

**Review from Sunday's Message for Personal Meditation – January 26, 2014:**

- i. Some Key NT Scriptures on Elders & Pastors:
  - a. ***Eph. 4:11 It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.***
  - b. ***1 Tim. 5:17-18 The Elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."***
  - c. ***1 Timothy 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.***
  - d. ***Acts 20:28, 32 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.***
- ii. Message points for meditation and application:
  - a. Responsibilities & qualifications of Elders / Pastors (1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1)
    - i. 1 responsibility – able to teach.
    - ii. Multiple character qualities:

Above reproach (blameless)	Husband of one wife
Temperate (not overbearing)	Self-controlled (disciplined)
Respectable	Hospitable
Not given to drunkenness	Not violent / gentle
Not quarrelsome	Not greedy (lover of money)
Manage family well	Not new believer
Good reputation.	
  - b. Primary responsibilities of compensated elders (Pastors)
    - i. Keeping watch over their own spiritual condition – watching their life and doctrine closely.
    - ii. Keeping watch over the spiritual condition of the church they have been called to lead and serve.
    - iii. Preaching, teaching and leading God's people in God's Word.

**Questions for Reflection, Application and Fellowship:**

- i. How did Sunday's message, and the above reminders, influence your perspective of Pastoral ministry – the Pastor's role and responsibilities?

How did the message influence your perspective of the churches role and responsibility toward the Pastors that serve the church?

- ii. How have churches expectations of Pastors, and Pastors expectation of churches, influenced the relationships between them (positively / negatively)?
- iii. If the Pastor's primary ministry is (a) keeping watch over their own spiritual condition, (b) keeping watch over the spiritual condition of the church they serve, and (c) the ministry of the Word – how should that practically influence their "work" schedule.
- iv. Do you think 80% of Bible School and Seminary graduates would leave the ministry within the first five years if they were held to biblical expectations?

Why would the researchers of Pastoral ministry conclude that "pastors are in a dangerous occupation?"

- v. Why would anyone desire to be a Pastor? What would be proper motivations? What would be improper motivations? How would those motivations influence their function as Pastors?