

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Men Heroes of the Faith

Lesson 1

My Pastor

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The sole purpose of this series is for the believer not to forget the men who labored vigorously to promote the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, many of whom are by now unknown to the average Christian. In this series, we hope to extend the remembrance of them for years to come in order to encourage the young and old that God can use anyone, anywhere who is willing to serve HIM.

For the sake of not embarrassing my pastor, we have chosen to leave his name unwritten. As you read over this lesson, you most assuredly will find the same characteristics in someone you know or someone close to you who is serving God. It would be in your best interest to pray for that man and see that his earthly needs are met, since he has sacrificed his life for you and for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The first and foremost reason I love my pastor is because he has taught me how to love my Saviour through reading the Bible, meditating on and memorizing the scriptures, applying God's word in my life and following its guidelines, sharing what I know with others, and giving to the work of the gospel. My pastor's godly instruction has encouraged me to do things for God that I never would have thought possible on my own.

Before we continue, we must understand that the usage of the word "pastor" is interchangeable with words such as "bishop", "deacon", and "elder", which we will see in the following verses.

Let's look at the requirements to be a pastor:

1 Timothy 3:1-13 *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. vs. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; vs. 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; vs. 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; vs. 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) vs. 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. vs. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. vs. 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; vs. 9 Holding*

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the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. vs. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. vs. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. vs. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. vs. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. (see also Titus 1:7-15)

Though the word “pastor” is not in this passage, Webster’s 1828 Dictionary defines “pastor” as “A minister of the gospel who has the charge of a church and congregation, whose duty is to watch over the people of his charge and instruct them in the sacred doctrines of the Christian religion.” This is essentially the same definition that is given with more detail in the Bible for a bishop, deacon, and elder.

My pastor grew up in a home and during a time when people followed rules and had respect for their leaders. This respect shaped his character and formed him into one who would abide by the instruction given in the word of God. He learned early that when one bent the rules or did not follow them exactly, there was punishment. He was raised in a time when policemen and firemen were considered heroes, and when every little kid wanted to be one when he grew up.

Though, like many kids, he was rebellious, my pastor learned from his mother and father that he had better do what they said (Proverbs 22:6), or there would be punishment (a principle found in the Bible). Probably the worst thing he did on a regular basis was to flush the toilet while his father was in the shower. This would result in him being punished, yet he would inevitably do it again. Eventually he decided the punishment was not worth it anymore (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

My pastor is a real man; he dresses, acts, and speaks like a real man. He is not showy or flamboyant. Every time the doors are opened for church, he is guaranteed to be clean and presentable, wearing a suit and shined shoes. He is mindful to always present himself as a respectable representative of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My pastor hates anything that would bring attention to the world’s point of view. In other words, he hates sin. When he preaches, this conviction is evident as he does nothing to glorify the world and its ways but gives all the glory to God and the truth of His word.

In the many years I have known him, both inside and outside the church, I have never heard a foul word or inappropriate statement come from his mouth. He has never told a dirty joke or made a comment regarding someone’s looks, mannerisms, or ethnic background; nor has he gossiped about anyone. (Psalm 34:13; Romans 14:21) This is just another way is he

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an example of a true Christian – He dresses like one, acts like one, and talks like one (Ephesians 4:24-25; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 3:11).

Since the moment he submitted to God to become a pastor, he has never turned back (Luke 9:62), even though the devil has thrown a bundle at him and at his testimony (none of which was true, of course) (John 8:44). At one point, one of his closest friends split his church, making false accusations to individuals both inside and outside the church. Still he stayed faithful and true to his vow to God to be a pastor (Deuteronomy 23:21).

My pastor has a tender heart. There have been many times, when speaking about sin and its consequences, it would seem as though fire were coming out of his mouth if possible, but the motivating drive behind his words was that of love and concern, not willing that any should perish.

During a sermon about Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-27), I could see tears in his eyes and hear a brokenness in his voice, as he reminded us of those who have gone on before us laboring in the gospel till their health failed.

