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For Pastors and Preachers in the End-Times



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #109 ~

Forty years ago, this month, I was recognized as a pastor. Looking back, I have to say that it has been by God's grace and sovereign will that I have been able to serve Him all these years. What a privilege and blessing it has been to be a pastor and do the work of the Lord. Now in 2019, knowing we are living in the end-times, I look ahead to these last years before Christ's return and the rapture of the church. And at this time in history, I believe it's necessary to summarize God's plans for the lives of pastors and preachers.

Jesus is to be our first love. We are to regularly be seeking Him, and be daily satisfied, strengthened and led by Him. We are to be filled with God's Word and Spirit, resulting in faith, wisdom and courage. We are not to be worldly, but holy and zealous for His purposes and glory. We

are to be working and fighting hard for God, for truth, humility and justice. Might we not be weak, but strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might, so we can stand firm against the evil schemes of the devil. Being a pastor means possessing godly character, and having godly conduct. It's who we are, and what we do.

But what is our job description, what are we to do? We are to be fully committed to God and His work. We are not hired men, 9 to 5 workers, but are slaves of God, and are to be laboring 24/7 for Him. We are to pray to God for people, for only He can truly change individual lives, as well as entire churches. We are to be examples in speech, conduct, faith, love and purity. Otherwise, we are hypocrites, and discredit God's name and undermine His work in the church. We are not to be selfish, but are to genuinely shepherd the saints, loving them, encouraging them, tending to their spiritual needs, and protecting them from spiritual danger, from lies, errors and enemies.

One of our primary duties is to preach the gospel, to tell the lost the truth about Christ's first coming, His sinless life, sacrificial death, and resurrection from the dead. We are to tell the unsaved that forgiveness of sins and eternal life are for all those who repent of their sins and believe that Christ died for them, paying the penalty for all their sins. We must also remember that we are in the greatest war of all time, a spiritual war against the devil himself. But by taking up the full armor of God, we and our churches can resist the enemy in these increasingly anti-Christian days leading up to Christ's coming.

What else are we to do? It is imperative that we study and preach God's word, so the saints can understand it, be nourished by it and apply it to their lives. We are to clearly and passionately teach the truth about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, salvation and the church. We are to teach the saints that they are children of God and new creatures in Christ. We are to encourage them to live for God, to be holy, loving, and truth-filled, witnessing to both the saved and the lost. We are to teach them to be devoted to the saints, and to use their gifts for the good of

the church and the glory of God. But might we never preach weak, worldly, feel-good, ear-tickling messages. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 is my most motivating preaching verse – *"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word."* Do you see how relevant this is? We are to preach the word in the context of Christ's coming, the judgment of the world, and the establishment of His kingdom on earth. Our preaching needs to relate to the return of Christ. It must be forward-looking and hope-filled, motivating us to live godly lives during this church age, and especially now that we are living in the end-times.

This subject of eschatology, of unfulfilled prophecy, is not founded on a few verses, like baptism (which is a correct doctrine), but is based on hundreds of verses from both Old and New Testaments. Don't be negligent, ignorant, or confused, for we are commanded to teach the whole purpose and plan of God, which includes Christ's coming and the future kingdom ages. *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of God."* 2 Timothy 2:15

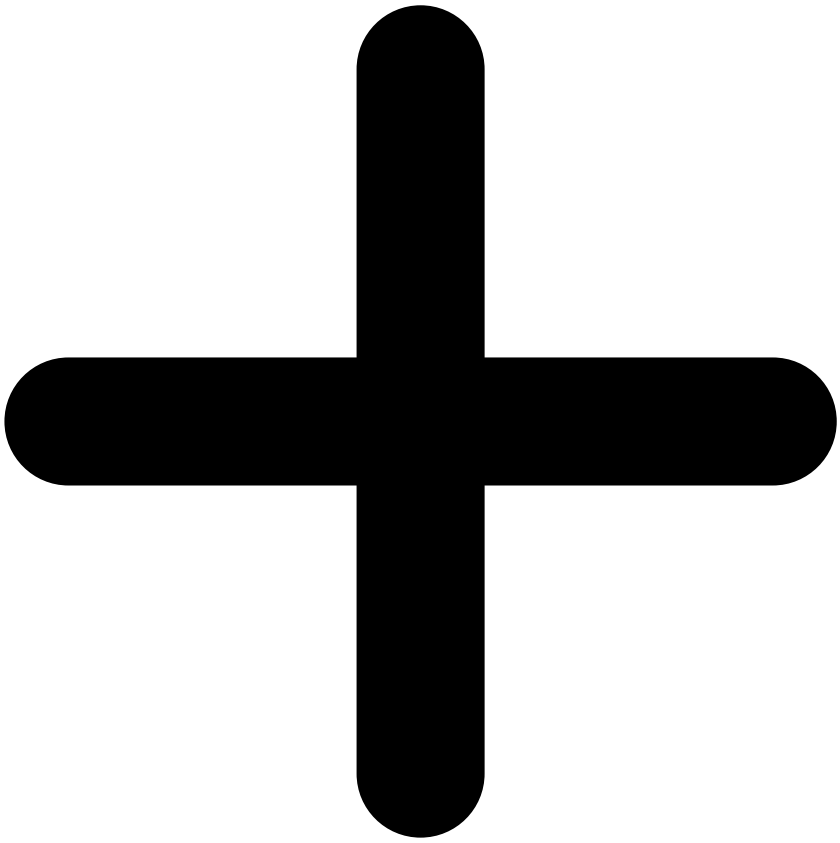
Teach Daniel, Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 2 Thessalonians 1-2, 2 Peter 3, Revelation, along with many other prophecy passages. Tell the saints what we will be facing in the years to come. Be honest with them about the birth pains, the coming of the Antichrist and great tribulation. Tell them about Daniel's 70th week, God's plans for the Jews, the church, and Christ's coming. Instruct them to be godly saints and good soldiers, to be sacrificing their lives for Jesus, and to be making disciples to the end of this age. Make sure you tell them about their hope, about being glorified, being with Jesus, being with fellow saints, being rewarded, and reigning over the world with Him.

Men of God, I hope you see *"that our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here"*

(Romans 13:11-12). Be excited about the fact that this is our time to live, at the end of this church age, in these years leading up to Christ's return to earth. Then everything will change, and Christ will be the perfect King and Lord over the entire earth. But for now, be awake, be alert, do your job in leading, building and protecting the saints, especially in light of the grand and glorious coming of Christ!

Fellow pastors and preachers, we have an important job to do! Let me say it this way: Ezekiel 3:17 – *"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman."* 1 Chronicles 12:32 – *"… men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do."* Daniel 11:32-33, 12:4 – *"The people who know their God will display strength and take action. Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many… and shine like the brightness of the heavens."* Luke 3:4 – *"Prepare the way for the Lord."*

P.S. – Here are two articles that I believe will be very helpful to you pastors in learning more about eschatological prophecy: Over 100 New Testament Verses on Christ's Second Coming and Charting the Future With Prophecy Charts.



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