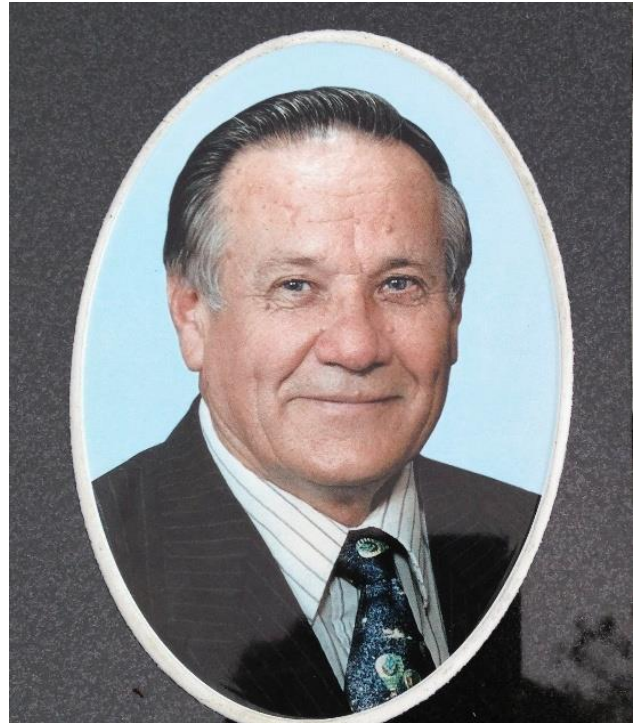


Life of a Pastor

Hebrews 13:7-8



Heb. 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

I. Remember Your Spiritual Leaders

Heb. 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Eph. 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

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- **Gratitude**

Col. 1:24-25 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister.

Col. 1:28-29 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 Tim. 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

- **Reality**

Phil. 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- **Influence**

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II. Remember the Word of God That They Preached

Heb. 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- **God Reveals Himself Through the Word**

Mal. 2:7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.

2 Tim. 4:1-4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: **preach the word**; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- **The Word of God Is the Source of Salvation**

1 Pet. 1:23-25 **You have been born again**, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God**; for "all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- **The Word of God Is the Source of Sanctification.**

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- **The Word of God Is the Source of a Fulfilled Life**

2 Tim. 3:15-17 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

Heb. 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, those **who spoke to you the word of God**. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

He was proclaiming the One word of One true God about the One way of salvation through One Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.¹

A. The Authority of Scripture

1 Thes. 2:13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men **but as what it really is, the word of God**, which is at work in you believers.

(LSB) **2 Pet. 1:16,19** For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty... And we have as **more sure the prophetic word**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

Heb. 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him **to whom we must give account.**

"There's no case that can be made biblically for a woman preacher. Period, paragraph, end of discussion."²

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5is5S0ZAaLQ>

² Q&A at Shepherd's Conference 2019

B. Clarity of Scripture

(NAS) **1 Cor. 2:12-13** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know** the things freely given to us by God, ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

1 John 5:13 I wrote these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know** that you have eternal life.

But this is not just a Roman Catholic issue. I regret to have to say that as a Protestant evangelical, it concerns me equally that there are some in evangelicalism who are telling us essentially that not only are we not able to understand the Scripture, because we ourselves are not the authorized infallible interpreters of Scripture, but the Scripture itself is unclear.³

C. Sufficiency of Scripture

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

It is common in the evangelical church today for people to verbal acknowledge that the Bible as God's word is the final authority for both what they believe and how they live. Yet in reality, a clear connection between that public confession and personal conduct is rare.

Claiming that Scripture is true and complete would preclude Evangelicals from turning into other sources for establishing thought and life. Yet many do just that. In cosmology, for example, straightforward reading of Genesis 1-2 is often dismissed on the basis of modern evolutionary theories. In apologetic philosophy and reason frequently take precedent over Scripture. To this list, the subject of morality and ethic must be added instead of looking to the Bible many professing Christians look to psychology and sociology for supposed solutions to personal needs, and social ills. The rise of postmodern thought has similarly skewed the church's understanding of right and wrong – as unbiblical tolerance (in the name of love) has weakened the churches to the point where they are as soft on truth as they are on sin...

The fact is that far too many professing Christian live their life day in and day out, on the basis of something other than the Bible. As a result, their priorities reflect the world's priorities, not God's. Their pattern of behavior and their plans for the future differ only slightly from those of their unsaved friends and neighbors.⁴

1 Cor. 4:1-2 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and **stewards of the mysteries of God**. Moreover, it is required of stewards **that they be found trustworthy.**

III. Imitate Their Faith

Heb. 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and **imitate their faith**. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

2 Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

³ <https://www.gty.org/sermons/80-309/reasons-to-trust-the-clarity-of-scripture>

⁴ John MacArthur, *Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong* pp. 7-8

Takeaways for Prayer

- Thank God for the life and ministry of John MacArthur and other spiritual leaders through whom God has guided you in faith.
- Examine your attitude toward the Word of God. Do you accept its authority and sufficiency for your life?
- Pray for those who preach the Word today.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up and send out new pastors and preachers who will proclaim the Word tomorrow.