

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 5:17-25 TITLE: "FAITHFUL: Support"

Intro: *Now we come to the main point of the whole letter.* After setting the background of church, and talking about the leadership of the church, and then talking about the ministry aspects of the church, we get to Paul's main point. And that is the fact that churches should pay their pastor. Haha! And it's interesting that he immediately follows a passage about caring for the needy in the congregation. He's just continuing that theme. Pastors are needy to. Haha! Kidding!

Thesis: "We Support our Pastors when we Pay them and Pray for them."

I. Pay Them

- A. **Notice the distinction here.** Ruling Elders. Teaching Elders.
- B. **Preaching & Teaching.** Their primary role and responsibility. Lead well. **Not why we take the offering after the sermon by the way. Decide whether worth it. Haha!**
- C. **Double Honor.** Respect & Pay. Honorarium. Compensation. Both kinds. Both ways.

ILLUSTRATION: Ox treading out the grain. Don't starve him while he's working. That's just cruel. Treat your pastor better than a beast. **Laborer.** Poor. Hard work. It's not glamorous.

D. Not Glamorous or Exorbitant. *Basic needs being met. Food. House. Family. Ministry is sacrifice. I don't think pastors should live in extravagance. Double Honor not double pay.*

E. We don't need much. 1 Cor.9:1-14. Some are paid too much. Enough to live and do the job well without being pulled to thin. *Median income?*

F. Bi-Vocational Ministry. That's fine, but you have to be willing to give something up.

APPLICATION: New Website & App Manager. Giving Records. Preaching on giving. 2 times in this series. Here's one. So when it comes to a text about giving, I can preach without agenda.

II. Rebuke Them

- A. **Accountability.** Plurality of Elders. Members too. Covenant Commitment.
- B. **Don't admit any charge.** Not every word of gossip or accusation. Witnesses.
- C. **Don't assume they can't fail or sin big time.** We're not immune to temptation/Devil.
- D. **If they do sin, Rebuke them publicly.** Seems harsh? This is a public position of leadership. Public Discipline. With conditions.
 - 1. **Persistent and Unrepentant Sin. Matthew 18. Titus 3.** *Pastor's not untouchable.*
 - 2. **Grievous or Disqualifying Sin.** Heinous. For all Officers.
- E. **So that others might be warned.** Other Officers and Pastors. Humbled. Congregation.
- F. **Eyes of God, Jesus and Angels (witnesses).** High calling/standard. God business.
- G. Don't show **Prejudice** (assume they're in sin) or **Partiality** (assume not in sin). **Fair.** *God doesn't show prejudice/partiality and neither should his church or representatives.*

APPLICATION: Unfortunately in the era of #MeToo and #ChurchToo this has been unbalanced. In the past the church and officers have at times swept sin/abuse under the rug. But we have to be careful not to overcorrect and assume every accusation is true. We have to listen, pray and do our due diligence to evaluate situations without prejudice or partiality. *"He just looks creepy."* Or *"He's a really good guy or preacher/teacher or pastor."*

III. Vet Them

- A. **Laying on Hands.** Ordination. *Slow Down.* Give them time. Don't rush into this. Serious.
- B. **Some in Sin and you don't know it.** Give time. Evaluate. Wait. Pray: wisdom/patience.
- C. **Some are doing good and you don't know it.** Have gifts for ministry and they're humble or not showy about it. Doing good in secret. Not in it to get noticed. They serve to serve, not to get recognition. Those are the ones you want in ministry. **Find/Ordain.**

ILLUSTRATION: "Vetting." Horse Racing. 1900's. 1850's Britain. *Qualified. Healthy. Fit.*

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION: Pray for your Pastor. Officers. Staff. Support/Encourage them.

1. Pray for Your Pastor's Spiritual Walk

2. Pray for Your Pastor's Provisions

3. Pray for Your Pastor's Relationships

- a. *Pray for his marriage—for time for each other, for communication, for a deepening love, for fidelity.*
- b. *Pray for his children by name. Perhaps you might ask the pastor or his wife how they would like you to pray for their children.*
- c. *Pray for his Friendships and Mentors.*

4. Pray for Your Pastor's Protection

5. Pray for Your Pastor's Gospel Ministry

- a. *For his preaching, for time to prepare/stewardship, for understanding the Word, for application, for the power of the Holy Spirit in delivery.*
- b. *For Sunday's services - Worship. Attenders/Guests. Spirit work and conversion. Growth.*
- c. *For his leadership and pastoral work. Visits. Wise Counsel. Love. Patience. Forgiveness.*
- d. *For immediate Needs he is facing. Temptation. Financial. Family. Sickness.*