



Pastor Scott Velain

## Are Pastors Biblical?

Today we're going to look at another controversy within the body of our Messiah. There are all kinds of controversies that are going on within the assembly that cause division within the body of our Messiah. True God-fearing, cross-bearing, Messiah-following Christians always seem to be looking for something to divide ourselves with. We're constantly looking for Scriptures that keep us apart, rather than Scriptures that bring us together. Now, with that being said... we should be on the lookout for illegitimate doctrine, and wrong teachings, or things that add to... or take away from... God's Word, but we should not be arguing and scraping over worthless immaterial things that have nothing to do with the importance of salvation.

One of the most ridiculous things that I have ever heard that is keeping Christians divided is whether or not Adam had a belly button. Now you may laugh about this, but this has indeed become a source of division between true God-fearing, cross-bearing, Messiah-following Christians. And so, let's take a quick mental test right here before we get started. How many of you believe that Adam had a belly button? I just want you to think about that for a second. And how many of you believe that Adam did not have a belly button?.... And how many of you just simply don't care?

Now, my hope and my prayer, is that most of us have answered... that we simply do not care. If you answered... "*I don't care whether Adam had a belly button or not*"... you're going to be much farther ahead than many modern-day Christians today. Whether or not Adam had a belly button is mute. The fact that God created Adam is what's important. God gave us the information that we needed. If God were to put every single solitary detail within the confines of our Scriptures, we would never be able to read the book in our lifetimes. The book would be so large, so profoundly over-exaggerated, so lengthy, and so complex that we would literally never be able to get through the whole thing in a lifetime.

I would submit to you that the 66 books of the Bible are difficult enough to get through, and to properly understand as they are. And I would also submit to you that the 66 books of the Bible have so much information in them... that right now, a person could read that book from their days as a small child who just began to read, to the day that they took their last breath... and they would still not be able to consume every single solitary detail that can be found within those 66 books that we call a Bible.

The Bible is a living breathing document. It is the unfolding plan of the author of all life. There are mathematical equations in that book that most of us will never comprehend. There are

spiritual implications that can be found within those 66 books that only those who need to understand... will understand. There are realities of dualities, shadow pictures of things yet to come, prophecies, parables, and words of spiritual wisdom. There are family lineages, there are codes, and Hebrew word pictures, and a multitude of other things that can be found within the pages of our Bibles that most of us will never understand. It is so vast, so wonderfully constructed, so well put together, that only the author of life itself could have written this living breathing document that we call the Bible.

I want us to think about that for just a moment. What happens when people like Bill Marr, or Oprah Winfery read the Bible? They are so lost, and so completely dumbfounded, that they cannot even begin to come to terms with the truth of what the scripture says. They believe that it is so full of contradictions, and supernatural events, and mistakes, that it can't possibly be true. They believe that they themselves are so highly intelligent, and masterfully endowed with wisdom... that the Word of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob must be work of fiction. Never making note of the historical implications, or the prophetic evidence that has been manifest over the centuries... not to mention the Holy Spirit that they do not have... because they have openly grieved and rejected him on national television before millions of people.

I once herd Oprah Winfrey proclaim on national television that Jesus couldn't possibly be true, and a woman from the audience stood her ground and told Oprah that Jesus was indeed the only way, the truth and the life, and Oprah Winfrey flat out denied that biblical truth right on national television and said, and I quote, "*Jesus couldn't possibly be the only way to Heaven*".... Why? Because Oprah Winfrey was forever studying, but never perceiving. She was for ever hearing but never understanding, because she surrounded herself with the Hollywood Elite and their mystics, and their sages, and their cabalists... and they had stolen the truth from her, and because she chose to dance in the pale moonlight with them.... they had struck her blind, and deaf, and bound her spirit in chains of darkness.

The Devil himself had cast a net of confusion over Oprah Winfrey just like he did Bill Marr, that was mixed with a little truth and a little lie, and it bound them in the chains of darkness, and now... they can't seem to find thier way out. They have literally created thier own religion for themselves so that they wouldn't have to come to Gods terms. Oprah Winfrey openly confessed that there is no way that she could love a... and I quote, "*a jealous God*". Why? Because her own vanity, and her own pomp and pageantry... stands in the way of the light of truth. Her own puffed up version of reality, has blinded her to the truth of reality... and because it has... she now has in turn... blinded hundreds of thousands, if not millions of other souls as well.

Our adversary.... Is brilliant. Why do you think he makes the rich and the famous his main targets? Because he knows that they have the ability to lead millions of Gods people into the darkness never to be heard from again. We just love our court jesters, and those who sing and dance for us, and far to many of us believe that these court jesters have all the answers to the worlds problems. That's why presidential candidates love to prance the worlds court jesters out

on a stage before the people to show their support. Because they know the power that these court jesters have.

The Ruach Hackodesh leads us and guides us to the truth that we need as we walk through life. Some people will go through some trials and tribulations that other people will never go through, and therefore, some people will understand things because of those trials and tribulations that you and I may never understand completely. Life, and its trials, and the tribulations, and its persecutions, actually help us to understand the Scriptures in ways that those who do not go through the same trials, and tribulations, and persecutions will never truly understand.

