

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are at the church unless otherwise indicated.

July

- Benevolent/Communion Sunday – 7/2
- GriefShare – Sundays 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30 4-6pm
- Park Play Dates – Wednesdays 7/5, 7/19 11-12:30pm
- Truthseeker Mission Team mtg – Thursday 7/13 7pm
- Truthseeker Mission Trip – 7/16-7/22
- Care Giver Support – Thursday 7/20 6pm at Casa Maria Restaurant
- Pastor Dave's Retirement Party – Sunday 7/30 after church service

Recommended Reading: *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*, by David Jeremiah. Will we play harps in heaven? Reside on clouds? Know each other? Be bored? See children? These and many other questions are addressed in this book by Dr. Jeremiah which seeks biblical answers to the many mysteries of heaven about which we would like to inquire further. This book overlaps somewhat with Randy Alcorn's book on heaven, but also covers additional ground.

Resource Baby Bottle Campaign: If you haven't already, please return your baby bottles in the lobby.

New Website: Please check out our new website which is now live! It is still a work in progress, but hopefully you will find what you are looking for and also find it easy to navigate. The live stream of the service should now be accessible on our website, mobile app, and TV app, such as Roku or AppleTV. Find us at www.eatoncc.org.

Summer Park Play Days: Pack a sack lunch, bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets, and come play with other Moms and kids at the church playground from 11-12:30 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month this summer. Park Play Days are 7/5, and 7/19.

Thank You: We wanted to thank all of you who volunteered with our 2nd Annual Block Party! From setting up, clean up, serving food, emptying trash, cooking, talking with all the people who attended; we truly couldn't have done it without you. Because of your help, we had another success year!

Eaton Days Community Worship Service: The Eaton Ministerial Association is hosting a Community Worship Service in the park on Sunday July 9th at 6:30 PM during Eaton Days. Don Reasoner and members of our worship team will lead worship and Weld County Jail Chaplain Duane Duran will be speaking. Come and enjoy this worship service outside in the Park.

EATON COMMUNITY CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

JULY 2, 2023

Prelude Don Reasoner

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Scott

Memory Verse **Job 23:10** – “But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.”

Scripture Reading Acts 20:28-35 Pastor Scott

Worship in Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 104:33

Worship in Song:

- “How Majestic is Your Name”
- “O Praise The Name”
- “I Will Draw Near”

Worship in Communion

Children Dismissed (1st grade and under)

Worship in the Word Pastor Dave
“What’s a Leader to Do? Lead God’s Church (1)”

Worship in Song “Make Me A Servant”

Benediction Pastor Dave



TO KNOW HIM



TO GROW IN HIM



TO GO WITH HIM

CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET FOR 2023

\$598,780

	Year-To-Date		Weekly
Budget:	\$289,328	Budget:	\$11,128
Actual:	\$273,665	Actual:	\$8,864
Difference:	\$15,663	Difference:	\$2,264

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 240

Staff

Senior Pastor.....	Dave McNeff
Pastor of Adult Ministry.....	Scott Wilson
Director of Children's and Youth Ministry.....	Karla Bowness
Administrative Assistant.....	Kirby Lawhead
Director of Music.....	Don Reasoner

WHAT'S A LEADER TO DO: LEAD GOD'S CHURCH (1)

(Acts 20:28-35)

Date: _____

I. _____ God's Church

A. The _____ of Leadership

B. The _____ of Leadership

Other Scripture Cited: Acts 20:17; I Tim 5:17; I Thess 12-13; I Sam 8:19; Heb 13:17; I Pet 5:2; Lu 22:61-62; John 22:1-15; I Pet 5:3-5; Mark 10:45; John 13:13-14; I Cor 1:9; Ep9h 3:8; Num 12:3; I Tim 1:15; II Cor 4:7

Sermons available on Video, Audio and notes at eatoncc.org

A WHAT'S A LEADER TO DO: LEAD GOD'S CHURCH (1)

(Acts 20:28-35)

Date: _____

Read Acts 20:28-35 – Paul will shortly be leaving the Ephesian elders. So he gives them final instructions as to what they should be doing. This is a great reminder to us all. When it comes to church -- What is a leader to do?

Opinions vary widely Some think: *“The perfect pastor preaches 20 minutes and then sits. He condemns sin, but never hurts anyone’s feeling. He works 60 plus hours per week on everything from sermons to custodial and maintenance work. He makes \$100 per week, wears good clothes, has a nice family, drives a nice car and gives \$50 a week to the church. He is 26 years old with 30-year experience. He has one brown eye, one blue eye, parts his hair in the middle with one side dark and straight, the other blond and curly. He loves kids and spends all his time with older folks. He makes 15 calls a day, evangelizes the unchurches and is never out of his office.”* I laughed 1st time I saw that – *then I became a pastor!*

So, what is a pastor to do? Some would say counsel, others teach, others administer, others be a CEO, others build a big church, others – entertain. We all have different ideas as to what a pastor is to do. And remember, lay elders and professional pastors all have the same leadership responsibilities. So, what’s an elder to do? What does God expect? Paul tells us.

