

“What Is A Pastor In The Bible?”

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 4:11-12**. “Pastor” Only Once Used in Scripture.

I. The Religious World’s View Of A Pastor.

– Southern Baptist Job Description of a Pastor:

(1) Minister. **(2)** Counselor or Spiritual Advisor. **(3)** Head Of Administration. **(4)** Head of Missionaries.

II. The Importance Of Accurately Using God’s Word- 2 Tim. 2:15.

– **Rightly Dividing:** to give accurate instruction—‘to teach correctly, to expound rightly.’

‘do your best ... to teach the word of truth correctly’ **2 Tm 2:15**. (Louw, J. P., & Nida, Vol. 1, p. 414)

– Misnomer: A wrong or inaccurate use of a word or name.

– We wouldn’t call a doctor a lawyer or a judge a deputy? Why? Wrong Role!

– We Cannot Call An Elder An Apostle Or A Deacon A Pastor?

– What happens When We Incorrectly Use A Biblical Term?

– We may do things in an UnBiblical Manner And Stray From Truth. Apostasy?

– Are We Speaking “As The Oracles Of God” by Misnomers- **1 Peter 4:11**.

III. The Biblical Terms Of Pastors And Preachers.

– Elders (**Acts 20:17**), Pastors (**Eph. 4:11**), Presbyter (**1 Tim. 4:14**), Overseer-Bishop (**Phil 1:1**).

– Preacher (**2 Timothy 1:11**), Minister (**1 Timothy 4:6**); Evangelist (**2 Timothy 4:5**).

– Why Mention This? These Are The Biblical Terms; Distinct, Proper, and Accurate.

IV. What Is The Biblical Role Of Preachers And Pastors?

– **Preachers:**

1. Preach The Word- **2 Timothy 4:1-2**.

2. Teach God’s Word- **1 Timothy 4:11**.

3. Charge Men Not To Teach Another Doctrine- **1 Timothy 1:3**.

4. Warn Of Dangers To The Church- **Acts 20:31**.

5. Rebuke And Reprove Error- **2 Timothy 3:16**.

6. Encourage and Exhort To Do Good **2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 11:23**.

7. Put Brethren In Remembrance **1 Timothy 4:6; Titus 3:1**.

– **Pastors:**

1. **Shepherd** (poimen); “The verb means “to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep.”

- **Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2**.

2. **Oversee** (Gr. “To look or watch): **1 Peter 5:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12**.

– From These Passages: 1. Take Oversight and Rule Well. 2. Take Heed To The Flock.

3. Shepherd/Feed the Flock. 4. Watch For The Souls of the Church.

– Elders Who Oversee And Labor in the Word- **1 Timothy 5:17**.

Was Timothy A Pastor? Was Paul A Pastor? Was Philip the Evangelist? (**1 Tim. 3; Titus 1**).

V. Why All This Confusion? And How Do We React To It?

– Arbitrary Terminology Or Carelessness? Tradition? (Martin Luther?).

– How Do We React To This Terminology? **Matthew 5:13; Ephesians 4:15**.