

## **#25**

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## A minister's calling and qualifications

- Rom. 10:14-15      **How shall they call on God in whom they have not believed?** and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they preach except they be sent?
- Eph. 4:11-15      **God called some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints**, that we all come into the unity of the faith and knowledge of God's son, learning all the truths Christ taught us; **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ **or Christ-like in every way**. . . no longer tossed to and fro with false teachings which deceive the saints.
- Col. 1:28      Ministers are called to preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; **that they may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus**. **Perfect in what way? In obeying God's written laws as they grow in knowledge of the scriptures. Most ministers today believe that no one is perfect.** This fundamental belief of theirs is then taught from their pulpits.
- Job 1: 1 & 8;  
2:3      **God said three times that Job was a perfect and upright man who hated sin and feared God**. Can we believe God when He declares that men can perfectly obey and trust Him? The bible uses other words for the word perfect - holy, godly, righteous, blameless, and spotless.
- Matt. 5:48  
Rom. 6:17-18      **Jesus said to believers, Be perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect**. Is Jesus speaking the truth? If so, repent of your wrong thinking or belief that no one can perfectly obey the Father's commandments.
- 1 Tim. 3:1-7      **If a man wants to be a minister he must be blameless or perfect as far as the sin business is concerned**, able to teach, not greedy for money or fame. He must rule his wife and children as God's

word directs. He must not be a novice, lest he fall in pride. We hear often from ministers that they are **not perfect and that they sin**. What a sad testimony! **They do not obey Christ's teachings that ministers must be perfect, blameless, holy; for without holiness no man will see the Lord**. Many of them, who have degrees and titles, are revered by saints who believe their doctrine. They live comfortable lives. They are given seats of honor in church meetings.

1 Cor. 1:26-29

But God has chosen the foolish of this world (those who live blameless lives) to confound the wise, and the base and despised has he chosen that no flesh should glory in his presence. Peter was an unlearned fisherman, Matthew a tax collector for the Romans, and Paul a tent maker. **Each of them believed and taught that men can live perfect and godly lives**.

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**Ministers are called to preach, correct, and to excommunicate church members who live in sin.**

2 Tim. 3:16-17

All scripture is given by God and is profitable for **doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in how to live righteous lives**, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly trained in all good works. Good works include faith and obedience to God in all things written.

2 Tim. 2:25-26

The servant of God must be gentle, apt to teach, **patient, in meekness instructing those who rebel against truth and who live in sin**, that God perchance may give them repentance to accept the truth thereby recovering themselves from the devil, who has taken them captive.

1 Cor. 5:1-13

Ministers are called not only to preach the gospel, **but to correct, rebuke, and if necessary, to excommunicate sinning members of the**

Gal. 5:9

**congregation so that sin does not run rampant in the church**. Apostle Paul said, It is reported that there is a fornicator in your church that is having relations with his father's wife, **and you are puffed**

**up with pride, allowing this gross sin to go on right under your noses!** Deliver this man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh that his soul might be saved should he repent. The apostle gives a further directive. Don't keep company with any man that is called a brother, who is a fornicator, idolator, or drunkard, Don't even eat with such a man. Don't judge sinners that live outside the church. God will judge them. But the church as a whole must judge any among their members who are called brethren, and who are living in sin. **Put away from yourselves that wicked person who is having sex with his father's wife.**

1 Cor. 6:9-10

Be not deceived by false teachers. Don't you know that the unrighteous shall not go to heaven; for fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, etc. shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Note!**

Today, the majority of believers confess that they are sinners who sin everyday and, in the end, will be in heaven with their Father. How is it possible to reconcile this thinking with scripture! How have brethren, who call themselves Christians, gone into such rebellion against the plain written word? Job feared God. God called him "perfect": Job had no bible. We do. We exhort you to take your bible seriously, by staying out of the sin business lest you perish.

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**Godly ministers will suffer persecution for teaching truth**

1:Cor. 4:8-13

Apostle Paul declared, I think that God has set forth us apostles last as it were appointed to death: for we are made (like the gladiators in Rome's circuses) a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. **We are fools for Christ's sake. We are weak and despised.** We go hungry and thirst, having no certain dwelling place. We labor with our own hands. **We are persecuted and defamed.** We are made as the filth of the world. But you whom we have fathered and taught the ways of God are strong, wise and honorable! **You know more than we despised apostles.**

