CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE

ACTS 6:2-4, "THEN THE TWELVE CALLED THE MULTITUDE OF THE DISCIPLES UNTO THEM, AND SAID, IT IS NOT REASON THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE THE WORD OF GOD, AND SERVE TABLES. WHEREFORE, BRETHREN, LOOK YE OUT AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN OF HONEST REPORT, FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST AND WISDOM, WHOM WE MAY APPOINT OVER THIS BUSINESS. BUT WE WILL GIVE OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO PRAYER, AND TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD."

This is commonly believed to be the choosing of the first deacons in the church at Jerusalem. The meaning of the term "deacon" is servant. These men were chosen to be leaders in assisting God's men and serving God's people.

The Lord's churches need men and women who are willing to lead others in church work. Deacons are not the only ones who can lead. Even you could be capable of being a leader in your church. Proper leadership will benefit the church and your pastor. Notice some of the qualities church leaders must possess.

I. CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE CONSECRATED.

They must be consecrated to the Lord. Paul expounded this very truth. "AND THAT HE DIED FOR ALL, THAT THEY WHICH LIVE SHOULD NOT HENCEFORTH LIVE UNTO THEMSELVES, BUT UNTO HIM WHICH DIED FOR THEM, AND ROSE AGAIN,

II Cor. 5:15.

Paul referred to himself as the servant, prisoner, and apostle or messenger of the Lord. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto the Lord which is a reasonable service, Romans 12:1.

If you want to lead, you must consecrate yourself unto the Lord. You are no more than a sound or noise if you want to lead, but you are not willing to put God first, Matthew 6:33.

They must be consecrated to one of the Lord's churches. A leader must heed the admonition of Heb. 10:25. Your attendance at God's house will reflect the sincerity of your love and service to the Lord. We are to give the Lord glory in the church by Christ Jesus, Eph. 3:21. If you want to honor and glorify God, you must love the Lord's service and attend as often as possible. Many people have the potential of being great leaders for the Lord, but their lack of faithfulness destroys their influence and testimony and nullifies any efforts of leadership.

They must be consecrated to the Lord's word. In a day of compromise and confusion God's people must know and stand for Bible truth. Paul said God's word is inspired and profitable, II Tim. 3:16,17. Effective leadership is based upon the principles of truth and right as revealed in God's word. Leaders must study the word, II Tim. 2:15. They must grow in knowledge, II Peter 3:18. Leaders must be dedicated to the precious word of God.

II. CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE CALM.

They must be calm during trouble. The Lord's work involves people. Problems and troubles plague people. Anytime a church gets down to business for God, the devil will create problems to stop the work. Jesus was faced with many troubles and problems. He spoke in a calm and controlled way when confronted with them. Your reaction to problems can destroy or establish the Lord's work. Moses prayed and pleaded with God for the Jews when they dis-
obeyed the Lord and strayed from Him.

They must be calm when disappointed or discouraged. It is easy to get discouraged in the Lord's service. People can say and do things that can destroy your spirit to serve. Moses and Elijah wanted to die. Jeremiah decided to stop preaching. In the Lord's army the desire of the flesh will always be to give up or quit. Paul did not quit even though Demas forsook him, II Timothy 4:10. When disappointment and heartache come we desperately need to spend some time alone with the Lord, Isaiah 26:3.

They must be calm when criticized. A leader will make some glad and others grumble. Anytime you want to do something for the Lord you will be criticized. David's brothers falsely accused him when he wanted to fight Goliath. His brothers were not doing anything and seemingly did not want him to. If you are criticized alter your life if it is true. If it is not true, consider the source and go on.

Many churches are torn up by those who lead out in the services because they are hot heads, hard heads, hollow heads or hammer heads. Leaders must try and strive to be calm and cool and collected.

III. CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE CONTRIBUTORS.

A leader must strive to do what he seeks to lead others to do. A leader must contribute freely, liberally and dedicatedly. If a leader does not contribute he cannot expect others to contribute. People will follow an example or pattern in contributing.

They must contribute time. Time must be given in preparation and participation. Paul admonishes us to redeem or save time. "REDEEMING THE TIME, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL," Ephes. 5:16. Everyone is busy. It seems like the longer you live the busier you become. Over-involvement in public, private and personal affairs can limit your time for God, but it should not. God demands first place even when it comes to using our time. It is a necessity for leaders to make and take time for God or they will not be leaders long. Time given to the Lord is used beneficently and prosperously. Hezekiah took a moment to pray and received fifteen years added to his life, II Kings 20. Leaders must be examples in giving of their time to the Lord and for the advancement of His cause.

