



How to Pray for Your Pastor

When Roman legions invaded Caledonia (modern-day Scotland) in the late first century AD, it was said by the historian Tacitus that the powerful Celtic chieftain Calgacus emerged and rallied his tribes against the might of Rome, famously declaring, “They make a desert, and they call it peace.”

Today’s Christian pastor is likewise making similar stands for biblical Christianity in the midst of a secular desert created by an anti-Christian culture. The Bible describes a faithful pastor as an elder who oversees the flock and the household of God. According to Paul, pastor/elders rule the church (Titus 1:5) and guard the treasures of Christ (v. 9). Additionally, they minister to the people by teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

If ever there was an era in Christian history that believers should be committed to praying for their pastors, it is now. James rebukes our prayerlessness when he says, “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2). And what prayers are we offering up to God on behalf of our pastors? Let me suggest several.

THAT HE WOULD DELIGHT IN PREACHING

If your minister is not being blessed and instructed by the Word, it is highly unlikely that you will be. Your spiritual well-being is directly linked to your pastor’s seeking the Lord in his preparation for the sacred desk. If he is not diligently seeking the Lord, you won’t find Him in his preaching either. A godly pastor is a joyful, dutiful herald of the most high King. His enthusiasm for proclaiming God’s Word will be infectious and unstoppable, and it will be readily apparent to all who hear him that this is a man who knows his God. Second Timothy 4:1-2 reads:

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

THAT HE WOULD ENJOY THE LORD’S DAY

I suspect that many people who sit week after week in the pews of their particular church have no idea how difficult a Sunday is for a minister and his family. Pray for your pastor’s Sundays. Robert Murray M’Cheyne says: “A well-spent sabbath we feel to be a day of heaven upon earth. ... We love to rise early on that morning, and to sit up late, that we may have a long day with God.”

THAT HE WOULD LEAD HIS FAMILY WELL

Pray that God would help your pastor in the midst of busyness to taste and see that the Lord is good. Pray that his children would grow up loved and cherished in the household of faith. Joel Beeke says: “Family worship is the foundation of child rearing. As family worship goes, so will go the family. The Puritans thought family worship was the whole backbone of society.” We read in Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

THAT HE WOULD HAVE A HEART FOR THE LOST

May your pastor have a Christlike love for the lost and a joy in telling others about the Shepherd-King. If a man loves the Lord, he will love telling others the old story of the gospel. He also will teach and model for others a renewed sense of evangelism and mission. He is worthy to receive the glory and honor due Him (Rev. 4:11). Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, is worthy to receive the reward. We need our pastors to have a zeal for the lost.

THAT THE LORD WOULD PROTECT HIM

A growing personal relationship with Christ will supply the motivation and zeal needed for a pastor’s duty to God. It will be tiring. It will require an all-in, total commitment. Pray that God would provide every physical and emotional need for the call to serve. Pastors

Sermon Schedule

- 3/7 “Gracious Reward and Refuge, at the Lord’s Hand” *Ruth 2*
- 3/14 “Covered by a Redeemer, at the Lord’s Hand” *Ruth 3*
- 3/21 “Family Business and a Future, at the Lord’s Hand” *Ruth 4: 1-12*
- 3/28 “A Happy Ending and Hereafter History, at the Lord’s Hand” *Ruth 4:13-22*

are often subject spiritual temptation, so pray for God to protect these men from the evil one. Pray that they would guard themselves and be granted personal holiness. Pray that they would apply the means of grace to their own hearts, by God’s help.

THAT HE WOULD PREACH THE GOSPEL
Thomas Smyth of the antebellum historic Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston, S.C., once charged a young pastor by saying: *Preaching is your pre-eminent employment, so the Gospel is the sum and substance of your preaching—the power of God and the wisdom of God unto salvation.*

Necessity is laid upon you, yea, woe is unto you if you preach not the Gospel. ... Preach Christ as set forth in the Gospel—the sum and substance of God’s testimony, and the author of eternal salvation to all who believe upon him.

