By: Apostle T.L. Elliott

Ephesians 4: 7-11

Conference Number: 530-881-1000

Conference Code: 794754#

1. **What is a Pastor as referenced in the New Testament?**

**Answer:** (**Greek:** **Poimen**) = a shepherd or overseer of a body of believers. A revelatory term would be to call them a “point-man” since they are leaders carrying you somewhere while making points that are “on-point.”

1. **What are the expected responsibilities of a Pastor/Shepherd?**

**Answer:** In that, they are one who has the responsibility to watch out for the enemy, defend the sheep/believers from attackers, heal the wounded or sick sheep, to find and save lost sheep, to love the sheep and earn their trust through their loyalty to the sheep. Know that they are called to be more than a person that only gets up and speaks.

Note: the body of believers is called “**Poimne**,” which means a flock of sheep so that substantiates the fact that a Pastor (**Poimen**) has the responsibility to take care of the believers (**Poimne**) given to them for protection, knowledge, understanding and growth (Jer. 3:15; Jer. 23:4). Both are meant to operate together to validate their existence and purpose. Also, the word declares for one not to be a sheep without a shepherd (Num. 27:17).

Continuing to educate on the root of the Greek word used for Pastor, “**Poimaino**,” means to feed (with nourishment), furnish a pasture (location) for food, and supply the requisites for the soul’s needs.

1. **Are Pastors referenced in the Old Testament?**

**Answer**: Yes, Pastors are referenced in the OT. In Jeremiah 3:15, GOD gives pastors according to HIS own heart (thoughts).

Note: Not only are Pastors referenced but, a key function He apparently gives them is to gather together HIS people. Due to this, GOD gives them a warning of HIS visitation if they are found doing the opposite (scatter HIS people) (Jeremiah 23:1-2; 17:16). Scattering also effects the sheep due to the fact GOD can end up sending them away due to not having the correct covering/shepherd in place to unite them (1 Kings 22:17). To support their responsibilities in the above answer to question 2, GOD gives in Zechariah 11:15-17 the description of a foolish or idol Pastor that is the opposite of a responsible Pastor.

1. **What is a Pastor as referenced by the Old Testament?**

**Answer**: (**Hebrew: Ra ah**) = A special friend or companion who tends to a pasture and feeds the sheep. In association to a body of believers, a Pastor is one who establishes and maintains a territorial place to feed and protect the believers.

1. **Did GOD have a known purpose behind establishing Pastors?**

**Answer:** Yes, in Jeremiah 3:15, they are called to have heart (**Hebrew:** **Leb** = heart or inner mind, will, determination, reflection and understanding) of GOD. They are also meant to be the unmovable foundation or building block of a people (Genesis 49:24). Note however, that by understanding Jer. 3;14, it requires GOD to bring you to a place that you are willing to be lead be for a Pastor can be effective in your life in leading you to HIM.

1. **Is it good for an individual to have more than one Pastor/Shepherd speaking into their life?**

**Answer:** No, GOD calls for HIS sheep or people to have one Pastor/Shepherd over them to hear HIS voice (Ezekiel 37:23-24). Too many voices can skew the voice of GOD and result in damaging the individual’s relationship with GOD. Jesus even states that one fold is meant to have one Shepherd (pastor) in John 10:16.

1. **Is the gift/office of the Pastor clearly defined throughout scripture?**

**Answer**: No, not necessarily. Although the term is referenced in the Old and New Testament, to get foundation on defining this gift or office by scripture, one must know to parallel the identity with that of a Shepherd which is clearly defined or eluded to throughout the Bible.

1. **Is the occupation of a Pastor/Shepherd always acceptable to everyone it is presented to (including the world)?**

**Answer**: No, in some cases (worldly), this responsibility/occupation is considered an abomination/unclean/wicked (Gen. 46:31-34). That is due to the fact that it is the opposite of their morals since there is an element of accountability involved.

Revelatory Note: The words of a Pastor/Shepherd have been known to cause men to wonder (meaning in a place of amazement to HIS word) in their minds as to what they heard and received from them (Luke 2:15-18).

1. **Is Jesus associated with being a Pastor/Shepherd by Scripture since it is a gifting/identity of 5-fold ministry associated with HIS existence within every person?**

**Answer**: Yes. Jesus identifies Himself as the “Good Shepherd” in John 10:14-17 and that HE has sheep/believers that follow HIM (Mark 6:34). HE is identified by Paul as the Great Shepherd” in Hebrews 13:20 due to the eternal covenant HE established. Jesus is referred to by Peter as the Shepherd and Bishop (Overseer) of Souls for those that have been scattered on gone astray (1 Peter 2:25). Above all, the LORD is called to be our Shepherd in Psalms 23.

1. **Is there any significance in seniority regarding being a Pastor/Shepherd?**

**Answer**: Yes, due to the fact that by the word, Christ is referenced as the Chief/Senior Shepherd when he manifests in an individual’s life (1 Peter 5:4). Those that receive this, will receive a crown (**Stephanos**: royal mark) of glory (**Doxa**: opinion resulting from praise) that will never fade. Understand that an individual must submit in humility to this identity as it becomes your elder (**Presbuteros**: older of two in age). A significant point that ties to the root of question 8 is that in the spirit, Jesus was, Jesus is and Jesus forever will be the Senior Good (of a benefit) Shepherd/Pastor. All others performing in this office/gift are technically “under-shepherds” to HIM.

**Disclaimer**

**T.L. ELLIOTT Ministries accepts no liability for the content of this document, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided, unless that information is subsequently confirmed in writing. If you are not an intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.**