

PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

It isn't a Sunday only, one day a week trade,
Nor a cushy, comfy number that's excessively paid;
It's not all sipping cuppas with happy families,
Or sharing in the joy of wedding ceremonies.

His is a most solemn responsibility
To care for his congregation, to preach and teach faithfully
The whole counsel of God, in a way that is clear,
Not just tailoring his message to what people want to hear.

Ezek 33:7-9; 1 Cor 9:16
Acts 5:42
Acts 20:27, 8:35 & 13:38
2 Tim 4:3-4

To point to Jesus Christ as the Truth, Life and Way;
To encourage each believer to serve, witness, study, pray;
To comfort the hurting, the heartbroken, the bereaved;
To counsel the seeking, the erring, the deceived.

Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12
Rom 10:9-10; 2 Tim 2:15
2 Cor 1:3-4
Gal 6:1; 2 Cor 4:4

To alert of sin and judgment, of hell's reality,
Assuring none e'er need go there, if they come personally,
Trusting Christ as Saviour, who in their guilty place died,
To free from all condemnation, eternal life to provide.

Is 58:1; Heb 9:27; 2 Cor 5:11
Job 33:24; 2 Pet 3:9
Acts 16:31; 2 Pet 2:24
Jn 5:24; Rom 8:1; Jn 3:14-16

From temptation and discouragement no pastor has immunity;
He's not some kind of giant, fielding blows with impunity;
A flesh and blood human being, he can be wounded too,
He needs prayer, support and God's help, just like me and you.

1 Thess 5:25

When you've never walked in a minister's shoes
'Tis easy to criticise – from the comfort of the pews;
But, instead of merely adding to the pressures he must bear,
Why not raise your voice instead to uplift him in prayer?

2 Thess 3:1

Pray for God to empower and bless his ministry,
To safeguard his loved ones, and his testimony;
To give him vision, passion, wisdom and courage too,
And help him to see many, through Christ, made anew.

1 Tim 4:6; Titus 1:9
1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-8
Pr 29:18
2 Cor 5:17; Ezek 36:26-27

Get over that paltry grievance eating away at you
O'er something that your pastor did or didn't do;
Where a valid concern – then honestly tell him so,
For no one can fix a problem of which they don't know.

Get behind your pastor, but not behind his back -
Isn't he a big enough target for the enemy's attack?
If "Thy kingdom come" you pray, from a heartfelt desire,
Shouldn't the devil instead be the focus of your fire?

Mt 6:10

What a different church it might be if the same energy
That is spent complaining was used to pray fervently
That God would make each pastor – or whate'er title he holds
A flaming herald of God's grace, to reach and win countless souls.

Phil 2:14-15; Jam 5:16
Heb 1:7; Pr 11:30