In simplest terms, God expects them to lead and to feed. We’ll expand on those, but that’s their mission. Lead and Feed. Everything else is subordinate to those two. So, let’s dive in to learn - and then live it out!

II. Lead God’s Church

The Bible uses 3 terms to describe leaders – used interchangeably -- refer to the same people. Those terms are elder, pastor (or shepherd), and overseer (or bishop). Different terms – same office -- the office of church leadership. This is not necessarily a criticism of denominations that have structured themselves with pastors at the local level and bishops or synods of elders above them, but no such organization is found in the Bible.

Elders, overseers and pastors are the exact same individuals. Here they are called elders in v. 17, overseers in v. 28, and they are to “care for” (pastor) the flock. Three titles -- same men. The 3 terms show 3 aspects of the job. Elder emphasizes maturity; overseer, their leadership work and pastor their spiritual care. They’re all local, and there is always a plurality of them – never just one. Some are lay elders who have secular careers; others are paid elders – usually called pastors. They share leadership responsibility.

So, **Acts 20:17**: “Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.” Not one -- several. Per **I Tim 5:17**, some are paid, others not; but all are equally responsible for the church. And the first thing they are to do is – lead. We get that from the title – overseer (ἐπίσκοπος) = literally to look over – oversee – supervise. In **I Tim 5:17**, Paul says they are to “rule” (προϊστημι) – stand before, direct, be head of.

So, elders are to lead – and we are to let them, help them. **I Thess 5:12** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” When

leaders abdicate, or the people don't follow – chaos ensues. Samuel, despite his wisdom, was rejected bc the people wanted a king – peer pressure! **They wanted political correctness more than they wanted Godly leadership.** Samuel warned that a king would get their sons killed in battle and take their property in taxes. **I Sam 8:19:** “**But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us.”** So, they got a king, and devastation followed. This is why God instructs in **Heb 13:17** **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.”**

God's pattern: Leaders lead; congregants follow. Leaders can fail, and there are remedies for that. But leaders can lead well and still fail if the people are not following. We must all be in synch on this. Leaders must lead.

Leadership often reminds us of CEO's and secular methods. And it's true, elders must have a vision; they must budget and persuade. But the church is not a business; it's an **organism** – an organized organism. Your body is an organism, but it's an **organized organism.** You don't want one foot going one way and the other another way. So with the church. But we must lead God's way, not man's. The methods are divine, not human. Four are here.

C. The Mindset of Leadership – Willingness. Enthusiasm for. ¹⁹ **servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials.** Paul came to ministry willingly. Why? Because he was **“servicing the Lord.”** He loved Jesus and so served with his whole being. **He was all in.** ³¹ **Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.** Paul **loved** the Lord; and Paul **loved** the Ephesians. This is exactly what God looks for in a leader – someone who **loves** Him first and foremost, and someone who **loves** others as themselves.

Peter similarly wrote: **I Pet 5: 2** **shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you.** Leaders lead because they want to, willingly, out of **love** for God and **love** for others. Peter knew about the mindset of a true leader from bitter experience. The night Jesus was arrested, he denied he even knew Jesus with curses. Later, **Lu 22:62**, **“he went out and wept bitterly.”** He was desperately ashamed of his actions – thought it was all over for him.

But 3 days later – Jesus is back! Imagine Peter's feelings! Total mixed emotions. Ecstatic that Jesus is alive. Deep shame for his failure. **Lu 22:61** just after Peter denied Jesus the final time: **“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.”** **Jesus knew;** and **Peter knew Jesus knew** – he had failed horribly. Having declared he would die for Jesus, he instead betrayed Him at His hour of greatest need. And Jesus just looked at him, not with **accusation,** but with **love.** No wonder Peter wept bitterly. So, now, Jesus is back. Peter's glad – but **he also feels disqualified.** **Who would take him back after what he has done?** He does the only thing he knows to do. **John 22:3:** **“I am going fishing.”** Present tense. Continuous action. He's returning to his old career, **happy that Jesus is back, but sure he has no future with** Him.

But next morning, after fishing all night and catching nothing, Peter and the others see a figure on shore: **“Children, παιδίον, (little ones), do you have any fish?”** They shout out, **“No.”** The stranger says, **“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”** So – they do – and they do! And immediately, John, always quick on the uptake thinks, **“Where have we seen this before?”** He turns to Peter and says, **“Peter. It is the Lord.”** Jesus is so gracious, is He not? So they go ashore and Jesus fixes breakfast.

