

## **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                          | Ezek 33:7-9; 1 Cor 9:16  |
| To care for his congregation, to preach and teach faithfully | Acts 5:42                |
| The whole counsel of God, in a way that is clear,            | Acts 20:27, 8:35 & 13:38 |
| Not just tailoring his message to what people want to hear.  | 2 Tim 4:3-4              |

To point to Jesus Christ as the Truth, Life and Way; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12  
To encourage each believer to serve, witness, study, pray; Rom 10:9-10; 2 Tim 2:15  
To comfort the hurting, the heartbroken, the bereaved; 2 Cor 1:3-4  
To counsel the seeking, the erring, the deceived. Gal 6:1; 2 Cor 4:4

To alert of sin and judgment, of hell's reality, Is 58:1; Heb 9:27; 2 Cor 5:11  
Assuring none e'er need go there, if they come personally, Job 33:24; 2 Pet 3:9  
Trusting Christ as Saviour, who in their guilty place died, Acts 16:31; 2 Pet 2:24  
To free from all condemnation, eternal life to provide. 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

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