Preach—this glorious Gospel of good news—first and last, every way, and everywhere, in public and in private; in the pulpit and by the press; to the living and to the dying; to the lost and the saved.

Pray for your pastor, pray as if your very life and those you love depended upon it.

Reproduced with permission. Ligonier.org

[How to Pray for Your Pastor by Melton Duncan \(ligonier.org\)](http://www.ligonier.org)

28	01 Ross Love Men of the Covenant	02 Libby Sprouse Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	03 Susanna Taylor Julia Van Blake	04 Men's Basketball	05 Nate Woolard	06 Adam Stowe Men's Trap Shoot, Supper...
07 Deacon's Fund Collection Helga Long BCA Board of Directors meeting Children's Catechism	08 Circle #3	09 Paul Robinson Terry Burton Circle #2 Men's Basketball	10 Willie Keller Colleen Riddle Circle	11 John Slavens Mitchell Johnson Men's Basketball	12 Jeff Ulatowski	13 Douglas McCarter
14 Daylight Saving Begins- turn... Session Meeting Children's Catechism	15 Conner Britt	16 Dolores Taylor Katie Deegan Men's Basketball	17	18 Adam Holben Bailee Krashner Beth Harrell John Mizell Men's Basketball	19 Ann Marsh	20 Ernest Flanagan
21 Barbara Burns Bill Whitesides Children's Catechism	22 Bobby Boyd Miles Robinson	23 Men's Basketball	24 Beverly Frommel	25 Men's Basketball	26	27 WIC Presbytery- Spring...
28 Palm Sunday Brent Clinton Maxie McCarter Rob Long Trevor Love Family Easter Celebration	29	30 Steve Britt Linda Ferster Men's Basketball	31 James Weatherby	01	02	03

Men of the Covenant: March. 1, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, devotional and program.
Diaconate Meeting: March. 2, 7:00pm, Sanctuary.

Men's Trap Shoot and Supper: March 6, 3:00 pm, Flying King Ranch.
Daylight Savings: March 14, turn clocks forward one hour.
Session Meeting: March 14, 2:00pm, Sanctuary.

WIC Presbytery: March 27, Spring Gathering, FLC, 9:00-11:00 am.
Family Easter Celebration: March 28, 5-6:30 pm. Fellowship, outdoor games, egg hunt for 12yrs old and younger and Easter lesson. Pizza and drinks will be served!

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church, with the Deacons invited to attend, met Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Blake, for the regular monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the reading of the Scriptures from Romans 5:1-5 and prayer by the Clerk.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Steven T. Britt, Robert C. Love, Jr., Calvin B. Reese, Corey C. Clinton, Steven H. Linder, D. Ross Love, Joseph P. LeMoynes, James G. Long, Timothy G. Marsh, L. Christian Griesman, Daniel B. Love and W. Hampton Stowe, III. Also present were Adam Coble, Diaconate Chairman, Sam Hall, Robbie Meek, Tom Chidester, Tom Cuffman, and Austin Griesman.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated January 31, 2021 all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations, with Session comments considered.

Marcus provided information regarding Danny Clark, RUF Campus Minister at The College of Charleston. He is leaving the ministry for personal health and family reasons. Bethel supports the RUF ministry at The College of Charleston. Marcus prayed for Danny, his family, and his job search, and asked the Session to do so, as well.

MSA the minutes of the Session meeting held on January 10, 2021 as written, corrected, and emailed to the Session.

Plans are to begin Elder Shepherd training in March, with time allocated to training at each monthly meeting.

Bobby Love provided an update on the Duke Energy land transaction and presented a revised Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Session. As significant time was lost in perfecting the property Title Search (which has now been accomplished), the closing will be pushed out to a later date. MSA the revised LOI, a copy of which is

appended to the file copy of these Session minutes.

MSA to gratefully acknowledge and thank Mac Brice of the Brice Law Firm, York SC, for the legal help he has willingly provided to Bethel, at no charge, regrading the Duke Energy land transaction. Additionally, a letter of thanks will be prepared and sent to Mac Brice, acknowledging Bethel's appreciation, with indication that his efforts will be communicated to the congregation through the newsletter Session minutes summary.

