

Introduction (v17-18a)

1. He calls for Elders, because elders are critical to the life & mission of the church.
2. Without good elders, the church is no good.
3. Right order

Alan Greer:

"I would give
my life for
these men..."

I. The Life of a Pastor (v18b, 22-23, 25-26, 28)

1. The life of a pastor is with his people (v18b)

→ Pastors are just people

- (1) Pastors aren't over the congregation, but in the congregation (clergy vs. laity)
- (2) Pastors don't lead a life of sermons, but service (accountable to people too)

2. The life of a pastor is Spirit-led (v22-23a)

- (1) Pastors aren't led by populous
- (2) Pastors aren't led by pragmatism
- (3) Pastors aren't led by personality (plurality)

3. The life of a pastor is full of sacrifice (v23b)

- (1) Imprisonment - Pastors give up certain freedoms

+ Go when he wants, where he wants
+ Pursue certain ambitions

- (2) Afflictions - Pastors give up certain comforts

+ Being "off" + Family shares him
+ Afford (double-honor)

4. The life of a pastor is full of burden (v 25-26)

- (1) Burden of people's pain, problems
- (2) Burden of people's sin, stubbornness

Our work, when earnestly undertaken, lays us open to attacks in the direction of depression. Who can bear the weight of souls without sometimes sinking to the dust? Passionate longings after men's conversion, if not fully satisfied (and when are they?), consume the soul with anxiety and disappointment...To see the hopeful turn aside, the godly grow cold, professors abusing their privileges, and sinners waxing more bold in sin—are not these sights enough to crush us to the earth? Our position in the church will also conduce to this. A minister fully equipped for his work will usually be a spirit by himself, above, beyond and apart from others. The most loving of his people cannot enter into his peculiar thoughts, cares and temptations...They are shocked at the apathy of their little band of brethren and return to their secret agony with all the heavier burden pressing upon them because they have found their dearest companions slumbering.

5. The life of a pastor requires regular soul care (v 28)

- (1) Notice the order of operation.

This loneliness, which if I mistake not is felt by many of my brethren, is a fertile source of depression; and our ministers' fraternal meetings and the cultivation of holy intercourse with kindred minds will, with God's blessing, help us greatly to escape the snare. Even thus a little pause prepares the mind for greater service in the good cause...Fishermen must mend their nets. And we must every now and then repair our mental waste and set our machinery in order for future service. To tug the oar from day to day, like a galley slave who knows no holidays, suits not mortal men. Mill streams go on and on forever, but we must have our pauses and our intervals.

II. The Words of a Pastor (v 20-21, 27, 29-30, 32)

1. The words of a pastor are profitable (v 20a)

- (1) Profitable = better than = the world's wisdom & yes, even your own.

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls -Heb. 13:17a

- + They are quality men
- + They are qualified men

2. The words of a pastor ought to be consistent (v 20b-21a)

- (1) Consistent in all places
- (2) Consistent w/ all people

3. The words of a pastor ought to be gospel-fluent (v 21b)

- (1) "Toward" → Jesus

- (2) How every problem is a gospel issue:

- + Every problem of ambition is about Jesus' sufficiency

- + Every problem of possession is about Jesus' supremacy

4. The words of a pastor ought to be Biblically faithful (v. 27, 32)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **-Rev. 22:18-19**

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. **-Prov. 30:5-6**

- (1) None of us are that smart + Marshallers

5. The words of a pastor ought to be our first line of defense (v. 29-30)

- (1) In a good church, members can recognize sheep from wolves
- (2) In a good church, elders condemn wolves
- (3) In a good church, elders confront wolves - in - training

III. The Heart of a Pastor (v19, 31, 33-35, 24)

1. The heart of a pastor is tender with his people (v19, 31b)

(1) Our first instinct re: sin/pain

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! -Psa. 119:103

2. The heart of a pastor is tough for his people (v31a) (tough on sin)

(1) In our teaching / preaching

(2) In defense of us

(3) When pride/sin persist

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. -1 Tim. 5:20

3. The heart of a pastor is for your good, not his gain (v33-35)

(1) Any pastor worth his salt is not in this for the money, or for the perks.

(2) Pastors are not trying to control you. It's not worth it!

(3) We only desire you to flourish.
+ Fruit of the Spirit

4. The heart of a pastor is to finish well (v 24)

"It is our duty and our privilege to exhaust our lives for Jesus."

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. -Heb. 13:17

- (1) Pastors want to serve (w/ joy and not w/ groaning)
- (2) Pastors want to finish well

Conclusion (v 36-38)

1. They really love their pastor
Artificial vs Authentic