

nov 27

the law of Christ

"bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." gal 6:2

"therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed." heb 12:12-13

when i awoke this morning, my awareness was it was a sunday. my thoughts then went to the only tangible pastors now in my life. they are a precious husband and wife team, pastoring and serving where they may. i was introduced to them through hospice at a time when i probably was not the most receptive or appreciative. they, along with my online fellowship have help sustained me in a difficult period. of course, Jesus always first.

further confirmation this was my topic came to me after my prayer time finished and i opened the scriptures. where was my book marker placed? "let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches." gal 6:6 next to it i had written, "tell owen." owen happened to be my pastor at that time, years ago. so God didn't have to hit me on the head with a ton of bricks.

yesterday many gathered together in various places of worship and were blessed with fellowship and sharing the word of God. as they gathered, i wonder how many

even gave a passing thought to those active in the ministry; the preacher, the elders, the ushers, the child care, etc. too often we take things for granted and just assume it is their job. it may well be a job but it is a calling as well. the fortunate are blessed with a little recompense, but most are not.

as i woke up sunday morning, the Lord had my heart turn to pastors and their calling. often we put them on pedestals they neither seek nor desire. then, if they happen to fall, the world mocks again that precious name. that has happened way more often than it should. so should we condemn as well? my bible tells me, "brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted." gal 6:1 if we are to fulfill the law of Christ, we must bear another's burden. we must travail as though it were our own sin needing repentance.

but who or what contributed to their fall? did we as parishioners play a part? they are, after all, only flesh and blood as with us all. but pastors, in particular. carry not only their own burden, but many others as well. we attend hoping to have our faith built up and be spoon fed the word of God. and if we stand in a prayer line, how many are praying for that pastor and his family? it makes me think of PK's (preacher's kids), their difficulties and the wives's who carry a heavier load because of another's calling, i.e. ministry. i remember how billy graham always used to praise his wife as holding down the fort while he went abroad ministering the word. we all play a part; many unheralded.

even visiting evangelists often go unappreciated. i remember once receiving a hearty group scolding from one who had traveled to many places at their own expense, being rewarded only with a dribbling of an offering and probably little appreciation or encouragement. they had just reached their breaking point and perhaps were close to losing their ministry.

"and He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." eph 4:11 this scripture teaches us that God has established a five fold ministry. God has called and established each one as He chooses. we do not take this calling upon ourselves. otherwise it would be in vain. one might not be comfortable preaching to masses but their calling might be on a keyboard with strokes in solitude. God has prepared each vessel for His purpose.

while i intend these dailies to encourage and lift up Jesus alone, i realize many reading may consider this a teaching of sorts. i think on that often and it makes me shudder because of this scripture. "my brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." james 3:1 believe me when i say my sins would not be covered if the blood of Jesus were diluted in the least. but like the apostle paul, necessity is laid on me. he says: "for if i preach the gospel, i have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if i do not preach the gospel!" 1 cor 9:16

and so, "we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who

labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. be at peace among yourselves." 21 thes 5:12 these are chosen vessel to help guide you through the walk of faith. i know we all have different personalities and may have to shop around until we find the right fit, but once that is decided, suffer no offense of flesh short of corrupt doctrine. flesh may scream but it also must die.

all are not be "called" into ministry, but we all are ministers of God's grace. "as each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 pet 4:10 yes, we are indeed our brother's keeper. we all are ambassadors for Christ. i have a long time prayer - may the Lord never be ashamed to be called my God.

friends, i've never asked you before to forward a daily to anyone else, but i am asking you to forward this one to as many as God brings to mind. none of us know the secret labors of another, and our leaders are not exempt. prayer is preeminent but "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." prov 25:11

how shall they know unless they be told? tell a minister today that you appreciate them, are praying for them, and let it be more than a gesture. let us truly care for those who care for us.