

course if one is ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ just a pastor, you're apt to be committed to a person, to a human being rather than committed to the Word of God. And so I think ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ that it was advisedly that Paul put the two in one connection hereas being the ideal that the one man shall be able to fulfill both functions.

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This is I think very clear in these two passages that the teaching elder or pastor or minister, messenger, whatever you want to call him, should be free from the necessity of taking care of his own support. We have in the Presbyterian form, it is usually said in the calling of a pastor "that he may be free from earthly cares" that they agree to pay him so much. That is the ideal, that is the purpose of it, that is what it is to be. Of course we're all sinful, we're all weak, and there is nothing in life that is the ideal but the ideal as the Lord lays it down is a great deal better than any partial attitude or any extreme attitude we take in one direction or the other in re-acting against evils and errors that have come in. In connection with that I might mention also - I was talking with my wife about this and she thought in that connection I ought to mention Ezekiel 34 which she thinks makes it so clear. The vital task that the Lord commits to the shepherd, to the pastor. That we are not simply those who take time off from our regular work to carry on the Lord's work when we can in our spare time. And we're not simply those that go around and preach the Word, but that God's people need shepherding. There are the unsaved who need the Word and often those whom the evangelists can't reach in shepherding. We need both. Then there are the weak Christians, the humble Christians - the majority of the church is made up of them - and we need the shepherding very, very much. ( Student question) The ideal situation of course is when a man has every gift and he can do everything but then of course he needs to have limitless energy and limitless time to use them all. But I would say that the pastor and the teacher who doesn't have something of the gift of the evangelist, is not much good as a pastor and a teacher. He must have an interest in souls and a desire to lead them. But the Lord has committed to certain ones a very