

# Fort Payne church of Christ



## The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

### ***Who Will Be Accountable?***

Throughout scripture, different people are given instructions as to how they are to serve, live, function, etc. God has set expectations and He expects us to follow His will. So, what if we choose not to. Will we be held accountable on the Day of Judgment?

**Elders** are given the care of the souls of the flock. ***“This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”*** 1 Tim 3:1. The Apostle Paul provides guidance in I Timothy and also Titus as to the qualifications of an Elder. It is made clear that this is a “good work”. It is not to be considered a “fun job”; it is to be assumed with all seriousness and sobriety. The Apostle Peter said, ***“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”*** 1 Peter 5:2-4.

Some people feel like Elders are “meddling” too much when they try to encourage them to assemble with the Saints as commanded. At times, Elders must make the hard decision to withdraw from a wayward member to help them see the error of their way. These are tasks Elders have been given and we must respect that it is God speaking – not man.

Elders are to teach (and ensure that others are teaching) the true and faithful Word of God. They can choose to do this in a variety of ways. Whatever the means, the objective is to guard the soul of those being taught. As a Christian who is under the oversight of an Eldership, we should receive this teaching with a proper attitude and understand that the Elders are doing the job that God has directed them to do. Elders are guardians of our soul!

So, if Elders do not perform their God-given task, will they be held accountable?

**Preachers** are instructed to ***“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*** 2 Tim 4:2. The word “preach” means “The public and oral inculcation of the truths of religion, especially of the gospel of Christ.” That is the task given to preachers.

The preacher is not the only Christian charged with spreading the gospel, but he is the most visible member of a congregation as he stands before the congregation 2-3 times a week. In the pulpit, his main task is to ***“reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”*** as most of the hearers are Christians. Yet not all of the Christians in attendance are in the same relationship with the Lord – some are weak, some are lukewarm and some are “just right”.

At times, the preacher must speak very strongly to address issues that weak and lukewarm Christians need to hear. This often brings about criticism. It can cause a preacher to “back off” in his strong words. What is he to do? Quite simply he must ***“preach the word; be instant in season, out of season.”***

So, if the preacher does not preach as God as directed him to do, will he be held accountable?

**Parents** have been given the responsibility to raise their children ***“in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*** Eph 6:4. This is a God-given task. In like manner, children are told to ***“obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”*** and ***“obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”*** (Eph 6:1 and col 3:20). Each is given a task, but the greater responsibility lies on the parents.

Beyond a doubt, the most crucial responsibility for a parent is to raise the child up according to God's standards, ***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*** Prov22:6. Over and over again, Scripture calls on parents to discipline their children (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 29:15, 17). Seeing as how the writer of these words was the wisest man to ever grace our planet (Solomon) and the fact that he wrote by inspiration of God, this suggests that it is vital to correct and discipline our children. It takes real parents with some serious fortitude to punish their children.

One day, parents will have to stand before the Lord and answer if we have brought up our children in the "discipline and instruction of the Lord."

So, if parents do not parent as God has instructed, will we be held accountable?

You see, everyone who is part of the Lord's church is charged to serve, live, function, etc. in a manner that God has prescribed. We each have responsibilities and, if we shirk those responsibilities, we will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment.

Who will be accountable? ***Each of us will!***

Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *“most of your minutes”* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

***Bob Strickland***