

C. A bad pastor destroys people's faith.



3. How is a Christian to survive in a world filled with bad pastors who don't teach the truth?

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." 2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)

A. Know that God protects His elect from a false teacher's deception.

B. Identify false teachers and distance ourselves from them.

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. Paul tells Timothy to remind people of "these things." How is it possible to teach and re-teach the Bible without becoming boring? Why is teaching and re-teaching the gospel necessary?
3. In what ways does shoddy Bible teaching show itself? In what ways does hard work pay off in a pastor's congregation?
4. Why does false teaching spread more easily and quickly than sound doctrine? Can you think of an example?
5. What kinds of "disputes" are worthwhile for Christians to engage in? What kinds are not worthwhile? What is sideways energy and why is it dangerous in the church?
6. What is godless chatter? Why shouldn't it be part of a pastor's life? What is the danger of it pervading any Christian's life? What do the following verses teach us about our speech? Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:8-10; Colossians 4:6

2 Timothy 2:14-19 – How Do I Evaluate A Pastor?

February 21, 2021

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Acts 20:29-30 (ESV)

1. What is a good pastor?

A. A good pastor reminds people of what they already know.

Remind them of these things,... 2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24 (ESV)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,... 1 Corinthians 15:1 (ESV)

B. A good pastor reminds people of God's presence in their life.

...and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)

...would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart. Psalm 44:21 (ESV)

And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, Acts 15:8 (ESV)

C. A good pastor steers people away from pointless conflicts.

...charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 2 Timothy 2:14 (ESV)

D. A good pastor is working hard for God's approval.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,... 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (ESV)

E. A good pastor rightly handles the Word of God.

...a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33 (NIV)

Joel Osteen in his book, Your Best Life Now makes the following claims:

- "God wants to make your life easier. He wants to assist you, to promote you, to give you advantages. He wants you to have preferential treatment. We get what we want from God by our faith-filled words."
- He claims God gives him priority seating in restaurants and the best parking spots at malls because of his faith. In the book, he says to his son, "You watch Daddy. I'm going to get a front-row parking spot. I can just feel it. I've got the favor of God all over me."
- He claims the reasons the Israelites wandered in the wilderness was because of their lack of faith *and their lack of self-esteem.*
- God promised Abraham and Sarah a son. He claims the only reason Sarah didn't conceive Isaac until she was old was because she didn't have enough faith in her heart so she could conceive him in her body.

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. Luke 12:33 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,... 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

F. A good pastor doesn't waste time in pointless talk and cultural hobby horses.

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. 2 Timothy 2:16-17a (ESV)

2. What is a bad pastor?

...among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 2 Timothy 2:17-18 (ESV)

...holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. 1 Timothy 1:19-20 (ESV)

A. A bad pastor strays from the trustworthy word as taught by the apostles.

B. A bad pastor teaches people they can have their best life now.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (ESV)