They must contribute the tithe. Tithing was practiced before the Law, Gen. 28:22, Under the Law, Mal. 3:10, and commended of Jesus after the Law, Matt. 23:23. Tithing is God's way and plan for supporting and financing His precious cause. It takes money to do business for God. It demands that every member of each church to give tithes and offerings above the tithe.

If you want to be a leader you will have to put your money where your mouth is. People will not follow a person who will not give of their money to the Lord. It is the evidence of insincerity and a sign of hypocrisy. Leaders in general will be extremely liberal in their giving because they believe in the cause.

IV. CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE CLEAN.

They must be clean in language. Paul wrote, "LET NO CORRUPT COMMUNICATION PROCEED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD TO THE USEOF EDIFYING THAT IT MAY MINISTER GRACE UNTO THE HEARERS," Eph. 4:29. Corrupt language, like lying, vulgarity or profanity, is out of place with the Lord's people. Corrupt language could also be critical or complaining attitudes.

A leader must use his speech to administer grace and build up or edify the people he speaks to. A leader must primarily build up, not tear down. Our speech will either build up or tear down. Therefore, it must be a clean language.

Leaders must be clean in longings. Evil and ungodly deeds are but expressions of the desires of the heart. Jesus said, "FOR OUT OF THE
act to you like Lot's sons-in-law reacted to him. When Lot told them of the coming judgment he seemed to them as one who mocked. Lot had so damaged his testimony that even his own family did not take him seriously.

V. CHURCH LEADERS MUST BE CO-OPERATIVE.

Did you hear about the man who had a pair of pants that were two inches too long? He asked his wife, daughter and mother to cut two inches off the length of the pants. All three said no, because they were busy. All three repented later and each one cut two inches of the length of the pants. The man ended up with a pair of pants four inches too short. This little story illustrates the difference between operation and cooperation.

Leaders must co-operate with people. Paul showed the necessity of co-operation in the picture of the body working together in I Corinthians 12:14-22. Co-operation is simply co-operating together. It is operating in harmony with other. This is not to say we must compromise or surrender to what we feel to be wrong. A leader will have to strive to work and labor in harmony with those around him. If you try to lord it over God's people or bully your way around or drive God's people, you either get dehorned or lose the people you are trying to lead. The only star in the Lord's work ought to be the Lord. When we become elevated by pride we generally get so full of ourselves it makes God sick and He cannot do anything with us.

Leaders must co-operate with plans. The Jews had to co-operate with Joshua for the victory to be won at Jericho. Gideon needed men to fight the battle. Three hundred men were chosen out of nearly 30,000. These men won the battle because every man stood in his own place. Every church needs a group of people to plan and map out a course for the future and they need a people who will work together with the plans.

Leaders must co-operate with programs. You will find some people who are against everything. Any kind of new program such as teaching, activity, mission endeavor is opposed. When a church decides to branch out and start doing things that are right and scriptural, leaders need to co-operate with the program. I have known of people who were well thought of and respected in their churches who were opposed to local, state, interstate and foreign missions. They were leaders who hindered the church because of the fact they did not co-operate with that church's program.

Do you want to be a leader for the Lord in your church? I hope and pray that you do. Pastors need more leaders to help carry the load. This will free them to study, visit and witness more which will bring about the salvation of souls and laborers added to the Lord's churches. Church leaders must be consecrated, calm, contributors, clean and co-operative.

1982 BIBLE CONFERENCE TAPES

82 1A Sammy Eldridge IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR GOD!
82 1B D.B. Wright GROW IN GRACE
82 2A B.A. Morris IT MATTERS WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND HOW YOU BELIEVE IT
82 2B Marvin Gardner THE FAITH THAT GETS RESULTS
82 3A Don Shults THERE ARE EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR THE LORD'S CHURCHES
82 3B Joe D. Stevens THE EDGE OF NIGHT
82 4A Leslie Wells THE UNKNOWN GOD
82 4B C.H. McBryde THE TRANSFORMING GRACE OF GOD
82 5A Gilbert Allen THREE FORCES THAT OPPOSE GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY
82 5B G.D. Walters RICHES WITHOUT THE DOLLAR MARK
82 6A Chuck Johnston THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE IS SANCTIFICATION
82 6B Johnny Williams THE SHEPHERDSHIP OF THE LORD
82 7A Harold Davis WHY I LOVE GOD
82 7B Luther Crawford THE 1/8 OF PAUL
82 8A Luther Crawford THE 1/8 OF PAUL
82 8B Luther Crawford THE 1/8 OF PAUL

A CONTRIBUTION OF $1.50 PER SERMON WOULD BE APPRECIATED TO COVER COST AND MAILING.