After having asked for volunteers for ministries (taking the gospel to a new neighborhood, foreign country, rescue mission, jail, etc.), he demonstrates elation, absolute joy when he hears a testimony of salvation or recommitment that results. He is genuinely thrilled to hear how someone on the road to eternal destruction becomes redirected to the path of life. The examples of my pastor's tenderness are too many to write about, but this I will tell you, when you ask him to pray for a loved one who is sick, you can hear the sadness in his voice and from his heart. You can be assured that he loves you as if you were his own family (1 John 2:5).

My pastor is faithful and committed to adhere to the whole counsel of God. He does not waiver when the rest of the world does not want to follow God. If I could define my pastor's faithfulness with one word, it would be "keel". A keel is a longitude structure along the centerline at the bottom of a vessel hull on which the rest of the vessel is built; a blade to increase the stability. He is immovable. If the Bible says "yes", and the world says "no", then the Bible is correct and the world is wrong. Example: If the Bible says that consumption of alcohol is wrong, and the world says it's OK in moderation, then the Bible is correct and the world is wrong (Habakkuk 2:15; Proverbs 23:31-32). The Bible and my pastor teach, "Don't even look at alcohol."

My pastor has shown me by example that he practices what he preaches. One particular time, we were sitting at a table in a restaurant with many others. As the waitress was taking our order, he politely asked her if she knew where she would be after she died. She responded, "No.", after which he graciously presented her the gospel. His presentation was as

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smooth as an Olympic slalom skier, with delicacy, love, and concern. He was not showy or wanting to impress others. The waitress seemed to be drawn to what he was saying. Sadly, I noticed the others sitting with us were becoming antsy because their food orders were not being taken. My pastor was more concerned about that woman's eternal destination than his belly (2 Timothy 4:2).

When have you ever heard of a pastor standing in front of his congregation and admitting his shortcoming of not trusting in what God had promised? My pastor has done this because he is an honest man. He has never portrayed himself as a super, unaffected, insensitive Christian; in fact, quite contraire.

Lastly, my pastor has a sense of humor. As a congregation we have enjoyed playing several tasteful practical jokes on our pastor, and he takes them graciously. One of my favorites was when everyone in the congregation sat on the opposite side of the sanctuary from where they normally sat, yet in the same rows. He finally figured it out and said that he should preach from the back of the church.

Let us look again at the Biblical requirements for being a pastor that my pastor meets and exceeds:

- Titus 1:7-9 *For a bishop (pastor) must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*
- 1 Timothy 3:2-7 *A bishop (pastor) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
- Ephesians 5:25-29 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29*

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For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Many pastors in the 21 Century have gone the way of the world in accepting contemporary music, contemporary dress standards, sodomy, divorce in church leadership, women preachers, inappropriate social interactions, gambling, raffles, super bowl church services, worldly holiday celebrations, and the worst new Bible versions (Revelation 22:18). These pastors are causing their churches to conform to the world's way of thinking, when they should be preaching and teaching the truth of God's word. My pastor, on the other hand, has remained faithful to teaching God's word, and that with enthusiasm. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Notes

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Heroes of the Faith Lesson 1

Name _____

Note: Questions with (*) require scripture, including the T/F.

1. What was the purpose of the lesson?
2. Why do you think the scripture is so adamant about a pastor only being married once? *
3. If your pastor adheres to the truths in the Bible, how should he be treated?
4. Why should a pastor not be a new Christian (novice)? *
5. If the government passes a law that says it is ok to smoke and drink, should Christians participate? (why?) *
6. Why should a pastor be likened to a keel?

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7. Why should a pastor not be in debt? *
8. Why should a pastor have a good testimony in the community? *
9. Why should we strive to conform our lives to the requirements of a pastor, even if we are just a member of the church? *
10. Why would a church go contemporary?
11. Explain Ecclesiastes 8:11.

True/false

- Women pastors are not Biblical. *
- The church should allow sodomite members. *
- If your pastor meets all the biblical requirements, you as a member should pray for him and support him financially. *



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:
Ecclesiastes 8:11; 2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Peter 3:11
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?