

Lake 16 - nothernt  
p. 10:11

Prov 20:6  
Pastor didn't tell me what  
to preach -

## "Holding Up Your Pastor's Hands"

Text: Exodus Chapter 17

-Vs. 11 - Title of Message comes from

-Intro - Three ways can apply scripture

- Doctrinally
- Spiritually
- Historically

-Tonight going to make a spiritual application of our passage.

-Exodus Chapter 17 applies to or is speaking about the nation of Israel.

-However, we read in ~~I Cor. 10:11~~ - Read.

-In other words, the things written about in Exodus 17, even though they apply to Israel we as Christian can learn a spiritual lesson *from them* -

-The context of I Cor. 10:11, is that Paul is telling the Christians at Corinth that they can learn from the mistakes that Israel made.

-The Life of Israel in the wilderness is a picture or type of the Christian Life.

-Before, I get into the message, I want us to notice some things in our passage, Exodus 17.

Exodus 17 -

vs.1 - "children of Israel" - picture of the church

-In fact, the children of Israel, in Acts 7:38, is called "the church in the wilderness".

-The word "church" comes from the Greek, meaning "called out assembly".

-The group meeting here tonight is a "called out assembly"  
Each time we assembly together as a church, we are coming out of the world to meet"

-When we come to church, it pictures the future rapture of all believers physically from the earth when we literally *be will be* called out of the world, separated from to be with Jesus forever.

-So, a Christian is called out from the world and in Christ.

-II Cor. 6:17 - Read - "Come out" - *not only from world now - but in future at the Rapture*

Vs. 2-3- Notice as soon as trouble comes up, they blame Moses.

-What this pictures in most Bible Believing Independent Baptist Churches.

-When trouble hits, everyone blames the pastor.

-So, we see Moses pictures the pastor, the man of God.

Vs. 4 - I imagine most pastor who are trying live for the Lord and not compromise have cried what Moses did. I know, that I have.

Vs. 5-6 -Of course who does the pastor or Moses turn to solve the problem? - God, Amen.

-If you want to receive solutions to your problem, try crying out to God once in awhile. Amen.

-Vs. 6 - Smitting of the rock is a picture or type of Christ <sup>water picture of</sup> being smitten on the cross. Christ is called "the rock" - <sup>friend</sup> <sup>water life</sup>

-See I Cor. 10:1-3 & John 4:14

-Vs. 7 - Despite all that the Lord did for the children of Israel. i.e. delivered them out of bondage in Egypt, parted the red sea. Notice what say "Is the Lord among us, or not?"

-Sounds like most Christians today.

-After God has so richly bless them they still doubt God.

-The reason most Christian don't live a victorious Christian life is because of their unbelief.

-The scripture tells <sup>us</sup> that first generation under Moses did not enter into the promise land because of their "unbelief" - (He. 3:19).

-So, we see that the children of Israel had a problem and the Lord miraculously provided for them.

-It truly was a great victory.

-However notice what it says in vs. 8 - "Then came Amalek"

- "Amalek" was the enemy.

-In fact, Amalek is a picture or type of the devil.

-What we can learn from this is as Christian, we must beware after a great spiritual victory, Satan is going to be right on our heels to trip us up.

-Notice Vs. 8, Not only did Amalek come but also it says, "and fought with Israel"

-Satan doesn't come to just play with you, he comes ready to fight. See I Pe. 5:8.



-I think the problem with most Christians is they take <sup>their</sup> pastor for granted. — He is like a store ~~24~~ — He is available 7 days a week

-Everytime you murmur and complain, remember you are murmuring complaining about God. Because the Pastor is His man. 24 hrs a day

## II. Supplication (Or Prayer)

\*I Tim. 2:1-3 - vs.2 "in authority".

-Don't criticize, pray for the man.

-When is the last time you prayer for the pastor?

-He probably prays for you each and everyday.

-If you are not you need to be lifting your pastor and his family and all those in authority (pastor ~~Baxter~~ <sup>John</sup> & family, the deacons and their families, teachers, bus drivers, etc) before the throne room of grace each day.

-The devil is always nipping at the heals of your pastor.

-I know, I have been there.

-Maybe your prayers might get answered if spent more time in intercessory prayer for your pastor.

-If you <sup>say</sup> won't then want you are doing is holding down your pastor's hands and the devil is going to prevail.

-The spiritual battle will be lost.

