

The Pastor's Heart in Ministry

Philippians 2:16–21

As the apostle Paul comes to this portion of scripture, we begin to see His own pastoral heart for the ministry. We see what really motivates him and for us today, it is a reminder of the need for men to surrender to the call of pastoring and for women to continue to surrender to follow God's leadership in their lives as well.

I appreciate what the Prince of Preachers said about the pastor:

“The true shepherd spirit is an amalgam [mixture] of many precious graces. He is hot with zeal, but he is not fiery with passion. He is gentle, and yet he rules his class. He is loving, but he does not wink at sin. He has power over the lambs, but he is not domineering or sharp. He has cheerfulness, but not levity; freedom, but not license; solemnity, but not gloom.” — C.H. Spurgeon

Matthew 6:33 KJV 1900

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

It is this kind of concern that Paul expresses in our text tonight. We will reexamine some of the scriptures from last week, as we also move forward as we examine the “pastor's Heart in Ministry.”

Philippians 2:16-21

I. The Call to Ministry

Philippians 2 :16-17

A. Herald the Word

Philippians 1:16

2 Timothy 4:1–4 KJV 1900

I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

“A man who feels he is competent, and that he can do this easily, and so rushes to preach without any sense of fear or trembling, or any hesitation whatsoever, is a man who is proclaiming that he has never been ‘called’ to be a preacher.” —Martin Lloyd-Jones

“Nothing is more needed among preachers today than that we should have the courage to shake ourselves free from the thousand and one trivialities in which we are asked to waste our time and strength, and resolutely return to the apostolic ideal which made necessary the office of the pastorate. (We must resolve that) we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the Word.” —G. Campbell Morgan

B. Surrender for the Work

Philippians 2:17-18

The phrase *I be offered* is translated from the Greek word *spendo* which means “to pour out as a drink offering.”

The great Missionary David Livingstone said, “If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”

2 Corinthians 12:15 KJV 1900

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

The word *spent* is translated from the Greek word *ekdapanao* which means “to exhaust by expending, to spend wholly, use up, to spend one’s self wholly.”

“Do not desire to be the principle man in the church. Be lowly, Be humble. The best man in the church is the man who is willing to be a doormat for all to wipe their boots on, the brother who does not mind what happens to him at all, so long as God is glorified.” —C.H. Spurgeon

II. The Concern in Ministry

Philippians 2:19

A. Know Their Condition

Proverbs 27:23 KJV 1900

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, *And* look well to thy herds.

1 Peter 5:1–4 KJV 1900

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

B. Know their Burden

Philippians 2:20a

Paul had the heart of a shepherd. He cared about every sheep in the flock.

- to feed them
- To protect them
- To nurture them
- To seek the strays

Acts 20:28–31 KJV 1900

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

III. The Companion in Ministry

Philippians 2:20-21

A. Like-Minded

The word *like-minded* carried the idea of having a like disposition or purpose. Paul had trained and mentored Timothy. He was confident that Timothy was like-minded with him.

B. Insightful

Philippians 2:20b

The word *naturally* is translated from the Greek word *gnesios* which means “genuinely, faithfully, or sincerely.”

The word *care* is translated from the Greek word *merimnao* which means to “care for, to look out for, to seek to promote one’s interests, or providing for

C. Loyal

Philippians 2:21

1 Corinthians 10:32–33 KJV 1900

Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

2 Timothy 4:10 KJV 1900

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Conclusion

“God give us men ribbed with steel of your Holy Spirit, men who will not flinch when the battle is fiercest, men who won’t acquiesce, or compromise, or fade when the enemy rages. God give us men who can’t be bought, battered, or badgered by the enemy, men who will pay the price, make the sacrifice, stand the ground, and hold the torch high. God give us men obsessed with the principles true to your Word, men stripped of self-seeking and a yearning for security, men who will pay any price for freedom and go any length for truth. God give us men delivered from mediocrity, men with vision high, pride low, faith wide, love deep, and patience long, men who will dare to march to the drumbeat of a distant drummer, men who will not surrender principles of truth in order to accommodate their peers. God give us men more interested in scars than medals, more committed to conviction than convenience, men who will give their life for the eternal, instead of indulging their lives for a moment in time. Give us men who are fearless in the face of danger, calm in the midst of pressure, bold in the midst of opposition. God give us men who will pray earnestly, work long, preach clearly, and wait patiently. Give us men whose walk is by faith, behavior is by principle, whose dreams are in Heaven, and whose book is the Bible. God give us men who are equal to the task. Those are the men the church needs today.” (Bob Moorehead, *Gentlemen, Start your Engines*. p. 164)