2 Cor. 4:8-11	We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed nor despairing; <b>persecuted but not forsaken</b> ; cast down but not destroyed. Everyday we face possible martyrdom to bring the life of Christ to others by teaching gospel truths.
2 Cor. 6:4-10	In <u>all</u> things we approve ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, necessities, in afflictions, in labours; By pureness, by the word of truth, by the armor of right living on the right hand and on the left; By honor and dishonor, as deceivers, and yet true; As dying, yet we live; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing in the Lord.
2 Cor. 4:17-18	For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works in us an eternal weight of glory, <b>while we look not at things that are seen and temporary, but at things that are not seen, which things are eternal.</b>
Acts 16:23-31	On their mission trip to Macedonia, Paul and Silas were beaten with many stripes and cast into prison. <b>At midnight, as they were singing praises to God,</b> suddenly all the prison doors were open. The jailer in charge became afraid for his life. Paul said, Fear not, we are all here. <b>The jailer cried, What must I do to be saved? Repent of your sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.</b>
1 Thess. 3:3-4 Phil. 3:7-8	Don't be moved by all my affliction and tribulations, Paul told believers. I <b>have suffered the loss of all things, counting them as dung</b> , that I may win Christ and his salvation from sin and death.
<b>Note!</b>	Paul was persecuted not only for teaching truth, but for backing it up with mighty signs, wonders, and miracles. This kind of ministry infuriated false teachers, who persecuted him all the more!
Acts 19:11-12 Acts 5:12	<b>And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick aprons or handkerchiefs, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.</b>

## Christians shall love their pastors

- 1 Thess. 5:12-13 Brethren, know them which labor and pastor among you; who are put in charge over you. **Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.**
- Heb. 13:17 Obey your pastor who has the rule over you, and **submit yourself to him for he watches over your souls: for at the judgement seat of Christ he must give an account of you to God that he may do it with joy and not with grief:** for that would be unprofitable for you.
- 1 Tim. 5:17-18 Gal. 6:6 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour**, especially those that labor in the word and doctrine.
- 1 Cor. 9:7-14 Who goeth to warfare at anytime at his own charges? Who plants a vineyard and eats not of the fruit thereof? Even Moses wrote that one should not muzzle the mouth of the ox who treads out the corn. Does God only take care for the ox, or for the pastor as well? **Even so does God ordain that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**
- 1 Tim. 5:19 **Against an elder or pastor receive NOT an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.** If there is proof of sin committed, then he should step down from his duties until he shows proof of his repentance.
- 1 Cor. 4:1-5 Paul said that it was a very small thing to be judged of his sheep or of any man's judgement; **for he was God's steward and God would judge him.** Therefore, don't be suspicious of your pastor without proof, for you cannot know the motives of his heart. **Judge nothing before the time, until Christ comes, who will bring to light all hidden motives and will make known the counsels of each man's heart.** Then shall every man receive praise of God.
- 1 Pet. 5:5 Likewise you younger, submit yourselves to the elder or pastor. **Yes, let all be subject one to another:** for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Phil. 2:2-4	Be like minded, love one another. Let nothing be done through strife or proudful bickering. <b>Let each esteem the other man better than himself</b> , and look to the needs of others in the church not just to his own needs.
1 Jn. 2:9-10	He that says he is in the light (or saved), but hates his brother, is in darkness. He that loves his brother is in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling or sinning in him.
1 Jn. 4:7-8	<b>Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God</b> ; and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. <b>He that does not love does not know God</b> , for God <u>is</u> love.
1 Jn. 4:10-12	God sent Christ to die for us that we might have eternal life. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to also love one another. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.
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	<b>God warns the believer that there will be false teachers and prophets to test believer's faith in God's word.</b>
Deut. 7:1-15 Jere. 7:1-15	False doctrine has been the fall of mankind ever since God tested Adam and Eve, and allowed the serpent to lie saying they would not die if they disobeyed God. <b>They failed the test and lost eternal life.</b> Israel was also taught to obey God always, <b>but their false teachers cried, We have the temple and the law. It doesn't matter if we sin.</b> Throughout the new testament Christ and the apostles cautioned us to beware of false teachers lest we perish. One teaching said the resurrection was over. This teaching overturned the faith of many. Another said fornication was permissible and so many, who had formerly repented of this sin, went back into it. Another teaching claimed that circumcision was needed in order to be saved. Paul wished these false teachers to be cut off even as the foreskin is cut off in circumcision. It doesn't take but one false teaching on the fundamentals of our religion to tear down a saint's
2 Tim. 2:14-18 2 Pet. 2:18-22 Gal. 5:6-12	



faith and cause him to be lost forever. One last point. **Why does God allow false teachers? It is to test the hearts of believers.** Will they choose to believe a lie, or will they love the Lord with all their hearts, even if it means suffering for doing so. Let us search the scriptures together.