-The work of the church won't get done.

## III. Support. — Scriptural — + Comment to support your Pastor

\*I Cor. 9:7-15 - Paul talking about financial support of the pastor. — Preach it <sup>won't some thing make up</sup> Lvs. 12. — could have taken support but didn't

\*I Tim. 5:17-18 — elders — (Pastors)

-vs. 17- The pastor who excels in Bible preaching and teaching of the doctrines of the New Testament is WORTHY of a double portion financially.

-Maybe the reason you are having financial problem is because you are not giving your pastor double honor financially.

-You are not tithing like you should.

-Remember it is alright to give more than 10%.

-In fact, the Bible principle is "the more you give the more you get."

-vs. 18 - The ox that was yoked to the grind stone was allowed to eat all of the corn that he wanted.

-He was not to be muzzled, but allowed to <sup>eat</sup> all that he wanted all day long.

-In actuality, God is saying that the man who does all of the spiritual labor around His house should be able to take all he desires for his own livelihood.

-The spiritual battle cannot be won unless <sup>we as a Church</sup> are supporting the man of God.

-I believe he should be the best dressed man in the church and his wife the best dressed women.

-It is a sad testimony for a church for a pastor and his family to go without.

IV. Submission — *Submission - to authority big problem -*

\*He. 13:17 - Reason to obey and submit to the pastor, so you won't get into trouble.

-He watching out for you.

-He is accountable to God for your souls.

-Sub, means to be put under

-You are to be under the control of the pastor.

-If you are not then you are rebellious.

-The devil is a rebel., He rebelled against God.

\*I Samuel 15:22-23. -*speech - When you rebel against the man of God you are a witch -*

\*How can you submit to God if you can't submit to His man? *Not all the witches are*

\*I want to give some ways to honor your pastor *(see LIST in Salem - but independent fundamental Baptist Church)*  
by (1) your speech, by (2) your supplication, by (3) your support, by (4) your submission

\*Let me ask you Christian are helping to hold up your pastor's hands or pull them down.

*Are you praying for pastor - If you are not why not start tonight at the altar. Even if you are praying for him - wait you come to altar - anyway - He needs all the prayers he can get if you are going to win the battle.*

# 10 Ways To Honor Your Pastor

By Dr. L. K. Landis

*"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."* Thus reads the Apostle Paul's admonition to the church at Rome (Romans 13:7). In our day and age it has fallen out of vogue to give honour to honourable people. However, in the word of God we are commanded to give recognition and respect to certain ones in our society. We are told to honour the king (I Peter 2:17). We are told to honour our fellow-believers (Romans 12:10). We are told that we are to honour the man that does good (Romans 2:10). We are to honour our mother and father (Matthew 15:4), and widows who are widows indeed (I Timothy 5:3). And certainly we are to honour our Saviour and our Heavenly Father (John 5:23). Most Christians would echo a hearty "amen" when it comes to the honour that is due to each of these. We would and should give God the greatest degree of honour that mortal man can give. He alone is worthy and deserving of all our honour. As believers we should give honour to widows; we should hold the door open for them, help them carry their groceries, help them in and out of their vehicle in bad weather, etc. None would deny that we should give a very high degree of honour to our parents. I love it when I see a child giving honour to his mother or father. And most of the churches with which I am familiar have some kind of special recognition in their services on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

But dear friend, have you ever stopped to think that there is only one person in the entire Bible who is said to be "worthy of double honour"? Although I believe that God alone is deserving of our highest honour, to only one person among all of humanity are we admonished to give double honour. And that one person is the very one who receives more scorn and ridicule from the world (and even some Christians) than anyone else, of course I am referring to the pastor of one of the Lord's churches. "Let the elders (pastors) that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (I Timothy 5:17). Very few of God's people ever stop to think what this means. And those who do think about this portion of Scripture seldom do anything to fulfill its requirements. However, for all of the faithful laymen who read *The Wilderness Voice* here are some suggestions as to how to obey God in this matter:

## 1. PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLE OF "DOUBLE HONOUR."

Actually this command is given in connection with a financial overtone. The pastor who excels in Bible preaching and teaching of the doctrines of the New Testament is **WORTHY** of a double portion financially. I know of several churches who practice this doctrine of "double honour" toward their pastor and every one of these churches has been singly blessed by the Lord. It is a given that you cannot out-give God. And the church who takes good care of the man of God financially is rewarded for its obedience to God.