I daresay that a person who has hit rock bottom in their lives, and who has been forced to live out on the street for any amount of time, will often times have a better understanding of the Bible than those who have lived lavishly their whole lives. Alcoholics, drug addicts, and those with certain addictions will often times have a better understanding of certain Scriptures than those who have never been alcoholics, drug addicts, or been afflicted with certain kinds of addictions. Why? Because the Scriptures that the Ruach Hackodesh led them to, that broke the chains of that alcoholism, or that drug addiction, will always mean more to them than they do to us, because they and only they will know and understand the power that is in those scriptures.

Just like the Ruach Hackodesh gives different gifts of the spirit to different people... so too, does the Ruach Hackodesh give certain understandings to certain people. What we need to understand is that the very gospel message of our Messiah may mean something completely and totally different to me than it does to you. It may affect me completely different than it affects you. There may be things that you understand about the gospel message that I don't understand about the gospel message because of where you've been in life that I have not been... because of trials and persecutions that you may have been through, that I have not been through.

The Ruach Hackodesh indwells, teaches, guides, and leads us all to the very same light of truth. But not all of our lives have been the same. Not all of our experiences have been the same. Not all of our childhoods have been the same. Not all of our persecutions have been the same. Not all of our trials have been the same. And so, this is why it's important for us not to forsake the coming together of ourselves, because when we come together in fellowship, we're able to learn these things from each other. We're able to share things with each other that we would have never known... without coming together in fellowship I daresay... we lose a great deal of information that would otherwise not be given to us. Those who fellowship with their brothers and sisters wind up understanding much, much, much more about their Scriptures than those who think that they can do it on their own.

I cannot tell you how many times my brothers and sisters have opened my eyes to things that I had never seen before. And the only reason that my eyes were opened to these things... was because a brother or a sister shared with me their trials, and their tribulations, and their persecutions, and the fire that they were forced to walk through.

And so, I don't want anyone to think, that they can do it on their own. Our Scripture tells us not to forsake the gathering together of ourselves for reason. The Scriptures tells us that we are all one body for a reason. I'd like us to turn to first Corinthians chapter 12 verses seven through 31:

*1Co 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

*1Co 12:8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,*

*1Co 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,*

*1Co 12:10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

*1Co 12:11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

*1Co 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

*1Co 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*1Co 12:14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

*1Co 12:15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

*1Co 12:16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

*1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?*

*1Co 12:18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.*

*1Co 12:19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?*

*1Co 12:20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

*1Co 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

*1Co 12:22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,*

*1Co 12:23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,*

*1Co 12:24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,*

*1Co 12:25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

*1Co 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

*1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

*1Co 12:28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.*

*1Co 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?*

*1Co 12:30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?*

*1Co 12:31 But earnestly desire **the higher gifts**. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

Right away in verse seven, we see that each one of us is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. It does not say “*for our own good*”... But rather it says, and I quote, “*for the common good.*” What does that mean? It means for the good of the common person... the assembly. I want us to notice in verse eight that it says that certain people are given the utterance of wisdom, and certain other people are given the utterance of knowledge. To some people a greater amount of faith is given. To other people the gift of healing is given. To others the working of miracles, to others prophecy, to others the ability to distinguish between spirits. To some people he gives various kinds of tongues, and to others he gives the interpretation of tongues.

My point in all of this, is that the spirit gives to each one of us individually as he wills. We all drink from the same spirit, and yet, we all have different spiritual gifts and understandings. And I want us to drop down to versus 15 and 16, and I want us to understand that just because the foot says “*because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body*” that does not make it any less part of the body. Just because the ear says “*because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body*” that does not make it any less a part of the body.

I cannot tell you my friends, how many times I’ve heard Christians say... “*I just don’t feel like I’m worthy.*” Or they might say “*after all I have done, there’s no way that God could count me as part of the body.*” But God says through his God breathed Scriptures... that it doesn’t matter what you say. All that matters... is what God says. Just because you say “*I’m not worthy enough,*” or “*I’m not as worthy as my brothers and sisters, so I can’t belong to the body*”, that does not make you any less part of the body. Do you understand what our Father in heaven is trying to tell you? It doesn’t matter how worthy or unworthy you feel. It doesn’t matter how much more sin that you’ve done than others. It doesn’t matter how worthy, or unworthy that you think you are in your own mind. All that matters... is what God says. And God says... no matter how inadequate you may feel in your own mind... that has nothing to do with the fact that you are indeed... just as important to the body as anyone else. Just because the foot says “*because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body*” that does not make it any less part of the body.

Our Father in heaven tells us in his God breathed Scriptures that there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “*I have no need of you*”, nor can they hand say to the feet, “*I have no need of you.*” We all have need of one another. And I can tell you without a doubt that there are those within the congregation of Holy Impact Ministries who attend our fellowships every week, who will clearly tell you... that we are indeed one body. We have been blessed by Spirit filled brothers and sisters within this very congregation that will openly confess that they love their brothers and sisters, because they know full well in their spirit... that we are all... indeed one body. If one of us is magnified, we’re all magnified. If one of us is hurt, we’re all hurt. If one of us is suffering, we’re all on our knees suffering, and praying.