**God warns us that there will be false teachers and prophets to test men if they will believe God's word or not. Read Deut. 13:1-5**

2 Thess. 2:10-12

**God has given man a free will to choose to believe God's word. If he refuses, God will send him strong delusions and lies spoken through false teachers and prophets to deceive them with teachings NOT found in the bible. When a man chooses not to believe the written word of God, he naturally will believe a lie and be damned because he has pleasure in unrighteousness and sin.**

Rom. 1:24-32

**Three times in Romans chapter one, God gives men up to their free will and to the lusts of their own hearts.** Men, leaving their natural use of sex with women, burn with lust for men. **God gives them up to sin all they want. They are filled with 17 sins** - fornication, wickedness, murder, proud boastings etc. They know that God's judgement awaits them and that they will go to hell, but they keep right on sinning.

Matt. 7:15-20

**Jesus warned us to be aware of prophets and teachers that come in sheep's clothing,** but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You will know them by their false teachings not found in the bible. A corrupt tree, he said, cannot bring forth good fruit.

Matt. 15:1-20

Jesus asked the Jewish teachers, Why do you transgress God's commandments by your traditions? You worship God in vain teaching for doctrines commandments you yourselves make up. **You are blind leaders of the blind.** Both you and your followers will fall into the ditch.

Matt. 16:11-12  
& Gal. 5:7-12

**Beware of the leaven of false teachers** for it will leaven the whole loaf. Leaven speaks of the sin and false doctrine of false teachers. A little corruption of God's word is no small thing. It will eventually leaven or corrupt the whole of one's teachings.

2 Cor. 11:13-15

**For such are false apostles, deceitful workers; transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. It is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as ministers of righteousness.

Gal. 1:8-12

Apostle Paul declared, If we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you then the one we have taught, let him be accursed. My teaching is not of men, but is by revelation from God.

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**Paul confronts a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet**

Acts 13:6-12

Paul and Barnabas were on a mission trip on the isle of Patmos. The deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, desired to hear the word of God, so called them to him. **But Elymas, a false prophet able to perform witchcraft by the power of Satan,** withstood Paul and Barnabas, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. **Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried, You child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, will you not stop to pervert the right way of the Lord? You shall be blind for a season.** And the deputy saw the miraculous sign and believed in the Lord's doctrine.

2 Pet. 2:1-3

**But there were false prophets among the Jews, as there will be false teachers among you who will bring in damnable heresies** (teachings that will damn the soul). Many will follow them in their pernicious ways, who by covetousness and feigned (not truthful or transparent) behavior, will make merchandise of you, deceiving you for their own personal gain.

Gal. 5:19-21  
Rom. 6:23

**Listed among 17 death penalty sins by apostle Paul is heresy or any deviation from God's word. One of the most detrimental false teachings is that born again saints are sinners still, who sin everyday. This teaching will damn the soul.**

Rev. 2:18-23

Jesus told the new testament church in Thyatira, I have a few things against you. You let this woman **Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication.** She repented not. I will cast her and her followers into a bed (of sickness unto death), **and will kill her children**, and all the churches will know that I am he which searches the reins (innermost motives) and hearts:

1 Tim. 4:1  
2 Tim. 4:3-4

**Now the Holy Spirit speaks expressly**, that in the latter times (before Christ's return) some shall depart from the faith (backslide), **giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.**

Luke 13:24  
Matt. 7:13-15

**Jesus said, The gate to heaven is very narrow. One must strive or agonize to enter in. To agonize means to struggle, labor, suffer, and overcome. Jesus cautioned us saying, Few will find the narrow way. Why? Because of false teachers who say that Christian sinners will all go to heaven.** It is a true sign of demon inspired teaching when on the one hand we are taught that believers sin every day, while on the other we are exhorted to try our best to live holy. In Paul's day, some went so far as to teach that the more believers sin, the more God is glorified. "Let us do evil that good may come." Paul stated emphatically that their damnation was just!

Rom. 3:5-8

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**Many antichrist's and false religions have gone out into the world.**

1 Jn. 2:22-23  
Jn. 8:31-47

**If you deny Christ and his doctrine, rejecting him as God's son, you are an antichrist and cannot have God the Father.** Jesus told the Jews, Your father is NOT God, but the devil. You are slave to

sin, and you want to kill me. **Any Jew, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, etc. rejecting Christ today is an antichrist.**

1 Jn. 4:3  
1 Jn. 2:18

Anyone who does not confess that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh, who was sent by his Father from heaven to save sinners from sinning everyday and from eternal hell, is not of God, but is an antichrist.