1 Timothy 5:18 reads, *"For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."* The ox that was yoked to the grind stone was allowed to eat all of the corn that he wanted. He was not to be muzzled, but allowed to eat all that he wanted all day long. In actuality here, God is saying that the man who does all of the spiritual labor around His house should be able to take all he desires for his own livelihood. In other words the pastor should be allowed to set his own salary. I do not know of many pastors, if any, who would dare do this for fear of criticism from the people who are supposed to give him the double

honour.

I well remember many years ago when the church wanted to purchase health insurance for my wife and me. I was not present, but was told that one of the men was indignant that the church would do this for us. His attitude was, "If the preacher wants health insurance, let him buy it himself". With the salary they were us paying at that time, we could not afford health insurance. I ended up in the hospital for 121 days with no insurance, and the church ended up spending thousands more in helping us to pay off a \$75,000+ medical bill. At that time, it would have only cost them \$140.00 per month for health insurance.

God takes care of tightwads when it comes to His man. The church that is liberal in its giving to the man of God is blessed of God.

## **2. HAVE AN ANNUAL "WE LOVE OUR PASTOR" DAY.**

I know of one church who set aside a certain day every year as their "Pastor Appreciation Day". It was up to the officers in that church to invite a special guest, pay all of his expenses, do all of the neat little things such as preparing red-heart pins that said, "We Love Our Pastor" for everyone to wear, etc. These people were grateful for the leadership their pastor provided. They recognized that he was a gift from God (Jeremiah 3:15). They let the whole community know that they were proud of their pastor, supported his ministry, and that he was worthy of their love. And, by the way, that church has been blessed in unbelievable ways.

Many years ago, they even had a lost man leave several hundred thousand dollars to that church in his will. Today it is a large church numerically, owns several million dollars in property, and is totally out of debt. My, how God has blessed them

## **3. BE VOCAL IN YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAISE OF THE PASTOR.**

Let him know often that you stand with him. Tell him that you love him, that he is very important to you and your family. Do not tell him alone of your love, affection and support, but let others know as well. Years ago a man who stood firmly with me, came to me and said, "Preacher, why don't people ever come to me with complaints and criticisms of you?" The answer was obvious. Every disgruntled member knew where this man stood. He was vocal in support and would not tolerate anyone making his ears garbage cans for complaints against his pastor. This man is still in our church and still is a very vocal supporter of this pastor. He will never now know much I love him for it.

## **4. TREAT YOUR PASTOR HONOURABLY WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHER PREACHERS.**

I never cease to be amazed at how calloused some people can be in the treatment of their pastor when other ministers are around. I have heard people say to the guest evangelist, "That's the greatest message I've ever heard," or even worse, "I wish I could hear you preach all the time". And they say this in the presence of their pastor who labours daily trying to do his best for the Lord. The person who is content with the man that God has placed as pastor of that local church (Philippians 4:11), will not say things to "put down" or hurt his pastor. I suppose I've seen it a hundred times. A layman tries to impress a visiting preacher and acts like a real "hot dog". Most preachers can see through that in an instant. Most evangelists I know are more impressed by someone who puts their local church pastor above the evangelist.

Those who have the proper attitude toward their pastor will always treat him with respect and

courtesy, even when around visitors. Here is a thought: when your pastor is in a group of ministers, always extend your hand to him first. It is a signal to all around that "my pastor is first with me." We have two men in our church that are experts at that. One is a deacon who makes it a point to let me know in front of other ministers that while they may be "good", his pastor is "great" (I have him fooled and although it always embarrasses me, I like it). The other man before every service asks me, "How is my favorite preacher?" What an uplift and encouragement.

### **5. SHOW AFFECTION FOR HIM.**

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews, actually told them to show affection for their pastors. Hebrews 13:24 says, *"Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you."* This salutation spoken of by the venerable Apostle, was in actuality an affectionate greeting. It was what we would call a hug. In some cultures it is considered disrespectful if you do not greet your relatives and friends with a kiss on each cheek. In our culture, a simple hug seems to suffice. I know of a church in Kentucky, where as the people mingle before services, the men hug the men and the ladies hug the ladies. I have been there and seen this demonstration of genuine affection and I must say that it is impressive. It is difficult to hug your brother in the Lord before the services and then stab him in the back afterwards. It seems to me that this is a time of bonding, a time when that church family is drawn closer together. And believe me, in this day and age, most churches I know anything about could use a little "bonding."