And so... to help us better understand the topic of today's study... we come down to versus 29 and 30, where the apostle Paul asks that all-important question... are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret tongues?

Obviously, the answer to all of these questions is a resounding no. Some of us are apostles, some of us are prophets, others are teachers, others work miracles, others possess gifts of healing, others speak with tongues, and yet others interpret those tongues. And there's a couple of things that I want us to notice about verse 28. The first thing that I want us to notice is that God does give us apostles, and profits, and teachers. Just like he gives us brothers and sisters that work miracles, and some who have gifts of healing, and some who speak tongues, and some who can interpret these tongues.

These are all gifts of the spirit given by God, just like it says in verse 11... the Spirit gives... *"to each one of us individually as he wills."* God gives each one of us certain gifts, as he sees fit. And I want us to notice in verse 28, that there are unequivocally... apostles, prophets, and teachers that are given by God. The English word *"Pastor"* means *"shepherd"*. One who shepherds, or evangelizes teaches... and so according to our God breathed scriptures... Pastors, teachers, and evangelists are indeed... biblical, and we'll get into even more proof of that as we move forward.

Now as a side note... I'd also like to also mention something else that we can see very clearly in verse 28. I want us to notice where the gift of speaking in tongues is, in this list of gifts? The gift of speaking in tongues is one of the very last gifts mentioned in this list... is it not? The answer to that question is also an unequivocal "yes". Speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues is the very least... of all of these gifts according to the apostle Paul, and we find that in more than one place in our Scripture. So, once again my friends... don't let anyone lie to you and tell you that you must speak in tongues in order to have the Ruach Hackodesh of God or to get into his coming kingdom. Speaking in tongues has nothing to do with the ability to enter the coming kingdom. At least... not according to the Scripture.

Now getting back to the topic of our study today... I want us to understand that there are a few Scriptures that seem to be conflicting when we first read them, and I would like to take a look at a couple of these kinds of Scripture here this morning. As we have already seen in first Corinthians chapter 12 verse 28... God gives us apostles, and profits, and teachers. But... there is a very confusing red-letter commandment that comes directly from our Messiah that seems to tell us that we don't need any apostles, or profits, or teachers. And so, because this particular Scripture seems to conflict with many other Scriptures that we find throughout our Bibles... I want us to turn to Matthew chapter 23 versus eight through 12:

**Mat 23:8** *But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.*

**Mat 23:9** *And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.*

**Mat 23:10** *Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.*

**Mat 23:11** *The greatest among you shall be your servant.*

**Mat 23:12** *Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

Now, at first glance when we take a look at what our Messiah says here in his own red-letter words, we see that we're not to call each other *Rabbi* (which means great one by the way). Nor are we to call any man on earth our "*father*." And by the way my friends, he's clearly talking about calling a man your *spiritual father*... Not your flesh and blood father. The Scriptures continuously mention our forefathers over and over again, but our forefathers, and our flesh and blood fathers are clearly not our *spiritual father*. Our Messiah is telling us very clearly, not to call anyone our *spiritual father*... like the Roman Catholic Church does. Once again this is a red-letter commandment that comes directly from our Messiah that they brake every single solitary day of the existence of that particular church. Our true "Father" is Yahovah, and we should be well aware of this scriptural truth, and there is no other.

But what happens is people get down to verse 10, and they say "*Ah ha!... We don't need any pastor's, or teachers, or evangelists. We can do it all on our own according to our Messiah.*" And the reason that they say these things is because they once again take this Scripture out of context without understanding what it is that our Messiah is clearly talking about. Just as in verse nine... we know that our Messiah is not telling us not to call our fathers our father's. How do we know that? Because there are plenty of other Scriptures that tell us that we are going to be gathered to our fathers at death, and there are other scriptures that pertain to our earthly fathers. In Romans chapter 11 verse 28 when the Apostle Paul is talking to the Gentiles, what does he tell them about the Jews?... he says and I quote, "*they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.*" The Bible continuously mentions our father's, and our forefathers, over and over again. But our Messiah knew that some of us would call some men, our *spiritual father's*. This my friends is blasphemous. To call someone else your *spiritual father*, other than the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... is blasphemous. There is only one true *Father* who is above all earthly "*Fathers*" and that is Yahovah who is the creator of the heavens and the earth. Just like there are indeed, other Gods in the bible... there is only one true God of all Gods. And for those of you who say that there are no other gods in the Bible... go read Psalms 82, and educate yourselves before you speak. The Hebrew word for "god" is "Elohim" and it is used throughout the scripture pertaining to several different entities.

And just like they misinterpret that Scripture... they also misinterpret the very next verse in verse 10 which causes them to stumble and fall because they believe that they don't need a teacher, they don't have to listen to the prophets, and that they can do it on their own... which we will clearly see as we move forward... goes directly against what our God breathed

Scripture actually tells us, and our Messiah is not going to go against what our God breathed Scriptures tell us. There are many Scriptures that seem at first glance, to conflict with each other. But Scripture never conflicts with Scripture when properly understood.

