the world. However, this is not his work as an *evangelist*, but as a Christian. So, those that would bind upon the preacher a yoke of “supersaint”, let them know that everything that the preacher does—short of the public proclamation of the word—is also the duty of *all* Christians.

The work of the pastors, in contrast, is to oversee the work of the church, to care for it. This is a work ordained (appointed) by God to be carried out by those meeting the qualifications listed earlier (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. ch.3; Titus ch.1). Peter enjoined pastors to willingly take the oversight of the church, “*feeding*” it, being examples to, but not as “*lords over God’s heritage*” (1 Pet. 5:1-3).

However, the Hebrews writer tells us they (pastors/elders) “*watch for*” our souls, and that we should obey them because they have “*the rule over you*” (Heb. 13:17).

We see then, that a summary of the work of pastors is to “*feed*” the church by giving it access to sound preachers and teachers, to be an example to it of how a faithful Christian can and should live, and also to “*rule*”, or correct, those in error lest they depart from the living God (Heb. 3:12).

Preachers and pastors have great work to do in the kingdom, the church. But whether a man fills one or both of these offices, there is also great work to be done by *every* faithful member of the Lord’s church today. May God bless us all in whatever job we are qualified to fill in God’s House.

Some Changes

This issue marks the last bulletin from the Northeast church of Christ. We have cherished the work of publishing it weekly and addressing a large range of Bible topics, as well as issues confronting the church. However, the time has come when the bulletin will cease to be published by Northeast and another person will preach.

This is not to say that such writings will cease, only that they will eventually appear in a different form to be posted on the internet. So, “so long” for now until later, and may God bless your labors in the cause that is greater than any and/or all of us.