

Hello. /We will begin the first lecture on pastoral theology. /“Ministry” refers to the nurturing of God’s sheep, the believers, /and serving the Lord’s body, the church. /Thus, “pastoral theology” is the study of ways to nurture believers /and ways to serve the church.

/There are many fields in theology. /In general there is Old Testament theology and New Testament theology, which both fall into the category of biblical theology, /systematic theology, /and historical theology, which is the study of the history of the church. /Pastoral theology would fall into the category of practical theology.

/I hope that through pastoral theology you would learn how to practically serve the church /and learn how to take care of believers. /First, let’s study the calling of pastors.

/1. A Pastor’s Calling. /A “calling” is a special call from God. /God personally calls workers to do God’s work. /In the Old Testament times, God personally called his servants, /and entrusted them with individual callings.

/God called Noah to build the ark, /and God had him proclaim to the corrupted people of the generation about God’s judgment. /God called Moses in the Midian Desert /and entrusted him with the calling to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

/God personally called prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Amos in each time period in Israel. /In the New Testament, Jesus personally called His disciples.

/Jesus called Peter, Andrew, John and James as they were casting their nets into the Sea of Galilee, /and they immediately left their nets and followed the Lord. /The apostle Paul received Jesus’ calling on his way to Damascus, was converted, and became a worker of the gospel.

/Even today, God personally calls his workers and leads them to become pastors. /It is not right for one to decide to be a pastor because it seems like a good job, /and enter seminary without receiving God’s calling.

/There must be God’s special calling for one to become a pastor.

/Then, how can one know if he’s been called by God? /How can I know if I have a calling as a pastor? /Is God calling me to be a pastor or not? /How can I know this? /Let’s first look at the subjective standard.

/ (1) The subjective standard. /First, the subjective standard. /“Preaching the gospel is greater than any other works in the world. /I want to devote myself and my whole life to this worthy work.”

/If anyone is strongly inspired in his heart for this work, he can believe that he has received God’s calling. /This type of calling is also called, “the inner calling.”

/The prophet Jeremiah confessed in Jeremiah 20:9, /“His word is in my heart like a fire.” /The apostle Paul confessed in 1 Corinthians 9:16, /“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!”

/Anyone who wants to be a pastor must be strongly inspired in his heart to preach the gospel, /and he must have a burning heart. /Again, one must have a strong desire to do God’s work.

/1 Timothy 3:1 says, /“If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.” /To “desire” means to ardently hope. /The first standard for qualification for pastors is to desire noble tasks, God’s work.

/Then one will know the worthiness of God’s work, and he will ardently hope to do God’s work.

/Second, he must feel true happiness and joy when doing God’s work. /Before one becomes a pastor, he must work for the church, serve other believers, /and most importantly, must find joy and happiness in it all.

/If there is no joy in his heart, /it will be difficult to confirm that pastoring is God’s calling for him. /Pastor Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, /“If there is something other than ministry that you want to do in this world, do it.”

/Another pastor said, “If you find happiness in anything outside the road of ministry, stay there.” /A pastor’s ministry comes with great suffering. /If one does not know the joy in doing God’s work, /he will have a difficult time carrying out his calling as a pastor if he in fact becomes a pastor.

/He will eventually become tired and weary, /and he will make things hard for the church he is at. /We spoke about the two parts of the subjective standard of a pastor’s calling. /**First**, one must believe that preaching the gospel is most worthy, and he must have a strong desire to devote himself to the work of the gospel.

/Second, he must have true joy and happiness in his heart in doing God’s work. /Next, let’s look at the objective standard of a pastor’s calling.

/(2) The objective standard. /The objective standard can be put into a list, /but in summary it is the question of whether or not one has objective qualities to be a pastor. /This is also known as “the external calling.”

/Let’s say that an individual is subjectively burning with a calling, /but others take a look at him and feel that he is not qualified to be a pastor. /Then he must sincerely pray about his calling and examine himself.

/He must be acknowledged by at least a few people, if not all. /He must be acknowledged or encouraged by leaders of faith who have watched over him for a long period of time.

Then he will be able to see through the objective standard whether he has a calling to be a pastor or not.

/He must have the basic gift to actually teach and lead others well, /apart from the judgments of those close to him. /Because a pastor must preach God's word on the pulpit several times a week, /he must have basic learning abilities and the gift of properly expressing and delivering his thoughts.

/Not only that, but a pastor must have good character and morals. /As one who leads the church, he must have leadership skills to oversee people. /If there is one part that he seriously lacks, /we can conclude through the objective standard that he lacks the calling to be a pastor.

/The biblical scholar Thomas Oden /spoke of the following guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the eternal calling of pastoral candidates. /"The candidate must have the necessary gifts of the Holy Spirit for ministry." /"The candidate must be healthy."

/"The candidate must be acknowledged by close individuals to have good character." /"The candidate must possess the ability to preach and teach, without shame in his conscience, about the truth of Christianity, in accordance with the Bible and with tradition."

/It is important to note the fact that not anyone can become a pastor. /No one can become a pastor just because he wants to. /He must be subjectively equipped to be a pastor.

/Therefore, anyone who wants to be a pastor must first carefully examine himself and see if he has a true calling from God. /Pastor Spurgeon said the following regarding the importance of the realization of God's calling of pastoral candidates.

/"He must not enter ministry without solemnly asking and testing himself regarding God's calling for him." /"However, he must be careful not to hesitate and fail to make a decision when God gives him inspiration and a calling."

/There are two main reasons why one might hesitate even if he has been called to ministry. /First, one might hesitate because he cannot throw away lingering affections for the world. /Second, he might become anxious about the sufferings that he or his family will encounter when he walks down the path of a pastor.