When Cornelius the Roman centurion came to the truth we must remember that God sent Cornelius to see Peter so that Peter could teach him the truth of God's word. God sent Philip to the eunuch who needed to be baptized so that Philip could teach him the meaning of God's word. God will always send us to those who are anointed, if we ask him, seek him, and knock at his door. He will indeed guide us to where the truth of his word can be found, and once that seed is planted in our hearing... his Ruach Hakodesh will be given to them, and that seed will grow within their hearts and minds.

The original Greek word for instructor here in Matthew 23 verse 10 is the Greek word "kath-ayg-ay-tace" which can mean several things. It can mean "guide" or it can mean a "teacher" or it can mean "master". Clearly our Messiah is telling us not to call other men our "Master". How do we know that "Master" is the right word here? Because we're told throughout the scripture that God sends us "teachers", and our Messiah would never go against what his Father says.

Verse 10 says and I quote "*neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.*" I would suggest that instructor is not a very good translation, and can be misleading. The King James, and the American Standard Version of our bibles use the proper word "Master". The complete Jewish Bible, and the NASB Bibles use the word "leader" which is also an inappropriate translation of the Greek word "Kath-ayg-ay-tace". And so, this Greek word can mean several different things. We can very easily conclude that our Messiah was simply telling us not to call any man our master. When someone is our master... everything that they might say is definitive. If you have a master, then your master is always right. The master can never be wrong. The master is always right and never flawed. The only "Masters" we have are our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son. Anything, or anyone else... that we call master, or put above the true master... is blasphemous. And that includes a Roman Catholic Pope by the way, or another one of his followers that we are forced to call "father". Know the truth... and it will indeed, set you free.

And so, what our Messiah is telling us very clearly, is not to call any man our master. He tells us very clearly in second Timothy chapter 2 verse 15 to study to show ourselves approved. So, are we supposed to study? According to our God breathed Scriptures... we are commanded to study. And let me ask you this question my friends... if the Ruach Hakodesh is going to teach us all things... then why do we need to study to show ourselves approved? We need to study to show ourselves approved so that the Ruach Hakodesh can teach us all things. We must remember that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. You cannot know who God is, nor can you know who the Messiah is, if you're not going to study to show yourself approved. The Ruach Hakodesh drives us, and leads us, to study to show ourselves approved. This is how... The Ruach Hakodesh teaches us all things. When you are filled with the Ruach Hakodesh, you will be driven to pick up your Bible and to read it. You will be driven to want

to know more. You will be driven to study to show yourself approved. And the Ruach Hackodesh will give you the discernment to understand what it is that you're reading.

And so, in Matthew chapter 23 verse 10, our Messiah was clearly not telling us that we do not need apostles, prophets, teachers and evangelists. We can clearly see that after the death burial and resurrection of our Messiah, the apostle Paul as well as the other apostles were clearly still teaching. And they were giving instruction to others to teach, so that they could then in turn go out and teach in their communities. You see the problem is not that we have pastors, and profits, and teachers, and evangelists... the problem comes when we call these pastures, prophets, teachers and evangelists our masters. They are not... and I quote not... our "*masters*." Our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son are our only master's. They are the only ones who are right 100% of the time. They are the only ones who are flawless. They are the only ones who never make mistakes. And just as our Messiah tells us in Matthew chapter 23 versus eight through 12... no man is to be called a *Rabbi* or a "*great one*", or our "*spiritual father*", or our "*Master*". We need to remember these things so that we are not taken captive by human cunning and deceitful schemes, and every wind of doctrine that comes out of the mouth of a man. Every word that comes out of the mouth of a man should be tested to see whether or not his fruit is good... or rotten. This requires us to study to show ourselves approved so that no man can... possibly lead us astray.

Now there is another Scripture found in first John chapter 2 verse 27 that can also seem conflicting at first glance. And so, I'd like us to turn to first John chapter 2 verse 27:

*1Jn 2:27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.*

What John is telling us here, is that the anointing abides in you. What is the anointing? The anointing is the Ruach Hackodesh that he has anointed you with. In John chapter 14:26 we're told that the Ruach Hackodesh whom the Father would send in the name of our Messiah... will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance all that he has said to us. And I want us to think about that for just a moment. How can the Ruach Hackodesh bring these things to our remembrance... if we have never heard them in the first place? We must have already heard them, in order to be reminded of them. Does that make sense? Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

So what John is telling us here in first John chapter 2 verse 27, is that we don't need anyone to teach us that the gospel message is true. It is the Ruach Hackodesh that teaches us what is true.

There are always going to be some people that we're going to testify to... and people that we're going to preach the gospel message to... that are automatically going to know that the gospel message is indeed true. They're going to accept the gospel message, and they're going to hold fast to it. Why? Because just like the Bereans... they will know their Scriptures well enough to

know that what we are telling them is indeed the truth.

