

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



PRECEPT FOR THE PASTOR

1PETER 5:1-4



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of an eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer **to be holy** in all his conduct no matter what difficulties are being faced.
- **Perspective:** Times of persecution, trials, difficulties, and controversy demand that God's people have adequate leadership so that they may be encouraged to live godly in all types of situations

- **Special Note:** God has established the church and it has a central place in our spiritual growth.
 - Some Christians avoid church because they have been hurt by a previous church (or church leader).
 - Others avoid church because they claim that the church is full of hypocrites.
 - Still others avoid church because they feel that they worship God better on their own (e.g., T.V. or internet church).
 - However, God's will for all believers involves assembling together for worship, teaching, fellowship, service, and mutual accountability. God does not intend for us to be "lone rangers."
- **Special Note:** God has given the local church leaders for the perfecting of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph.4:12)
- **Note carefully:** A local church is only as strong and effective as its leadership—that is why we should always pray for the leadership of our churches.

- **Lesson:** Being a good shepherd of our church is the **goal** of the pastor of our church **regardless** of the circumstances in our church!
- The apostle Peter in 1Peter 5:1-4 shows us **4 QUALITIES** of a pastor (a shepherd of the flock of God)—this should help us to recognize what a pastor does and also help us to pray for the pastoral leaders of our church.

QUALITY #1: A MODEL EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIST



- Peter was an example of a fellow elder
- Peter was an example of one who witnessed the sufferings of Christ
- Peter is an example of one who is a partaker of the glory that will be revealed.
- **Point:** A shepherd of the flock of God is an example of one who trust and is influenced by Christ.

QUALITY #2: A METHOD OF CONCERN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE



- Shepherding the flock of God involves:
 - Feeding the flock with spiritual food.
 - Protecting the flock from predators (i.e., false teachers; e.g., this implies knowing the Word of God well)
 - Disciplining rebellious sheep in the flock (i.e., this implies holding the sheep accountable for what they do in the flock)
 - Seeking wayward sheep that have strayed from the flock (e.g., this implies knowing the sheep and keeping them together in the flock).
- **Point:** The shepherd of the flock of God cares more about the flock than his own personal needs, desires, and wants.

QUALITY #3: A MENTALITY OF LEADING GOD'S PEOPLE



LEADERSHIP

It's not just telling people what to do....

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- Leadership that is NOT by constraint (by force or by being tricked or manipulated into it).
- Leadership that is NOT a form of manipulation of others (e.g., to get rich or famous at the expense of others)/
- Leadership that is NOT a form of domination (strict control over others).
- Leadership that IS by example.

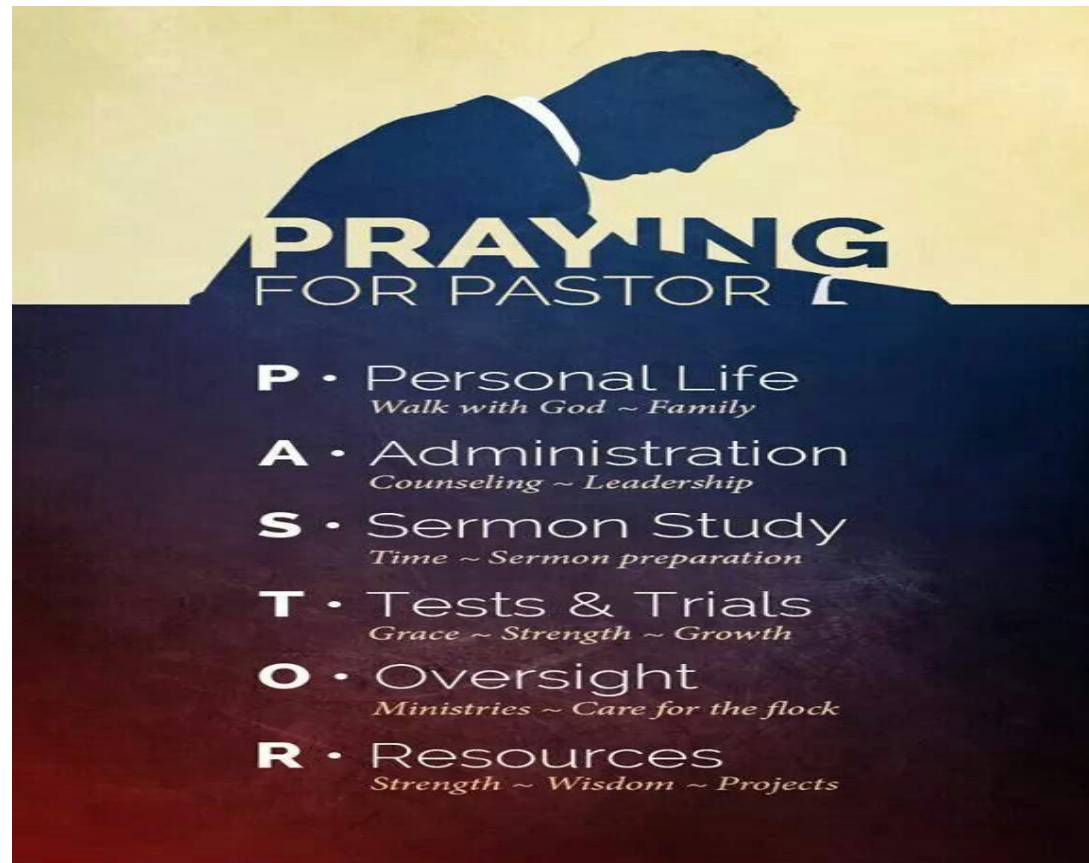
QUALITY #4: A MOTIVE OF PLEASING CHRIST ALONE



- A good shepherd of God's flock may not get any praise or recognition from men in this earthly life.
 - The work is physically draining (the hours spent)
 - The work is emotionally draining (dealing with the concerns of others)
 - The work is mentally draining (the studying to be done)
 - The work is spiritually draining (dealing with attacks and criticism from both the saved and the unsaved).
- A good shepherd will receive an eternal reward from Christ Himself.
- **Point:** The goal of the shepherd is to please Christ—not men, not even the sheep

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Are you praying for your pastor that he may grow and mature as a good shepherd of your church regardless of the circumstances in your church?



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



1. **Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
2. **Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
3. **Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.