

Pastor Appreciation

House of the Lord

Pastor Jim Lillard

What is Pastor Appreciation Day really about?
What real purpose does it serve?
What benefits can be derived from participation in it?
What can I expect from God, through it?

Daddy God continually watches over His earth and observes His creation. From the fall of man, He worked to reestablish a working relationship with His highest level of creation.

Malachi 3:16 (NAS)

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.

Man had strayed far from the Father's purpose for His man, to represent Him in the earth, to rule and reign in the earth, as His under-ruler.

God wanted man to have a way back to Him.

Ezekiel 22:30 (NAS)

I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

Pastors are part of God's plan to reestablish a working relationship with mankind, and manifest His family in the earth.

Jeremiah 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding.

God wanted His will, His plan, His purpose invested in His people, so they could know Him more fully and represent His interests in the earth.

Matthew 9:35-36 (NASB)

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

The people of earth needed a way back to God and training in how to relate to God The Father. A Pastor, a Shepherd, one who would raise up a people for His pleasure.

Jeremiah 23:4 (NASB)

⁴ I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord.

God was drawing a people to Himself and setting an under-shepherd with them to cover, teach, mentor and raise up a new generation of children of God.

2 Chronicles 20:20 (NASB)

²⁰ They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

God, through His representatives, would have voice in the earth, to guide His people into His will for their lives.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS)

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Isaiah 62:6 (NASB)

**⁶ On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and all night they will never keep silent.
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves;**

Watchmen, Shepherds, His representatives to cover His people and to be His hand extended to them, and for them.

Isaiah 62:10 (NASB)

**¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates,
Clear the way for the people;
Build up, build up the highway,
Remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples.**

The Pastor-Shepherd has a many faceted role to play in God's plan for man and the ages.

Ephesians 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

The fivefold ministry gifts, are set in the church, to perform His will, to His people.

Ephesians 4:12 (NAS)

for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Perfecting or maturing the saints,
to do the work of the ministry of reconciliation,
to build the body up, in His likeness.

Ephesians 4:13 (NASB)

¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Unity – one voice.

The faith, that conquered sin, death, sickness, poverty, hell.

Ephesians 4:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Pastors, Shepherds or more accurately, spiritual fathers who care for, and train up, and bring to maturity in the Word of Truth.

Pastors have a tremendous responsibility before God.

Acts 20:28 (NASB)

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Pastors steer the flock to the higher ground The Father has provided for them.

1 Peter 5:2 (NASB)

² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

True Pastors are not in the pastorate for what they get out of it, but to be co-laborers with God, for His people's development.

Mark 3:35 (NASB)

³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

It's all about the will, the plan, the purpose of God. Conforming to The Father's will is the center of man's direction.

Since the Pastor is delegated by God, and set in place by God, he has a special emessarial role to fulfill.

Matthew 10:40 (NASB)

⁴⁰ "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

The Pastor or other fivefold ministry gift has an "official function" and an "ambassadorial role" to fulfill for God to the people and for the people to God.

Matthew 10:41-42 (NASB)

⁴¹ He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

What a powerful promise from our Lord, concerning the benefit to be derived from honoring His servants.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Double honor, meaning double pay. Reflecting the spiritual and the physical labor a Pastor performs. God deems them worthy of a higher compensation.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NASB)

¹² But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

Labor, have charge responsibility, and give instruction. Pastors have a many faceted role to fulfill.

Romans 13:7 (NASB)

⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

An ordinance from God, has a reward from God, for keeping it.

Honor has a reward and it comes from God The Father. **“For every good and perfect (mature) gift comes down from The Father of lights.”**

Pastors are not free agents; they bear great responsibility before God.

1 Timothy 4:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

Pastors are a gift, who have been given a gift and through whom, gifts of God and from God, can flow.

Because Pastors and the other ministry gifts are set in the church by God, it is a grievous thing to “touch” their life or ministry with improper motives.

**“Touch not mine anointed,
And do my prophets no harm”**

1 Timothy 5:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.

A person’s opinion, feelings or personal grievance carry no weight before God.

How should a member of a church body cover their man of God? Perhaps a lesson can be taken from Isaiah.

Isaiah 54:17 (AMP)

But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the Lord [those in whom the ideal Servant of the Lord is reproduced]; this is the righteousness *or* the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the Lord.

Let me lead you in such a prayer to be prayed.