But... there are also some people who have not been anointed by the Ruach Hackodesh who will never accept the gospel message. The Ruach Hackodesh does indeed teach us all things by helping us to discern what is true and what is false. But we must first study to show ourselves approved. We must first hear the biblical unfolding plan of our Father in heaven in order for the Ruach Hackodesh to remind us of it. We must first ask, seek, and knock. If we are not asking, and seeking, and knocking... then the door will not be open to us. To those who have... Much more will be given. But to those who have not... Even what they have will be taken from them.

The Ruach Hackodesh does indeed teach us all things by giving us the discernment to understand what is true and what is not true. And this is what John is trying to tell us in first John chapter 2 verse 27. How do we know this for sure? Once again, my friends... we must read the whole book and not just half of it. We must have knowledge of all the Scriptures, and not just one or two cherry picked Scriptures. If we read down just a couple of verses below verse 27 down to verse 29... we can clearly see that it is written and I quote *“if you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.”*

Let me ask you a question my friends. How are you going to be able to practice righteousness unless you study to show yourself approved, in order to know what righteousness is? How do we know what righteousness is? By studying to show ourselves approved. Once again that drive and the thirst to study the word of God comes only from the Ruach Hakodesh of God. Once we have studied to show ourselves approved... once we have faith by hearing the word of God... then and only then, can the Ruach Hackodesh teach us all things and remind us of what our Messiah said. This is how the Ruach of God does his work in us.

Once again, we must understand the context of what John was trying to tell us. How do we know that this is correct? All we have to do is compare this understanding, with the rest of Scripture. Let's turn to first Timothy chapter 3 versus one through 13:

**1Ti 3:1** *The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

**1Ti 3:2** *Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,*

**1Ti 3:3** *not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*

**1Ti 3:4** *He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,*

**1Ti 3:5** *for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*

**1Ti 3:6** *He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit*

*and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

*1Ti 3:7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

*1Ti 3:8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.*

*1Ti 3:9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.*

*1Ti 3:10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.*

*1Ti 3:11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.*

*1Ti 3:12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.*

*1Ti 3:13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

So what's being said here? Clearly there are overseer's and deacons that are to be designated throughout the congregation. I want us to also read Titus chapter 1 verses five through nine:

*Tit 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—*

*Tit 1:6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.*

*Tit 1:7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,*

*Tit 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.*

*Tit 1:9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

When we read through the Scriptures it's very clear how the apostles were setting up the early assemblies. And as we read through the Scriptures, it's very clear that the apostles were setting up the assemblies with pastors, teachers, and evangelists, and those who would be able to give good instruction in sound doctrine... and... also, able to rebuke those who contradict it. I'd like us to also turn to Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 through 14:

*Eph 4:11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,*

*Eph 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

*Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

***Eph 4:14*** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

You see once again, we need to read all of the Scriptures and not cherry pick one or two Scriptures out of our Scripture to try to prove our own preconceived agendas, and ideas.

It breaks my heart to often times see many people who have some outstanding teachings on Youtube, and Vimeo, and LiveStream, and on all these different platforms across the World Wide Web... and yet... these very same people will wrongly proclaim that they are not pastors, and that they are not teachers... Why? Because they've read one or two Scriptures and they have completely taken them out of context, and the devil himself has convinced them not to be pastors and teachers. And yet... they have all these wonderful video teachings out on the Internet doing exactly that (pastoring and teaching and evangelizing). It makes no sense at all whatsoever. If these people truly believe that we should not have pastors, or teachers, or evangelists... then what are they doing? If they truly believe that they have not been called to pasture or to teach or to evangelize... then why do they have all these teachings posted all over the Internet? You see my friends... it makes absolutely no sense at all whatsoever.

The apostle Paul clearly outlines the qualifications of deacons and elders within the assembly. I want us to turn to the book of acts chapter 20 verse 28:

***Act 20:28*** 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.

Right here we see Paul telling the Ephesian elders to keep watch over themselves and all the flock of which the Ruach Hackodesh has made them overseers. Has the Ruach Hackodesh called men to be overseers of the assembly? According to Scripture the answer to that question is a resounding "yes". And I want to also interject here... that the Ruach Hackodesh never calls anyone to be a master over anyone else. There is a difference between an overseer that oversees things... and a master. Our Father and his only begotten Son are the only masters that we have. And if a man cannot point directly to the word of God, he cannot oversee the word of God.

The problem with the Pharisees and scribes of our Messiah's time, was that they had left behind the obligation of being overseers... and had transformed themselves into masters over the people... which is in direct opposition to the commandment found in the word of God... and they had made themselves masters over the people and had added to... and taken away from... God's word. And that's exactly what today's modern-day version of Christianity has done to the assembly of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten Son. They have made themselves Masters over the assembly, instead of overseeing it. There is a huge difference between an overseer, and a master. Only our Messiah has mastered the word of God, and therefore only our Messiah is capable of being called "*master*", and no man should attempt

to proceed the title that has only been given to our true “*Master*”

And so, my point in all of this is that the apostles always set up each one of the assemblies with pastors, teachers, and evangelists. There were always elders and there were always deacons within each one of the assemblies that the apostles set up, so that those assemblies would no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, and by human cunning, and by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

And so, for anyone to say that we don’t need pastors, and teachers, and evangelists, to oversee the assembly, and to protect the assembly, and to guide the assembly... you need to go back and read your Bible. You need to understand how these assemblies were set up in the first place. And on the other side of that coin... for someone to look at their Pastor, or their Elders, or their deacons, as their masters... you need to also go back and read your Bible as well. Because no man is your master according to our Messiah... other than he himself, and his Father who gave him all authority in heaven and on earth. And so, there are two extremes to the argument, and again... I would submit to you that there is a narrow path... and unfortunately, few there be that find it.