Then this: ¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, 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.” Twice more Jesus asks and Peter replies. What’s the mindset Jesus sought? Do you love me? -- more than these fish; more than your career; more than success? Do you want Me more? Godly leaders aren’t compelled. They serve out of love for Christ and His church. Restoration complete.

Charles Spurgeon was arguably the greatest preacher since Paul. How’d he begin his ministry? Handing out tracts and teaching SS as a teenager. Then short sermons. Then invitations around the countryside. Faithfulness in small things led God to trust him in greater things. He said, “I am perfectly sure that if I had not been willing to preach to those small gatherings of people in obscure country places, I should never have had the privilege of preaching to thousands of men and women in large buildings all over the land.” He didn’t have to be compelled to serve. He served not under compulsion, but willingly. If a man can’t serve in small things, it would be folly to make him leader over much just because he is smart or a natural leader or has a lot of money. To be God’s man, you have to want it.

D. The Manner of Leadership – Humility

Pride in ministry is an abomination. Paul says in v. 19 he was “serving the Lord with all humility.” That’s an example for all leaders. **I Pet 5:3**, “not domineering over those in your charge.” The **I Pet 5:5c**: “for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” God’s blessing will not be on a ministry where pride is involved. We must work, but the results are His; the glory is His; the credit is His. Elders must accept, it’s their fault when things go wrong; it is to God’s credit when things go right. Can you thrive in that kind of environment? If not, you should get out of leadership.

Jesus taught **Mark 10:45**: “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” We must lead with a servant’s heart. After washing His disciple’s feet – a slave’s job in that culture – an almost unbelievable breach of etiquette, Jesus finished by saying, **John 13:13-14**: “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” In other words, “If I washed your feet, you need to find some feet to wash.” Humility is the first requirement of leadership. Paul had that in spades. He identifies himself in **I Cor 1:9** as the least of all the apostles. In **Eph 3:8** he calls himself the “very least of all the saints.” That wasn’t hyperbole. He meant every word of it. That was the attitude that drove his life.

Paul never rolled into town looking to feather his own nest. He is in direct contrast to modern day mega-church pastors and TV evangelists who live lavish lifestyles in multi-million-dollar homes and private jets. We don’t need any more of those. Paul often worked at tentmaking to pay his own way, and only accepted money when it was offered. He could truthfully say, **V. 33**: “I coveted no man’s silver of gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.” He paid for himself and others with him. He was a poor model for modern evangelicalism – but he was a great model for Christ.

God said of Moses: **Num 12:3**: “Now Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” That’s the greatest leader Israel ever had. Paul said in **I Tim 1:15b**: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost.” He served “with all humility” and yet was the greatest leader the church ever had. God give us some leaders like that. Paul knew: **II Cor 4:7**: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the

surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” He saw himself as a clay pot – disposable. Not honorable. It was what was in his jar of clay that mattered. The treasure -- the gospel. Some people can't live with that. They crave recognition and honor. *Some are great leaders. But none are God's leaders. God's leaders serve with all humility.*

The greatest preacher of the 18th century was George Whitefield who often spoke to outdoor audiences of 20-25,000 people. He held audience in thrall, even in his 20's. He'd often get compliments: “*Mr. Whitefield, you were wonderful. Your words were eloquent. They moved me to the core of my being.*” But Whitefield developed a standard reply to such praise. He'd say, “*I know what you mean. The devil told me the same thing just as I was stepping down from the pulpit.*” He feared pride more than anything.

Conc – So what is a leader to do – he is to lead -- willingly and humbly. Otherwise, his leadership does not count – not with God. God loves servant leaders – those who are content with little or with much as God determines.

John Calvin was without question the greatest theologian of the Reformation. Thru him God changed a church, a city, a country – and Western Civilization. But he never saw himself as a great leader. He viewed himself as unpolished, bashful, retiring and reclusive. He preferred scholarly study to public debate and preaching. But God thrust him into a public role of preaching several times a week, heading a church in Geneva, and writing the theology of the Reformation. He said, “*In short, while my one great object was to live in seclusion without being known, God so led me about through different turnings and changes that he never permitted me to rest in any place, until in spite of my natural disposition, he brought me forth to public notice.*”

The lesson for us is to put our private desires aside – whether they be for seclusion or attention. But rather give ourselves to knowing God, and responding to whatever task He sends our way be it little or big. Not until heaven will we really know all that God has done through His smallest servant – for **Mt 20:16**: “*the last will be first, and the first last.*” Let's pray.

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