Sounding Out The Word Ministries

Grace Missionary Baptist Church
1823 Alpine Mail Road
Houston, Texas

Please put me on your mailing list for the paper.

NAME: ____________________________

ADDRESS: _________________________

CITY: ____________________ STATE: ________

ZIP CODE: ____

WE ARE OFFERING YOU ALL OF THE ISSUES OF THE SOUNDING OUT THE WORD PAPER, A TOTAL OF 33 PAPERS.

AN OFFERING TO HELP COVER HANDLING AND POSTAGE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
GETTING THE JOB DONE

The title for our lesson in this issue is "Getting the Job Done." The text for this message is Joshua 1:10-18.

In our last lesson we noticed the COMMITMENT, the CONFLICT, the CO-OPERATION, and the CONQUERING. Keep in mind that the land of Canaan represents the possessions which belonged to God’s people, however; they had to claim them by faith. The acquiring of what is ours in Christ must be appropriated by faith. This conquest was entrusted to a leader and the conquering was contingent upon them adhering to the leadership of the Lord. This means that they rested in the Lord and upon the Lord and He in turn would cause them to experience victory. This rest does not signify inactivity, but rather active involvement with the Lord. The spiritual profit derived from this study is most beneficial for us even today. We have many riches and blessings that are ours in Christ, but we must act in a positive manner to his promises or word in order to claim and enjoy them now.

In this lesson, we will notice the following:
I. THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO GOD’S MANDATE, V. 10.
II. THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOD’S MAN, V. 10-11.

I. THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO GOD’S MANDATE.

Joshua had been selected by the Lord to be the new leader of God’s people after the death of Moses. The Lord had given to Joshua his instructions in verses 1-9, which we noticed in our last lesson. Now in verse 10 we notice his immediate response to God’s mandate.

"THEN JOSHUA COMMANDED THE OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE, SAYING, ...."

Let us notice first of all the fact that he did not confer with others. He did not confer with the officers to see if he could count on their co-operation. He did not seek their counsel or advice. God had given him a task to perform and all of the needed information that he needed at this particular time. This is a good mark of a strong leader. Surely, there is a time for counsel with the brethren, but when a person knows exactly what the Lord desires, he should not waste his time conferring with others either for their advice or approval, but rather immediately set himself to the task that God has commanded him to do.

A New Testament example of this same truth is found in Galatians 1:15-17. The man Saul or Paul had been saved and God had selected him for a special purpose or task. Notice his words in these verses:

"BUT WHEN IT PLEASED GOD, WHO SEPARATED ME FROM MY MOTHER’S WOMB, AND CALLED ME BY HIS GRACE, TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME THAT I MIGHT PREACH HIM AMONG THE HEATHEN: IMMEDIATELY I CONFERRED NOT WITH FLESH AND BLOOD: NEITHER WENT I UP TO JERUSALEM TO THEM WHICH WERE APOSTLES BEFORE ME: BUT I WENT TO ARABIA, AND RETURNED AGAIN UNTO DAMASCUS."

Now, in connection with our text, we also notice that he did not defer the performance of his duty. This means he did not put it off. The longer we delay, the more reluctant we are to comply with God’s requirements. Peril attends the neglect of any acknowledged obligation. Delay itself can be disobedience. Notice these examples or words of exhortation:

Psalm 119:60, "I MADE HASTE, AND DELAYED NOT TO KEEP THY COMMANDMENTS."

Col. 3:23, "AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN:"

We expect the Lord to be prompt with our requests. Why aren’t we with His?

II. THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOD’S MAN, Josh. 1:10-11.

We notice a positive ap-
In verses 12-15 you see the reminder. He reminded them of their desire. He did not want them to forget the commitment that they had made and thus cause the rest of the people to be discouraged and disheartened to the extent that they would not go on and completely follow the Lord. Because of the lack of faith and failure to comprehend the teaching concerning the Lordship of Christ, God's people, in the past, had lived a life of defeat. Notice Numbers 32. Also in this text you see that these 2½ tribes were not completely following the Lord because of their desire to remain on the wrong side of Jordan. A thorough study of what became of them shows the foolishness and folly of not going all the way with the Lord.