And so, my point in all of this is that whether or not we should have pastors and teachers and evangelists within the assembly, is just as foolish and argument, as whether or not Adam has a belly button or not.

At this point I want us to understand what the apostle Paul said about those who proclaim the gospel, and those who teach it and oversee the assembly. I want us to turn to first Corinthians chapter 9 verses one through 19.

**1Co 9:1** *Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?*

**1Co 9:2** *If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

**1Co 9:3** *This is my defense to those who would examine me.*

**1Co 9:4** *Do we not have the right to eat and drink?*

**1Co 9:5** *Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?*

**1Co 9:6** *Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?*

**1Co 9:7** *Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?*

**1Co 9:8** *Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?*

**1Co 9:9** *For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?*

*1Co 9:10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.*

*1Co 9:11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?*

*1Co 9:12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.*

*1Co 9:13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings?*

*1Co 9:14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.*

*1Co 9:15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.*

*1Co 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

*1Co 9:17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.*

*1Co 9:18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.*

*1Co 9:19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.*

I want us to notice what the apostle Paul says in verses three through seven. Paul asks a very important question in verse four when he says “do we not have the right to eat and drink?” “Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife as the other apostles do?” In verse six Paul says “is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?”

Paul says “who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?” And Paul once again as he always does... points right back to the law in verse nine and he says and I quote “you shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” In other words... you shall not stop the ox from eating as it treads out the grain because God is also concerned for the ox is well.

Paul says that it was written for our sake... that those of us who pasture, and teach, and evangelize, and bring the good news to the world who are treading out the grain... should not be muzzled from partaking of the same grain as the assembly, because the plowmen should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. Paul asks another all-important question in the very next verse in verse 11... he says and I quote “if we have sown

*spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?”*

What is Paul saying in these verses? He sums it all up in first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 14 just a few verses down when he says and I quote, *“in the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel, should get their living by the gospel.* “And so, not only does the Bible say that pastors and teachers and evangelists are given by God... but it also says that those who proclaim the gospel and I quote, *“should get their living by the gospel.”*

And there are some brothers and sisters who will take offense by this because of their own greediness... because, Paul says in first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 12 that Paul did not make use of this **right**. Paul says in verse 12 and I quote *“we have not made use of this **right**, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of our Messiah.*” I would submit to you that Paul did not always make use of his right to make his living by the Gospel...but at other assemblies... he did make use of that right... and we'll see that as we move forward.

And Paul goes on to explain in verses 15 through 19 why it was that he did not always take advantage of the **right** to earn his living by the gospel. And I want us to understand that it is indeed the right of those who proclaim the gospel to make their living by the gospel according to the apostle Paul in first Corinthians chapter 9 verse 14. But Paul explains in verses 15 to 19 because Paul wanted to reserve the right to boast about his teachings. Paul says in verse 15 and I quote *“for I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.”* Paul tells us in verse 16 that this necessity is laid upon him, and he says *“woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”* We have to remember that our Messiah had to knock Paul to the ground and strike him blind in order to get Paul to preach the gospel.

Paul says in verse 18 and I quote *“that in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.”* And so, Paul was not selling the word of God. According to the apostle Paul he presented the gospel free of charge, much in the same way that we here at Holy Impact Ministries present the gospel free of charge. But just like this ministry requires donations and offerings to survive... so too, did Paul require donations and offerings to survive. Let's turn to second Corinthians chapter 11 verses eight and nine:

**2Co 11:8** *I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you.*

**2Co 11:9** *And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. What's going on*

Notice what Paul is proclaiming here. Does it say in verse 9 *“And when I was with you and was in need... I did not burden anyone because I stopped what I was doing and worked as a tent maker?”* No... it does not does it? Paul says very clearly, and I quote, *“And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied*

*my need.*” Was Paul accepting donations and offerings to keep him on his feet? Yes... according to Paul he was. He’s claiming that he robbed other churches by doing what?... by *“accepting support from them”* ... Get that my friends... He accepted support from them... so that he could serve the church at Corinth. He did not say that he accepted support from them so that he could give that support to the church at Corinth. He said he accepted support from them... so that he could serve at the church at Corinth, in other words so that he could come and help the church and preach the gospel message to the church at Corinth. Notice what he says in verse nine and I quote *“when I was with you I was in need, I did not burden anyone for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need.”* So, was Paul accepting support from the churches? Yes, indeed he was. Why? Because he had to. Even back in Paul’s time... money is what fed people. Money is what was used to pay bills with. Money is need to eat and to drink and to sustain the body, and to pay for your shelter, and to keep the ministry moving forward. I would submit to you my friends that nothing has changed concerning this basic need from the days of Paul to today.

