

## A Pastors Responsibility to God.

1 Timothy 5:17 - 18 *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (18) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.”*

It is without question that both the churches and the Pastors have a great respect for one another. The churches are defined as the body of Christ but also the body of the assembly that is stationary. Most were brought up together and have been members for years or decades. Pastors are also members but were most likely brought in by the Lord for the purpose of leading and teaching the church. Both, the Pastor, and the church body have responsibilities toward each other. The Pastor is to love, teach, lead, and oversee the church body. He is called an under shepherd with Jesus being the Shepherd. While the church has a great responsibility to their Pastor, and it needs to be studied and obeyed as God has commanded, it is the Pastor or the elders I want to speak about in this sermon.

### A. The Elders or here defined Pastors, *“Let the elders that rule well”* V. 17a

1. Let us define the words, “rule well”. These words mean one who leads honestly or leads upright.
  - a. God said of a Pastor **Romans 12:6 - 8** *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; (7) Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; (8) Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”* The word “diligence” means – with eagerness, but also with carefulness, forwardness or strongly, and with haste or urgency.
  - b. God said of a Pastor, **2 Timothy 4:1 - 2** *“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; (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*
  - c. God said this is a “charge” to preachers. The word means – it is a verb, ; primarily it signifies to testify through and through, bear a solemn witness – To the Word of God.

- d. **2 Timothy 4:3 - 4** *“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; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. – The stronger we preach, the more bold we are means the stronger and bolder the church will be and less likely they will fall into unsound doctrine.*
  - e. This is a very large task and responsibility Pastors are charged with. Just as the charge to the church is to honor these men with “double honor” Both are commands of God. Commands we cannot fail in.
2. There is a breaking point.
- a. If the Pastor fails, it could and likely will hurt the church. Not just the teaching, but also as Paul wrote in **Romans 12:8** *“Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Using lots of grace, mercy, and love towards God’s church which is the body of Christ.
- B. This is not an option; it is a command.
- 1. These words, *“Let the elders that rule well”* and *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ...”* are not options. If we as Pastors fail the church could fail, and it is the responsibility of the church to watch their Pastor as it is for the Pastor to preach the whole unadulterated Truth of God’s Word.
  - 2. Let’s look at a great example in the Old Testament as to the greatness of our responsibility.
    - a. **1 Samuel 15:1** *“Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.”*
    - b. *“The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel.”* It is true that a Pastor is not a “king” they are still a leader, overseer, and under-shepherd, of God’s church, they are leaders and appointed men over the Lord’s flock.
    - c. The charge to Saul was *“...now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.”* The word “hearken” means – to declare. It is like the word

“charge” both the Pastor and King Saul were anointed - “to indicate "anointing" in the sense of a special setting apart for an office” Vines. Both were charged with keeping to God’s word.

- d. But Saul, like some Pastors failed the charge, **1Sam. 15:10 – 11** “*Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, **It repenteth me** that I have set up Saul to be king: for **he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.** And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.*”
- While there is a lot here to look at, let’s focus on the context of our message. God said when Saul failed “**It repenteth me** that I have set up Saul to be king...” what other time was God “repented” **Genesis 6:5 – 6** “*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*” The word repented means - to sigh, that is, breathe strongly, sorry – it is a displeasure by the Lord.
- e. Saul did what Adam did, he blamed someone else. **1 Samuel 15:19 - 21**
- “*Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.***”
- f. But who did God blame? **1 Samuel 15:22 - 24** “*And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. **Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.** And Saul said unto Samuel, **I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.**”*

- g. God was finished with King Saul, there is a punishment when we disobey God. **1 Samuel 15:25 - 26** *“Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.”*
- h. Being a servant of God, is to be an elected servant. Our responsibility is to God and to disobey, whether Pastor or church will not go unpunished. God gives charges and we must fear and obey God’s charges and commandments.