

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

October 14, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

What is a Pastor?

Kyle Butt, M.Div.

(Verses taken from the NKJV)

When most religious people think of the word “pastor” they have in mind the primary leader of a congregation, or of a certain section of a congregation. They may think about the “youth pastor” who organizes trips, devotionals, and encourages involvement among the teenage youth group. Or they may bring to mind the “senior pastor” who is responsible for most of the preaching that is done at the congregation, or the associate pastor who does much of the hospital visiting. Whatever your idea of a pastor is, there is an excellent question to ask yourself: “Is the Bible’s description of a pastor the same as my idea of what a pastor is?” Let’s explore what the Bible has to say about pastors.

The term “pastor” is found in Ephesians 4:11: “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some **pastors** and teachers.” It is translated from the Greek word *poimen*, which means “a shepherd” or a person who herds sheep (Danker, et. al., 2000 p. 684). It is used to describe actual shepherds in the birth story of Jesus in Luke 2:8. But it has an expanded meaning that includes the idea of spiritual shepherds who oversee a flock of “sheep” or Christians, as it is used in Ephesians 4:11. The apostle Peter elaborated on this idea of spiritual shepherding when he wrote: “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder... **Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you serving as overseers...and when the Chief **Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away” (1 Pet. 5:1-4, note added by TCG). In Acts 20, we read that Paul “sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church” (20:17). While giving them instructions, he said, “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (20:28). From these references we understand that the term shepherd is used to describe a spiritual overseer of the Lord’s Church. The word “pastor” is simply the Latin translation of the word “shepherd.” Thus, we can see that the term “pastor” originated from the biblical discussion of spiritual leaders in the early Christian church.

It is interesting to note, however, that there is a specific group of leaders that are instructed to “shepherd” or “pastor” the flock of God. From 1 Peter 5 and Acts 20, we learn that the “elders” of the church were the ones instructed to “shepherd” or “oversee” the flock. If that is the case, what does the Bible say about elders? Thankfully, we have been given (continued on pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 10/7/18

Contribution – \$2887

Attendance:

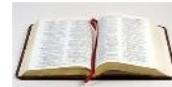
Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship* – 51

Wednesday Night – 25

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Blue, purple, and scarlet (Exo. 26:1).

Q: Who were the four sons of Aaron?

Answer to be given next week!

Guest Speaker:

Larry Wilson
of
Pantego, NC

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

BEACON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2326 JONESBORO ROAD
MAIL: P.O. BOX 3057
WEST MONROE, LA 71294

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen (room 628 at Ridgecrest Nursing Home) — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Dianne Ortega — Joy Skipper — Ruth Coston (has bronchitis)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every 4th Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. (If you would like to help with a get-together, please let Chase know).

(Continued from page 1)

some very clear references to the spiritual office of “elders.” In Titus 1:5, the apostle Paul explained to Titus, “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you.” The word translated “elders” comes from the Greek word *presbuteros*. While it is true that this word sometimes is used simply to describe those who are older as compared to those who are younger, it is also the case that it is often used to describe a spiritual office held by those who shepherded the church. This is established by the fact that Titus was instructed to “appoint elders in every city,” and Paul provided a detailed list of qualifications for those “elders” that included much more than one’s age. Thus we can know that a pastor (shepherd) was the same as an “elder” and this office was that of a spiritual overseer of a local church (in every city).

What might come as a surprise to some is that the term “bishop” is also linked to the terms “elder” and “shepherd” (or pastor). In 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Paul gives a list of qualifications similar to the one found in Titus, but he begins the list by stating, “A **bishop** must be blameless, the husband of one wife...” (3:2). The term “bishop” comes from the Greek word *episkopos* which means “overseer” (Danker, et. al., p. 299). Recall that in Acts 20:28, Paul called the elders from the church in Ephesus and explained that they were to take heed “to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**.” The term translated “overseers” is from the Greek word *episkopos*. When we refer back to Titus, we see that Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders, and then after giving some of the qualifications, stated, “For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God” (Titus 1:7). Here again the Bible uses the terms to speak of the same office. Thus, the elders, or shepherds (or pastors) were the bishops (or overseers) of the church. We do not find that these are separate offices in the church, but words that all describe the same leaders, simply giving subtle descriptions of what they do as the spiritual leaders, such as shepherd or oversee the flock.

(To be continued next week)

Be Not Afraid
Chase Green

I don’t know about you, but there have been plenty of times in my Christian life that I was afraid: afraid to speak out against wrong-doing, afraid to knock on someone’s door, afraid to invite someone to church, afraid to have a Bible study, even afraid to help someone in need. And yet, the Bible teaches that we are **not** to be afraid.

In fact, the phrase “be not afraid,” or similar, occurs eleven times in the New Testament, and many more times in the Old Testament! The apostle Paul wrote, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7). But somehow, many Christians still cower in fear. Why is that?

I believe that being afraid has a direct correlation to our faith (really, lack thereof). When Peter walked on water with Jesus, Jesus had said “Be of good cheer... Be not afraid.” Peter *did* become afraid though, and the words of Jesus’ rebuke were as follows: “**O thou of little faith**, wherefore didst thou **doubt**?” (Matt. 14:27-31, emphasis mine). In Mark 5:36, Jesus told the ruler of the synagogue, “Be not afraid, only **believe**” (emphasis mine). Contextually, Jesus was telling this ruler to have faith that his daughter would be healed.

We need to remember that God will not accept fear as an excuse on Judgment Day. “But the **fearful**, and **unbelieving**, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8, emphasis mine). Again, notice the connection between fear and unbelief. There’s a reason that these two sins are lumped together with things like murder and sorcery and idolatry, etc.

What is the cure for fear? We need to fight fear with **GODLY fear**! Fear of Jehovah will remind us that there’s simply too much at stake to let fear get in the way of our vocation! We need to seek the Lord, and He will hear us, and will deliver us from all our fears (Psalm 34:4)! We need to remember the words of Deu. 31:6: “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” And of course, don’t forget Php. 4:6-7: “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

2 Cor. 7:10

BE SURE TO TUNE INTO OUR RADIO STATION!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available 24/7 on FM radio and at Beaconcofc.com