You see Paul knew which churches he could take support from, and which churches he could not take support from. Paul knew that some churches would look down on him if he took support from them. Paul also knew that many of the places that he went to, were very poor, and they didn’t have much money. So, Paul would never burden a church that truly did not want to give, or that was too poor to give. In some cases... Paul did not make use of his right... to make his living by the gospel.

Any pastor worth a pound of salt can tell you my friends... that there are going to be sometimes when you’re going to be called to go preach to a church that is very destitute. And you don’t ask for money from people who are more destitute than you are. Your blessings come from those who turn, and those who believe, and those who you can bring into the body. Your blessings come from those who are both young and old, that now believe because you went there and did what you were called by God to do. You now have more brothers and sisters than you had when you started! This is the blessing that we receive that encourages us and drives us to keep moving forward. Any pastor worth a pound of salt knows and understands that blessings do not always come from monetary gain. Although a sizable offering can make all the difference in the world to a ministry, and is surely a great blessing... there are other... blessings that surpass even these.

You may preach to an assembly of very destitute people. You may preach to the homeless, or those in prison. You don’t burden them by telling them that they have to pay you, or you’re not coming to preach. Or by trying to guilt them into giving you the last time that they have to live on. And Paul was very well aware of this. Paul knew that his blessings came from many directions. I can tell you over the years that the offerings that we received here at Holy Impact Ministries have been huge blessings that have kept us on the airwaves, reaching more and more people each and every year. But I can also testify that preaching to the poor, and to the homeless, and to the imprisoned, and the destitute, is an even larger, and more fulfilling blessing than any monetary gift you could ever be given.

Expanding the coming kingdom of our Messiah, and helping an alcoholic to throw away the bottle, or an addict to pitch that needle into the trash, or to give a single mother hope and strength, in a time of need, is a much bigger blessing than any monetary gain that we could ever receive at any amount. And Paul was well aware of this.

Many people will proclaim that Paul worked as a tent maker... and at times, this is true. When Paul needed to... Paul worked as a tent maker to earn the money that he needed. But he only worked as a tent maker when he needed the extra money to continue his ministry. If he was preaching at a church that was young in the faith and did not have a conviction to give, or a church that was poor and destitute, then Paul picked up a side job in order to continue on doing what he was called to do. But Paul never rejected support from the other churches who were helping him to continue to preach the gospel message free of charge. Which is exactly what we do here at HolyImpctMinistries.com.

My friends we have literally hundreds of hours of teachings and plenty of PDF files that we could very easily put together and publish several books with, and those books could be put on the market and sold for profit. There are plenty of places that you can put your videos online, and charge people to view them. We not only have the knowledge, but we also have the ability to put all of our teachings on CDs and DVDs and to sell them. But we don't do that because (much like Paul), that's not what we've been called to do.

Now with that being said, I also want to add a little disclaimer. We do not chastise brothers and sisters who do write books concerning the gospel message of our Messiah. We do not chastise our brothers and sisters who create instructional videos concerning the gospel for a price.

Many of these CDs and DVDs cost a lot of money to put together. The Bible says that a workman is worth his wage. Sometimes these brothers and sisters have gone clear across country to interview other brothers and sisters, and spent large amounts of their own money in order to create these CDs and DVDs so that their brothers and sisters can have the same truth that they have. It cost money to publish a book. It costs money to publish a CD or a DVD. You have to pay for the artwork, and the royalties of that artwork, you have to pay for the paper, you have to pay for the printing, you have to pay for the cover of the CD or the cover of the DVD, you have to pay for the CD itself, or the DVD itself, and so there are all kinds of expenses that go along with writing a book or creating a CD or DVD, and we understand that.

When we say that we do not sell the word of God at Holy Impact Ministries... we're not elbowing our brothers in the ribs... we're simply saying that that's not what we, personally have been called to do. And so, I want to make that very clear. We have not been called to make a living by selling the word of God in books and CDs and DVDs. There are plenty of other brothers and sisters who may have been called to do that. We... Simply have not. And it's just that simple. Could we make more money by selling books? Yes, without a doubt we could make a whole lot more money. Could we make more money by selling CDs and DVDs? Of course we

could, we've got plenty of material to do so, and we've got the knowledge and the ability to do so if that's what we chose to do. But once again, we've simply not been called to do that. And just like Paul... we also would like to save some of our treasure up in heaven as well.

And so, when you're watching a Holy Impact Ministries video, or your downloading a video, or your reading a Holy Impact Ministries PDF file, or when you're listening to a Holy Impact Ministries radio program... you're receiving the gospel message free of charge. We don't even ask people to tithe 10% of their income to this ministry because we know and understand that asking people for 10% of their income because you claim to be part of the Levitical priesthood... Is not biblical. And so, we often times have people asking us... how in the world do you guys survive? And our response is always the same. Our Father in heaven touches the hearts of those who give to this ministry. Those who give to this ministry are truly touched by the hand of Yahovah the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob to give. Our income comes directly from our Father in heaven. We receive what he sees fit for us to receive. We receive what our brothers and sisters feel that we are worth. Sometimes we receive a simple prayer from a brother or a sister who is walking with our Messiah, and this causes our Messiah to open the store house windows of blessings upon us. Sometimes we receive an offering just in the nick of time, that helps us to pay a bill, or to buy a new monitor or the software that we need to keep moving forward. Sometimes it's just in enough time to put some food on the table. But all of these things are indeed blessings provided to us through the loving hand of our Father and his only begotten Son.

