

Pray for the Pastor

Sunday AM, February 13, 2022

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Hebrews 13:18-19 Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner.

- I. The plea here is to pray for those who are in the position of under shepherds.
 - A. Those whom God has appointed in your life as pastor, preacher, examples of faith to follow.
 - B. Those who preach to you and teach you the Word of God.
 - C. Those who exhort you to live holy and righteous before God and the wicked world around us.
 - D. Those who counsel you in the ways of righteousness.
 - E. Those who call out the ways of wickedness around us and warn us of the dangers involved there.
 - F. Eternity will reveal that these who we are to pray for are far more important in your life than most people ever think they are.
 - G. Their faithfulness, and the quality of their walk with God, will have more impact on our life and our posterity than any other influence for good that we will encounter.
 - H. We do not realize the load that is on their shoulders and the intensity of Satan's attacks on them.
 1. The primary goal of the enemy is always to get the leader and thus put an end to the opposition.
 2. So we should realize that the spiritual attacks they endure are more intense and more steady than those suffered by the average Christian in the pew.
 - I. The most damage that the devil can do to the work of Christ is to bring down the pastors and the preachers, so his weapons are focused there much more than on the lukewarm professor of faith sitting in the pews.

- II. They desperately need our prayers because of the responsibility they bear.
 - A. Before God they will give account for the souls that were under their watch.
 - B. Were they faithful to warn, to rebuke, to reprove, to exhort?
 1. Not just in a general way, but individually.
 2. God will call me to account for every one of you.
 3. Did I do all I could to help you know God, and love God, and walk in the ways of God?
 4. Was I faithful to warn you when you were straying or being influenced by evil, or were compromising your testimony?
 - C. They bear the responsibility for the testimony of the church in their community, and will give account to God for that.
 1. The way our church presents itself to the community around us.
 2. In matters of morals, money, and just our attitude toward others.
 - D. They are responsible to feed the flock of God.
 1. They must not give leftovers, or something bought or borrowed but fresh bread from heaven.
 2. They must study and seek to make the truths of God understandable for the people.

3. They must be able to deliver the messages in such a way that people are able to listen and understand.
 4. They must be sensitive and attentive to the needs of the people, and preach appropriate truths that address those needs.
 5. They must understand the times they live in and deal with things as they are, not living and dwelling in a sentimental view of the way things used to be or some dream of how we can change the world back to the way it used to be.
- E. And all this responsibility is on someone who is leading a volunteer group of people.
1. He is not a commander, or dictator, or any kind of potentate, but simply an under-shepherd.
 2. He cannot make anyone do anything that they are not willing to do.
 3. He is to lead by example, and do the best he can, and pray that God gets through to the hearts and minds of the sheep under his care.
 4. He must somehow, with the help of God, get those sheep to see the value and importance of all these matters concerning their testimony and the fact that God's very honor is at stake, and therefore to live holy and without reproach before the community around them – willingly..

III. How do we pray for these who are so important in our life?

- A. First of all, pray that "utterance may be given unto him, that he may open his mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."
1. That he has something to preach that is anointed of the Spirit of God and not just bought or borrowed from someone else.
 2. That he is not grounded by his own problems of life or the discouragement that comes from people who oppose or will not heed what he preaches.
- B. Pray that in teaching and preaching to us the Word of God, he may be enabled rightly to divide it.
1. There is much spiritual wisdom is required here.
 2. And he is subject to the devil's attacks here as well as everywhere else.
- C. Pray that the truths which he preaches may be so deeply impressed upon our own souls by the Spirit of God that they may always influence our life and conversation, and thus lead us to a holy and consistent walk.
- D. Pray that he may be made conqueror over all the special temptations that ministers face.
1. That he may never speak to you "smooth things" merely for the sake of pleasing you.
 2. That he never be afraid to speak the truth for fear of offending people, but that he has the wisdom to speak the truth in love and avoid unnecessary offenses.
 3. That he never look to his own interests and leave out or add to the message of God.
- E. Pray that God will keep him humble and lowly and not allow him to be exalted above measure.
1. Because of the abundance of the revelation God gives him.
 2. Or because of outward successes.
 3. Or because of the praise of others.
- F. And always remember if he is helped, you will be helped as well.
- G. And also consider what a great loss it would be if he faints, falls, or is removed from your life, and the lives of those you care about.
- H. So pray for him, faithfully, purposefully, and fervently.