2 Jn. 7-11  
1 Jn. 2:3-4

**Many in the world deny that Jesus is come in the flesh (God became man). Whosoever believes not in Christ and his doctrine (the virgin birth, his deity as God's only begotten Son, his death and bodily resurrection to free men from sin's power over them) cannot have God the Father. If any come and teach that Christ has not come in the flesh, don't receive him into your house or you will be a partaker of his evil deeds.**

**The scripture foretold Christ's ministry, passion, death, and resurrection.** But false teachers denied these gospel truths and led Israel into more sin.

Isa. 9:6-7  
Matt. 1:23

The prophet Isaiah foretold some 770 years before that Christ would be born of a virgin and that he would be called God with us or Emmanuel.

Isa. 52:14 &  
53:3-11

**The prophet foretold that Christ would be rejected of his brethren, a man of sorrows, and hated of men. He was wounded and beaten for our sins.** His visage (face) and body were more marred than any other man, so much so that he was unrecognizable as a person. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, yet opened not his mouth. Yet it pleased God the Father to bruise him, and put him to suffering on the cross for our sins. These prophecies were re-interpreted by false teachers, and in some cases, outrightly denied. **Israel's teachers caused them to make a very serious error by killing Christ. The result? No homeland for 2000 years, and hell fire for millions of souls who have rejected the Messiah!**

Jn. 19:1-7

**Pilate, after hearing the false teacher's wrongful accusations**, took Jesus and scourged him with many stripes. A crown of thorns was placed on his head, and men spat in his face. **Pilate said to the Jews, I find no fault in him. But the chief priests cried, Crucify him, crucify him, for he says he is the Son of God. Let his blood fall on us and our children. We will take the blame.** Jesus was led away to be crucified. He hung on a tree from 9 am to 3 pm and then died. He rose again after 3 days.

Acts 7:51-52

**The Jews denied Christ's resurrection** and sought to persecute and silence his followers who taught Christ's doctrine. Stephen, a deacon in the early church, was brought before the Sanhedrin. He told them, **You stiffnecked rebels, you do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted and slain which prophesied the coming of Christ; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers.** Stephen was condemned to death for his testimony.

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**Jesus told believers that they, too, would suffer persecution for living and professing holy lives and for preaching gospel truths. This is an unknown truth throughout American congregations.**

Matt. 10:34-39

**Jesus said, Think not that I come to send peace on earth, but I come rather to send a sword.** A man's enemies will be of his own household. Father against son, daughter against mother. He that loves family more than me, is NOT worthy of me. **He that takes not up his cross of self-denial and suffering to follow after me, is not worthy of me.** He that looses his old life of sin for my sake shall find everlasting life.

<b>Note!</b>	<p>Believers in general will do almost anything to avoid being ridiculed, shunned, rejected by family members, and looked down upon for professing to live holy lives. Suffering is not something Americans are accustomed to. They are ignorant of the truth that God uses suffering to test His people if they are willing in this life to obey God's word and be faithful to Him no matter the cost.</p>
1 Pet. 2:19-23	<p><b>Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example <u>that we should follow in his steps</u>.</b> Will you love those who hate you? Will you turn the other cheek?</p>
1 Pet. 1:6-7	<p>We rejoice greatly as saints, though there will be seasons when trials will test our faith. And though our faith be tried with fire, it will come forth unto praise, honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.</p>
1 Pet. 3:14 & 4:1	<p><b>If you suffer for living righteous, be not afraid, neither be troubled. For Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, so arm yourself with this same mind.</b></p>
1 Pet. 4:12-16	<p><b><u>Beloved, think it not strange concerning fiery trials which are to try or test you. Rejoice, as you are a partaker of Christ's sufferings.</u></b> If you are reproached and falsely accused, know that the Spirit of God rests upon you. <b>Let no man suffer as an evil doer or thief. Yet, if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed,</b> but rather glorify God.</p>
1 Pet. 5:8-10 2 Cor. 10:4-5 Luke 22:31-32	<p>Be sober, therefore, and watchful always: for the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking how he may defeat you in your faith and service to God: whom resist in the faith, <b>knowing that the same afflictions (or battles) are accomplished in all true believers.</b> After suffering in your battle with the devil or with false or ignorant brethren, God will strengthen you, establish you in your faith, and settle you to be perfect. Read 1 Cor. 10:13</p>

Phil. 4:4-7	Rejoice in the Lord always. Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus for he has told us:
Matt. 5:6	<b>Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.</b>
Matt. 5:10	<b>Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</b>
Luke 6:22-23	<b>Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, separating you from their fellowship, for my sake. Rejoice, be exceeding glad, and leap for joy: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets, apostles, and believers which were before you.</b>