There is a man in our church whom I have known since he was less than three years old. In my mind, I can still see him as a toddler if I try hard enough. But today he is a grown man much taller in stature than I, with a family of his own. This man always hangs around until most of the worshippers for that service are gone and then he comes and gives me a hug. This man loves his pastor and doesn't care who knows it. What a blessing!

### **6. DO LITTLE UNSOLICITED DEEDS OF KINDNESS FOR HIM.**

Kindness is something that is shown, not purchased. Opening the door for him, shoveling snow off his sidewalk at home, ~~helping his wife in and out of her car~~, allowing him to go first in the food line at fellowships. . . All of these are just little acts of kindness that speak loudly to the man of God and tell him he is loved and his position is respected. It costs nothing to be nice to someone and usually it pays marvelous dividends. Use your imagination in finding things to do and ways to show your love and support for the pastor.

### **7. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO HONOUR, LOVE AND RESPECT THE PASTOR.**

Only God knows how many times I have told the little story that I am about to relate to you, but it made such an impression on me that I shall never forget it as long as I live. It seems that many years ago our church was going through some very deep water. The old devil had raised his ugly head and caused some division among us. Try as I did, there were just some folks that would not be satisfied until I was gone. During this time, I was sitting on the platform going over my notes for the sermon that morning and, I must admit, feeling pretty low. Times were hard and things were rough for me. My mind was preoccupied with problems, worries and woes. As I sat in my chair, my mind a million miles away, the son of one of our deacons marched right up on the platform. He had not been prompted by mom or dad, he just bolted up there before anyone could catch him. This little fellow, I suppose about four or five years old at the time, walked right up to me, climbed up in my lap, took both of his little hands and turned my face to where I was staring eyeball to eyeball with him. He looked into my eyes, got a very serious look on his face and said,



"Pweachah, I wuv you." At that moment my heart broke as did the dam that held back my tears. I held that little boy so tight and told him that I loved him too. That morning as I mounted the pulpit, I could have whipped wildcats. And that all because a little boy was echoing the sentiment that he heard from his parents at home. Truly that little one saved the day. God used that child to encourage a very discouraged preacher. Today that man and his family live in another city and attend a different church, but I will never forget that little bit of comfort from a very little boy.

**8. GIVE HIM LITTLE INEXPENSIVE GIFTS THAT CONVEY THE MESSAGE OF LOVE AND SAY TO HIM THAT HE IS WORTH THE EXTRA EFFORT TO SELECT THOSE GIFTS.**

Just recently I was in the hospital for eight days with pneumonia. Being a diabetic, it is very important that I eat regularly and right. However, the medication I was on had robbed me of my appetite. Without ever saying a word to anyone about it, I thought to myself that if I were home, I believe I could eat a couple of graham crackers. Now, folks, I assure you that I said nothing about this to anyone, not even my wife. That evening one of our deacons and his son showed up at the hospital and came to my room and you will never believe what they had in a little plastic bag. That's right! Graham crackers! How precious that they were sensitive enough to the Lord's leading that they would even think of something as insignificant to most people as graham crackers. To me, it was as if they had purchased the Taj Mahal or the Empire State Building and presented it to me as a gift. That didn't cost much, but the message that it sent was like a lighted bill-board.

**9. WRITE A LITTLE NOTE OR SEND A CARD TO YOUR PASTOR TELLING HIM YOU ENJOYED A PARTICULAR MESSAGE OR JUST A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.**

As many of you know Bro. Bill Prater is my Associate Pastor and, Lord willing, he will one day be my pastor. From his first Sunday as my associate in 1984, he has written a note every Saturday night and slid it under my office door for me to read on Sunday morning. I have kept every one of those notes. They are prized possessions to me. There is not enough money in this world to buy even one of them from me (well, okay, but just one). Over the years I have received my share of good notes and discouraging ones as well. But the notes, cards and letters I cherish most are those written for no specific reason other than just to encourage me.

**10. REMEMBER YOUR PASTOR AND HIS WIFE'S BIRTHDAYS, WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, AND THEIR ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CHURCH.**

It need not be an elaborate celebration. For most pastors I know, just recognition that it is a special day in their life is sufficient. On those days, do a little something extra, go a little out of your way to let the man of God know what he means to you. Make him feel special. We have people in our church who are experts in this field.



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