



Prayer Focus – The Pastor Appreciation

October, 2025

Empower Church, this is Pastor/Clergy Appreciation Month so, let us see how the Word of God describes the Apostle Paul's ministry in **2 Corinthians 6:3-10 TPT**. Consider the parallels of our pastor's ministry with Paul's journey. *We will not place obstacles in anyone's way that hinder them from coming to salvation so that our ministry will not be discredited. Yet, as God's servants, we prove ourselves authentic in every way. For example: We have great endurance in hardships and in persecutions. We don't lose courage in a time of stress and calamity. We've been beaten many times, imprisoned, and found ourselves in the midst of riots. We've endured many troubles, had sleepless nights, and gone hungry. We have proved ourselves by our lifestyles of purity, by our spiritual insights, by our patience, and by showing kindness, by the Spirit of holiness and by our uncritical love for you. We commend ourselves to you by our truthful teachings, by the power of God working through us, and with the mighty weapons of righteousness—a sword in one hand and a shield in the other. Amid honor and dishonor, slander or praise—even when we are treated as deceivers and imposters—we remain steadfast and true. We are unknown nobodies whom everyone knows. We are frequently at death's door, yet we are, still alive! We have been severely punished yet not executed. We may suffer, yet in every season we are always rejoicing. We may be poor, yet we bestow great riches on many. We seem to have nothing, yet in reality we possess all things.* Our pastors have not been imprisoned or beaten, but they have endured heartache, betrayal, loneliness, and yet they have poured out spiritually, mentally, and physically even when they 'felt they had nothing to give.' What a wonderful testimony this is, and what a standard our own pastors set for the body of Christ. How do you think our pastors were able to accomplish these extraordinary achievements with such courage and boldness? Paul explains this very truth in **1 Corinthians 15:10 TPT**. *...God's amazing grace has made me who I am! And His grace to me was not fruitless. In fact, I worked harder than all the rest, yet not in my own strength but God's, for His empowering grace is poured out upon me.* Look at how it reads in the **MSG** *...“It was God giving me the work to do, God giving me the energy to do it. ...We spoke God's truth and you entrusted your lives.”* In our words, God graced and anointed them by the Spirit of Grace to overcome all things, not in their own strength but God's (just as we are). This boldness was not only accomplished by the anointing of the Holy Ghost but by intercession. **Philippians 1:18-19 ESV** expounds on this. *“...Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.* We see here that our prayers turn out for their deliverance. One of the greatest

ways to honor your clergy is to pray for them daily for they request very little of us as they labor (**1 Thessalonians 5:25 TPT**). As we give honor to Pastor and Lady Michelle, consider also our youth pastors, Cody and Allison Fink and our worship leaders, Jennifer, and Raymond Tarkington (and of course their team) for all their tireless efforts in ministering Christ. **1 Timothy 5:17 TPT** shares another way we should honor and respect our ministers.

The pastors who lead the church well should be paid well. They should receive double honor for faithfully preaching and teaching the revelation of the Word of God.

Pastor Jay and Lady Michelle have followed the same directives that Paul gave the young minister Timothy in **2 Timothy 4:1-5 TPT**; *...in the presence of our great God and our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is destined to judge both the living and the dead by the revelation of His kingdom—I solemnly instruct you to **proclaim the Word of God and stand upon it no matter what!** Rise to the occasion and preach when it is convenient and when it is not. Preach in the full expression of the Holy Spirit—with wisdom and patience as you instruct and teach the people. For the time is coming when they will no longer listen and respond to the healing words of truth because they will become selfish and proud. They will seek out teachers with soothing words that line up with their desires, saying just what they want to hear. They will close their eyes to the truth and believe nothing but fables and myths. So be alert to all these things and overcome every form of evil.* Our shepherds continue to endeavor to fulfill Peter's urging in **1 Peter 5:2-3 TPT**, *to be compassionate shepherds who tenderly care for God's flock and who feed them well, for you have the responsibility to guide, protect, and oversee. Consider it a joyous pleasure and not merely a religious duty. **Lead from the heart under God's leadership**—not as a way to gain finances dishonestly but as a way to eagerly and cheerfully serve. Don't be controlling tyrants but lead others by your beautiful examples to the flock.* The writer in **Hebrews 13:17 TPT** said it best; *Obey your spiritual leaders and recognize their authority, for **they keep watch over your soul without resting since they will have to give account to God for their work**. So, it will benefit you when you make their work a pleasure and not a heavy burden.* How can we pray for our leaders? **Ephesians 1:16-23 AMPC**, **Ephesians 3:14-21 AMPC** and **Colossians 1:9-14 AMPC** always come to our hearts. Paul declared the prayer he desired in **Colossians 4:3-4 AMPC**.

*And at the same time pray for us also, that **God may open a door to us for the Word (the Gospel), to proclaim the mystery concerning Christ (the Messiah)** on account of which I am in prison; That I may proclaim it fully and make it clear [speak boldly and unfold that mystery], as is my duty.*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 AMPC,
Scott and Jackie