

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

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Christ**

What is the Difference Between a Pastor and a Preacher?

By J. S. Smith, via, Electronic Gospel, Ed. 159

This question was asked, "When I said, 'Good morning, Pastor,' to the speaker this morning, he told me that he was a preacher, not a pastor. What's the difference?"

In the New Testament, the work of "pastoring" deals more with the oversight of a local congregation, whereas "preaching" is the work of proclaiming the gospel. There is a distinction between the "offices" and their functions, and relatively few men serve in both of them simultaneously.

The word "pastor" is used only in Ephesians 4:11 and is a rather poor translation from the Greek than a much simpler word, "shepherd." In that passage, it is used as a noun, but the same root is used as a verb in Acts 20 and it is there that we truly discover the identity of the pastors.

In Acts 20:17, Paul summoned the elders of the church in Ephesus to visit him and

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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he commanded them to "shepherd the church of God" where they were its overseers (verse 20). Pastoring, then, is a work given to the elders of the congregation, not its preacher. These older and wiser men are chosen to feed the flock and tend to each sheep as precious in God's sight.

The qualifications to serve as an elder are revealed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and it is vitally important that every congregation seek to appoint a plurality of them as soon worthy men who desire the office can be identified.

Timothy, on the other hand, was a younger man as he interacted with the apostle and is never referred to as a pastor. Likewise, Titus is enlisted to appoint elders on Crete, but is not referred to as a pastor.

In fact, five New Testament words have reference to

this same office. They are bishop (Titus 1:5,7), elder, overseer, presbyter (1 Tim. 4:14) and pastor (Acts 20:17,28). The words all derive from three Greek terms and are used interchangeably by inspired writers to emphasize certain aspects of their work. Ephesians 4:11 shows them to be distinct from other offices in the church.

Receiving the Holy Spirit

by: Steven Deaton

When a discussion of the Holy Spirit is entered into, folks often become "mystical." This is true of various points about the Spirit, including receiving the Spirit. What does it mean to "receive the Spirit?"

John wrote, "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes...does not receive us" (3 John 9). To reject John's teaching was to not receive him. Thus, to accept his teaching would be to receive him. Paul told the Colossians, "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Colossians 2:6). Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (John 13:20). Therefore, to receive the teaching of an inspired man is to receive the inspired man. To receive the inspired man is to receive the Lord. To receive the Lord is to receive the Father.

Question: Who inspired John? Answer: The Holy Spirit.

Question: Whom did Jesus send to inspire men? Answer: The Holy Spirit. Is it too difficult to see that when men received the apostles and prophets, they not only received the Lord, but the Spirit sent by the Lord to guide those men into all truth? Friends, we receive the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by submitting to the gospel. It is that simple!



A friend recently sent me some optical illusions via e-mail. Looking at them got me to thinking about spiritual illusions that deceive many souls. Here are a few for you to contemplate, with the hope that we may clearly see the difference between man-made illusions and divinely revealed truth.

Spiritual Illusions

Joe R. Price

1. **"One church is as good as another."** This illusion assumes that all the churches men have established are good in God's sight. But, Jesus built one church: one body over which He is the head (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4)
2. **"Join the church of your choice."** While God has indeed given mankind freewill, He did not give man free rein to build churches and then offer them as some sort of commodity to the masses. Jesus purchased His church with His blood (Acts 20:28). Why choose a church of inferior value?
3. **"Doctrine is not important as long as you are sincere."** The illusion is that sin-

cerity of heart equals remission of sins. But it does not. Only the blood of Christ cleanses the sin-stained soul (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Only when the sinner obeys "*from the heart that form of doctrine*" delivered by Christ's apostles will he be saved (Rom. 6:17-18, 3-4). Recall that Saul was sincerely persecuting Christians and Cornelius was a sincerely moral man, yet both were lost in sin until they believed and obeyed the gospel (Acts 26:9; 23:1; 10:1-2; 11:14).

4. **"We must be doing something right, look how big our church is!"** The adage "might makes right" is adapted to religion, and millions are comforted by the illusion that numbers represent divine approval. They forget Jesus' warning that "*few*" find "*the way which leads to life*" (Matt. 7:13-14).

Optical illusions play tricks on the eye. But, spiritual illusions fool the soul and have eternal consequences. So, remain focused on God's word of truth. "*When eye is good, your whole body also will be full of light*" (Lk. 11:34). Never forget, "*there is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death*" (Prov. 16:25).

*If you want to know how
Popular the Church is,
come on Sunday morning.*

*If you want to know how
Popular the Doctrine is,
come on Sunday night.*

*If you want to know how
Popular the Lord is,
come on Wednesday night.*

author unknown