My friends I want you to understand that there are people who truly love the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob who give to this ministry and that has been proven to me over and over and over again. Just yesterday we received an offering through the mail along with the wonderful thank you card. And within that thank you card was six dollars. The six dollars was in cash. It was in the form of a check because this brother and sister probably didn't have a checking account. It wasn't in the form of a money order because this brother and sister probably couldn't afford the money order. Chances are very good... that the single mother and her son that sent us this thank you card and this six dollars, sent all that they could. And I just want to say to this young brother who is the son of this single mother... I come from a background much like you yourself my younger brother. And I want you to know that I too have experienced much of what you're going through. And it's important for you to stand up and be the man of the household. And to help support your mother in all that she does... because the day is going to come... that you will be very, very, very glad that you did.

It was because this mother and son have a true love for the word of God, and because they wanted to help, that they sent this beautiful thank you card and this six-dollar offering. And I tell you the truth my friends... this six dollars means the whole world to me and I want you to understand why. I'd like us to turn to Mark chapter 12 verses 41 through 44:

***Mar 12:41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums.***

**Mar 12:42** *And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.*

**Mar 12:43** *And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box.*

**Mar 12:44** *For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

This six dollars will be spent very wisely, because this six dollars along with this thank you card is going to be put in a frame, and it's going to hang here on this wall... so that I can look at it each and every day, and be reminded of how many of our brothers and sisters it is, that we truly serve. It will be a reminder to all of us, to not only be humble, and to be thankful to the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob for the blessings that we've been given... but also to remind us to be charitable and to give what we can, when we can, and to continue in the work that we do to spread the original gospel message of our Father in heaven and his only begotten Son, because there are people out there that we don't even know... that we are connected to, and that our Father is touching with these teachings, and this ministry that he has given us to perform a great work for him.

There are times when the Ruach Hackodesh allows us to know and to understand things that we normally would not know, and that we would not normally understand. He lets us know when there are people praying for us. He lets us know where people are in their faith. He lets us know how we're doing in our ministry. He lets us know how were doing in our walk. He teaches us all things, and brings to remembrance all that our Messiah has said. We know what is true because of him. And we can navigate through the darkest of these evil days because... he shines the light that cuts through the darkness that does indeed guide us.

When there is not enough money to keep this ministry going... we pick up our step to do whatever it is that we have to do, to make sure that his gospel message continues to move forward. And our Father in heaven always gives us the strength, and the desire, and the drive, and the will, to continue to move forward. And because we now have true brothers and sisters who have joined with us in the faith... this burden has become much more light than it was in the beginning.

When we started this ministry, we knew full well that our Messiah told us that many would be called, but only few would be chosen. We knew that it was written that straight is the gate and narrow is the path, and only few there would be that find it. So, we never expected to be rich and famous. We never expected to be buying personal jets, or houses on both the East Coast and West Coast, or to be sitting in the lap of luxury. We expected this to be a fight. We expected that we were going to be persecuted. We expected to have a congregation that would be rather small because we know that many will be called but only few would be chosen. We expected that we were going to have a bull's-eye painted on our backs. And we expected to have to duct tape

some things together from time to time in order to get them to work.

But just like the apostle Paul... our Father in heaven has blessed us richly with brothers and sisters that we cannot let down. Brothers and sisters who truly love us and what we're doing. Brothers and sisters who we pray for on a daily basis. True family members, who have been grafted in from the nations of the world, who now stand with this assembly, as well as many other assemblies that are also springing up around the world. We are simply one assembly of many that are fighting our way back to the truth of God's word and are rejecting the wisdom of the world's so-called "early church fathers".

And so, in conclusion... I want us all to understand that when we hear someone that is teaching and preaching the true word of God, and they proclaim that there are not a pastor and that they are not teachers, and that there not evangelists... you can simply smile... and know your heart, that they have indeed been called, for that very purpose. Although they may be afraid to step out of the shadows and into the light, and they may be afraid to admit it, and they may be afraid because they do not understand the Scripture properly concerning what they have been called to do... they are who they are, and they have been called to do what they have been called to do. No matter what title they may put upon themselves, or allow others to put on them... they are indeed pastors, teachers, and evangelists.

And I just want to say to my brothers who continuously say that they are not pastors, teachers and evangelists... If the homosexual can come out of the closet... so can you. We need you... stand up.

Either way, I am happy to stand shoulder and shoulder and toe to toe with my brothers and sisters who are fighting the good fight to teach and to preach the true original word of God. And in the end... it doesn't matter what title the world gives you, or puts on you... you know what you been ordained to do. And my hope and my prayer is that we will all stay the course, and that we will all continue to contend for the faith, and that we will all one day, walk together hand-in-hand through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom.

Are pastors biblical... you decide.