Here in this text, however, we see their response in verses 16-18 as it related to their willingness to go in and help fight. At least they were willing to do what they had promised Moses.

---

**GROW IN GRACE**

II Peter 2:17-18

D.B. WRIGHT

Intro:

A. We who are saved by grace must be careful to use extreme caution to say with Paul, "But by the grace of God I am what I am," I Cor. 15:10.

B. The common definition of the term:
   1. Grace
      a. God's unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor.
      b. A quality in the heart of God that expresses God to us in many ways.
      c. God's grace signifies to me presence, preservation, provisions, power for performance. Paul's testimony: "Saved by grace..." "Labour..." "Labour..." "God's good will to us."
      d. The care of the heavenly husbandman, as for lilies and sparrows.
      e. "Grace is the good will of God toward us."
   2. "Grow" to increase, develop, mature
      ---By gradual process
      ---By means of other provided graces.

C. What I want to say in this message is, more grace is available, Heb. 4:16.

D. Growth in grace, commanded, desired and possible.
   1. Text, "Imperative."
   2. Similar verses from Jude, verses 20, 21; John 14:21; Neh. 2:8; II Cor. 8:1, 2.
   3. Beware of any feeling or inclination that you have reached a state of superiority in grace or spiritual maturity, Phil. 3:13, 14.
   4. Grace in the Scriptures: Grace, which brought salvation to us, Titus 2:11; which saves us, Eph. 2:8; wherein the saved stand, Rom. 5:2; which enables, empowers for service, I Cor. 15:10; sufficient for the task, test, etc., II Cor. 12:9; more abundant than sin, Rom. 5:10.
   5. Growth in grace may not be seen, felt or known by the individual.
   7. Objective in growth in grace: to learn to know and appropriate God's grace.

I. THE PERSON OF GRACE (Origin and Source).
   A. I Cor. 15:10a.
   B. James 1:17.
   C. Dr. Albert G. H. G.: "Grow ye in grace... the unmerited favor of God given,"
   D. Remember, we are talking about "a quality in the heart of God," "God's good will to us."
      1. Revealed to us; bestowed upon us; experienced by us.

II. PROVISIONS OF GRACE.
   A. Seeks us, as Zacchaeus, Samaritan, man born blind.
   B. Saves all who receive Him in faith, Eph. 2:8.
   C. Holds us, Rom. 5:2 (stabilizes, sustains).
   D. Sufficient, II Cor. 12:9.
   E. More grace
      1. Eph. 3:20
      2. II Cor. 9:8
      3. James 4:6

III. PROGRESSION SUGGESTED: GROW IN GRACE.
   A. Advance. Life is not static, neither is the Christian experience.
      1. Someone has said, "Grace begins with knowledge of Jesus; continues in knowledge of Jesus; and culminates in full knowledge of Jesus."
      --Barbieri
   B. Movement toward a goal: (Both positive and negative).
      1. Negative side:
         a. Avoiding the "fall" II Pet. 3:17.
         b. Avoiding spiritual shipwreck.
         c. Withstanding false teachers, mockers, who deny the coming of
WHY PASTORS LEAVE CHURCHES

Odis Bryan

(CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH)

UNCONCERN OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP.

It is hard for the pastor to keep his spirits up and be actively involved in the work of the church when most of the members are unconcerned. He urges the members to pray for him but feels most do not do so regularly. He calls upon the members to be faithful. Some just will not do so. He urges the members to do personal work. Few participate. Sometimes the pastor tries to do it all, but after a while he gives up and goes elsewhere. He could not do all the work for he goes against God’s plan when he tries. He hopes that elsewhere he will find more people who are truly concerned about Christ’s work.

WHEN HE IS EXPECTED NOT ONLY TO STUDY AND PREPARE MESSAGES THAT FEED AND INTEREST THE PEOPLE, BUT ALSO TO DO MOST OF THE VISITATION AND ODD JOBS AROUND THE CHURCH.

The pastor’s first responsibility is the ministry of the Word of God. He is to be a leader in visitation and other church work, but preaching and preparation for it comes first. Much time for prayer and study is necessary.

