

An aerial photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are walking across the crossing. In the top left, the lower legs and feet of a few people are visible. In the top right, a man in a striped shirt and khaki pants is walking, looking down at his phone. In the middle left, a person in a light green shirt and dark pants is walking. In the middle right, a person in a black t-shirt and dark shorts is walking, carrying a brown bag. In the bottom left, a person in a white t-shirt and dark shorts is walking. In the bottom middle, a person in a plaid shirt and light pants is walking, carrying a bag. In the bottom right, a person is walking under a blue patterned umbrella. The shadows of the pedestrians are cast onto the white stripes of the crossing, indicating a bright, sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“What Pastors Desire of Their Congregations”

II THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

“If we magnify ourselves,
we shall become contemptible;
and we shall neither magnify our
office nor our Lord.
We are the servants of Christ,
not lords over his heritage.
Ministers are for churches,
and not churches for
ministers...Take heed that you
be not exalted above measure,
lest you come to nothing.”



Charles Spurgeon

*¹² We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.
Be at peace among yourselves.*

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

Key Point:

God is faithful to give a church the ability to bless its leaders.

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

“Pastor, it is plain and simple:
you and I need to be pastored.
One of the scandals of hordes of
churches is that no one is
pastoring their pastor.
No one is helping him see what
he is not seeing.
No one is helping him examine
his thoughts, desires, words,
and behaviors.
No one is regularly calling him
to confession. ...



Paul Tripp

... No one is delineating where repentance is appropriate. No one is reaching into his discouragement with the truths of the presence, promise, and provisions of the Savior. No one is confronting his idolatry and pride. No one is alerting him to places of temptation and danger in his life.”



Paul Tripp

I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

- For the Thessalonians (I Thess 1:2; II Thess 1:3)
- For the Romans (15:30-32)
- For the Corinthians (1:8-11)
- For the Ephesians (6:18-20)
- For the Philippians (1:19)
- For the Colossians (4:2-3).

Paul's Praying for Others

- I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).
 - a. For the Word to get out

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

*He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.*

Psalm 147:15

- I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).
 - a. For the Word to get out
 - b. For the Word to get in

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

- Get adequate sleep on Saturday night (Matt 24:42; 25:41).
- Make plans to get ready for church the night before.
- Plan to be early.
- Work ahead in reading and study.
- Minimize the distractions when you are hearing the sermon.
- Pray.
- Engage in conversations about the sermon.
- Apply the Word that is taught (Jas 1:22).

How to Get the Most Out of a Sermon (from Jay Adams)

- I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).
 - a. For the Word to get out
 - b. For the Word to get in
 - c. That God's enemies will stay away

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:19-20

- I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).
- II. Relieve your leaders by trusting God (vs. 3).

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

- In the Hebrews in the wilderness (Deut 7:9)
- As omnipresent (Ps 36:5)
- In preaching (Ps 40:10)
- Always faithful (Ps 89:1-2)
- When we are afflicted (Ps 119:75)
- In our temptations (I Cor 10:13)
- To forgive us of sin (I John 1:9)
- Every morning and every day (Lam 3:22-23)

The Faithfulness of God

- I. Pray for them (vs. 1-2).
- II. Relieve your leaders by trusting God (vs. 3).
- III. Encourage your leaders with your spiritual growth (vs. 4-5).

3 Ways to Encourage Your Pastor(s)

³ For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

III John 3-4