Bobby Love provided a brief update on the building renovation project.

Marcus provided an update on the Assistant/Associate Pastor search.

MSA the 2020 Bethel Presbyterian Church History as prepared by Helen Grant, and to thank Helen for her diligence and commitment in preparing this yearly document.

MSA for Chris Griesman to replace Bobby Love as the Session member that performs a second review of monthly bank statements.

Steve Britt and Calvin Reese provided a report from the Fellowship Presbytery meeting held at Christ Ridge PCA on January 23, 2021. MSA the report and to commend Steve Britt, James Long, and Calvin Reese for their diligence and attendance at Presbytery.

PCA General Assembly is being planned for a September/October time frame, in St. Louis, MO.

MSA Vacation Bible School for July 12-16, 2021. The curriculum has previously been approved by the Session.

MSA Children's Catechism for March 7 - May 23, 2021, from 5:00-6:30. Included will be music, worship, and an adult time of fellowship for parents.

MSA to establish a Building Renovation Review Committee consisting of Neil Allen - Session Representative, Adam Coble - Diaconate Representative, Cary Grant - At Large Representative, Bob Richards - At Large Representative, and a WIC Representative, Beverly Frommel.

MSA to move the May Session Meeting from May 9th (Mother's Day), to May 16th.

MSA to remove Hannah Lee Snelling from Bethel's Roll at her request, as she has joined Mitchell Road PCA in Greenville, SC, and to remove Susan Lockwood from Bethel's Roll at her request, as she has joined Steele Creek Church of Charlotte at Arrowood.

MSA Mark Ashbaugh, Alan Wiley, and Dick Belcher to preach at Bethel on April 18th, April 25th, and May 2nd.

A new member class with Pastor Marcus is being planned for May 16th, May 23rd, June 6th, and June 13th.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2021.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Hamp Stowe.

Robert C. Love, Jr., Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Jan. 31: \$1,376,509

January: \$22,940

Tithes and Offerings

2021 Budget: \$601,407

YTD Jan. 31: \$63,570

January: \$63,570

Building Plans Update:

We are currently working on building plan options and we are making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given circumstances, we do not yet know when appropriate time to begin project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

Ministry Spotlight

Biblical Studies Released Time

Clover, SC



Biblical Studies Released Time (BSRT) is a ministry that brings the gospel to children who otherwise might not hear it.

HISTORY:

BSRT was created as a result of a 1952 Congressional law stating that students could be released from a school period each week for religious studies provided they had parental permission.

Until 1996, Clover students had devotions and Bible study time in the schools, when an individual challenged the Clover School Board on the legality of having bible education in and during the school day. Looking for a legal alternate avenue to continue Bible teaching to Clover students, Released Time Ministries was discovered.

While the COVID pandemic has made things difficult, BSRT is still marching forward and sharing the gospel with children via virtual meetings. In fact, the Clover program is one of a few BSRT programs that has continued during COVID.

COVID has also prevented BSRT from hosting their annual Pancake supper fundraiser; which was their main source of income.

We have another opportunity to financially help BSRT. An anonymous donor has agreed to match gifts given March thru May. If you would like to support this ministry and have your gift matched please send a check to:

Biblical Studies Released Time (BSRT)
P O Box 858
Clover, SC 29710

Website: <http://bsrtclover.com>

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlake family
- New Assistant Pastor search
- Intern Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam
- Elders, Deacons, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/ teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve
- Local ministries such as God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time
- Reformed University Fellowship
- Our missionaries serving through the country and the world
- Our community and our country, especially for wisdom and safety in dealing with Covid-19
- Please pray for the lost that don't know of or believe in Jesus. Pray as well for Bethel and other bible-believing and gospel preaching churches to be blessed in our efforts to evangelize and make disciples locally and to the ends of the earth
- Our college students
- Expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family
- Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyné, stroke), Herb LeMoyné (J. LeMoyné's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer) and Norm West.