A BAD ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP CONCERNING HIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

It is not always how little or how much a church pays her pastor, but their attitude toward supporting him that counts the most. Some members are happy to do all they can for their pastor. They realize his work given him by the Lord is the most important work in the world. They realize the spiritual blessing he is to them and the church is worth more than their material offerings to him (I Cor. 9:11). However, there are some who seem to resent the pastor receiving very much from the church. They know his money goes further than theirs. He must dress better, but it does not matter to them what he wears. After all, they do not come to see and be seen. A pastor worth having will try some way to make ends meet when a church is doing her best, as he seeks to build up the church numerically, spiritually and financially. However, as the Lord blesses and a church makes progress, she should continue to raise the pastor’s salary as she is able. Often when pastors leave for financial reasons it is because the church could do better and will not. A pastor’s family likes doing things, going places, and buying things just as much as any church family. Is it scriptural for a church to take special care of her pastor from the financial standpoint? YES! I Cor. 9:7-14 teaches that a minister is to live of the gospel. I Timothy 5:17,18 teaches that a pastor who labours in the word and doctrine is to be counted worthy of double pay. It is not a matter of how much you have to do for your pastor, but how much can you do for him and his family.

REACHING THE END OF HIS ABILITY TO HELP A CHURCH.

Most preachers begin their pastoral work when they are fairly young in the ministry. It is obvious at that time they have a lot to learn about the Scriptures and working with God’s people. Also, there are times when a pastor who is a good worker is limited in certain areas. Our God requires the best use of what we have, not what we do not have, but He expects us to work at improving and enlarging our abilities. While it may be true that a pastor reaches the end of his ability to help a church, most times it would not happen if he would study and grow by the knowledge he gets from study and practical experience.
OTHER PREACHERS

Too many times preachers who are not in a church are too quick to give advice to members of that church. The big problem is that one not directly connected to a church does not know the circumstances or the people who seek his advice. Preachers need to be careful not to fill the shoes of a pastor to people who are not members where they pastor.

Sometimes members find it hard to turn loose of a pastor whom they love and sometimes the same is true of a pastor. But unless the pastor relationship is broken there will be trouble for the next pastor. Few pastors will stay at a place very long and let someone else be the pastor of his people. When pastors resign they should not allow the members to continue to call them about the affairs of the church they have left. To allow such makes it difficult for the new pastor to fulfill his responsibilities.

CONCLUSION:

To a large degree the membership decides how long the pastor stays by their working with him and their attitude toward him. Your pastor needs your prayers daily. He needs your encouragement. He needs your personal help in the work. He needs to know that you care for the well-being of him and his family. Lengthy pastorates usually lead to a stronger church.

II. GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE UNTO ALL THINGS.

A. Godliness here carries the idea of reverential feeling, devotion.
B. In spite of the shortness of this life with all its uncertainties, there is a very great importance attached to it.
C. Here and now is where the destiny of every individual is determined.

1. Whether we will stand with the redeemed, those who have been saved (Rom. 10:9,10), at the judgment seat of Christ.
2. Whether we will stand with the lost at the Great White Throne judgment.

D. Here and now is where we who are saved determine how we shall stand before God.

1. Ashamed or unashamed, I Cor. 3:12-15.
2. Ashamed because of a wasted life, fruitless life.
3. Unashamed because we have been busy, born fruit, lived a life pleasing to God, strong testimony, tried and tested by the fires of God.
THE FOUR STATES OF MAN

CHARLES SWILLING

TEXT: Gen. 1:26, 27; Col. 1:20-22

There are four distinct states in man's existence. The four states are the created, corrupted, converted, and the consummated. God created man to share His glory. Man failed miserably. God will restore the sinful to fulfill His original purpose.

I. THE CREATED STATE
   A. Created instantly, Gen. 1:27
   B. Created in God's image. Mind, soul, spirit, I Thess. 5:23.
   C. Created in innocence, Eccl. 7:29.
   D. Created in fellowship.

II. THE CORRUPTED STATE
    A. Dead in sin, Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12.
    B. Depraved, Jer. 17:9; Psalm 51:5.
    C. Disobedient, Eph. 2:2, 3.
    D. Doomed and damned, II Thess. 1:8, 9.

III. THE CONVERTED STATE
     A. He is given life, Eph. 2:1.
     B. He is given love, Rom. 5:5.
     C. He is given light, John 8:32.
     D. He is given longings, Phil. 3:10.

IV. THE CONSUMMATED STATE OF MAN
    A. Man will be completely saved, Rev. 21:27; II Thess. 1:10; Phil. 3:21.
    B. He will be completely sinless, text.
    C. He will be completely satisfied, Psalm 17:15; 107:9.
    D. He will be completely serving, Rev. 22:3; 22:5.