/We must believe that if God's calling for us is for certain, God will give us grace to handle all matters, and that God will personally guide us in our lifetime. /When God calls us and inspires us, we must not be anxious, but entrust our lives to God and obey.

/Now, let's discuss the character of pastors. /**2. A Pastor's Character.** /To carry out one's duties as a pastor, /he must first have good character. /This is related to the objective standard that we previously spoke of regarding a pastor's calling.

/If the contents that we will now look at do not agree with you at all, /it means that, by the objective standard, you are not qualified to be a pastoral candidate. /However, everyone has shortcomings.

/Therefore, we must repent every time we discover shortcomings in ourselves, /and we must earnestly request of God to become completely qualified. /The following passages in the Bible explain a pastor's character in more detail.

/1 Timothy 3:2-7. /2 Timothy 2:24-26. /Titus 1:6-9. /These and other verses describe a pastor's character in more detail. /Anyone who hopes to be a pastor must read these particular three passages often.

/Then he must closely examine himself through these passages. /At this time, we will discuss five main points on a pastor's character based on the three passages.

/First, a pastor must be gentle and humble. /Gentleness and humbleness are Jesus' representative traits. /In Matthew 11:29, Jesus said, "for I am gentle and humble in heart." /A pastor must actively follow Jesus more than anyone else.

/A pastor must become more like Jesus more than anyone else. /Therefore, it is most important that a pastor be gentle and humble in character. /The opposite of gentleness would be stubbornness. /A pastor's basic character must not enjoy quarreling.

/Even if there is someone we do not like or someone who harasses us, we must not fight with force. /A pastor must not beat his wife or children at home. /Sometimes, a pastor might whip his child as a part of education.

/However, he must never hit his children as a result of failure to overcome his stubborn nature. /A pastor must be gentle like Jesus. /Gentleness also refers to the receiving of God's rule.

/When he completely receives and obeys God's rule in addition to being gentle in character, /he can then be a truly gentle person. /Numbers 12:3 says that Moses was very meek, more than all people on the earth.

/Moses was not gentle from the beginning. /He killed an Egyptian when he lived in Pharaoh's palace. /He loved God and loved Israel then. /However, he did not receive God's rule, and his ego was strong. /Hence, he made a big mistake and he could not be used for God's work.

/However, he was trained in the Midian Desert for forty years. /Then finally, when he became a gentle man who completely obeyed God's will, /God used Moses.

/Today, pastors must completely obey God's will. /A pastor must let go of his own will and his own plans. /We must obey God's will, even if we don't want to and no matter

how difficult it may be.

/A pastor must also be humble. /A pastor preaches God's word, and he guides the faith of believers. /He might reach a point where he loses his humbleness. /Saul was humble at the beginning when he became king.

/However, he became arrogant not long after and disobeyed God's word, and he attempted to give sacrifices to God himself. /Hence, God forsook him. /If a pastor becomes arrogant, he cannot receive God's grace.

/Then the pastor will fail to minister well. /In 1 Peter 5:5, it says that God opposes the proud. /When we become proud, we will become enemies with God.

/Therefore, we must examine ourselves so that we always remain humble. /A good example of a humble individual is John the Baptist. /John the Baptist was called to make way for Jesus.

/Jesus acknowledged John the Baptist. /In Matthew 11:11, Jesus said that among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist. /Nevertheless, John the Baptist remained humble.

/He said that he was the voice of one calling in the desert. /A voice fades away after delivering a message. /John did not show himself off, but only showed Jesus to the people, and he would soon fade away.

/John the Baptist spoke about Jesus and said, "He must become greater; I must become less." /John the Baptist did not say that both Jesus and he needed to be great. /John the Baptist spoke with faith that Jesus must become great and he must become less.

/Today, pastors must have the same heart. /There are cases where pastors become arrogant and steal God's glory. /Pastors are God's workers and God's tools. /Tools do not boast of their works.

/God works, and the tools are merely used for the works. /Therefore, pastors must be humble and not show themselves off. /Pastors must not receive glory. /Pastors must give glory only to God, and they must show Jesus and boast of Jesus.

/Second, a pastor must have a heart of love. /1 John 4:8 says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." /God is the God of love.

/God gave us his one and only Son and saved us with his abounding love. /Jesus is Jesus of love. /The Lord bled and died on the cross for us.

/John 13:1 says, "It was just before the Passover Feast. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love." /Soon after, the disciples would betray Jesus and run away. /Still, Jesus loved the disciples until the end.

/The Lord came to the disciples after His resurrection and comforted them. /The Lord encouraged the disciples. /The Lord helped them stand firm in faith.

/The Lord promised that He would be with them until the ends of the earth. /1 Corinthians 13:13 says, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” /Romans 13:10 says, “love is the fulfillment of the law.”

/Therefore, pastors must become men of love. /They must display the love of God the Father and the love of the cross of Jesus. /We must show true love, love that is hard to find in this world, love that is not easy to experience, to believers.

/A pastor must especially truly love members of his congregation, the sheep that God entrusted him with. /A pastor must not love only those who respect and follow him. /A pastor love even those who disobey him or speak badly of him.

/There are many types of people in the church. /There are those who are impatient and those who are slow and appear frustrating. /There are those who are rich and those who are poor.

/There are those who are well-educated and intelligent, and there are those who lack education and are ignorant. /There are believers who are compatible with the pastor /and there are those who are not.

/A pastor must hold all these people that God entrusted him with close to his heart, and he must love them all.

/Third, a pastor must not drink alcohol or live a life of debauchery. /Alcohol can be found in the center of the corrupted worldly culture. /A pastor must not drink alcohol. /A pastor must also teach the believers not to drink alcohol.

/Some say that drinking a little bit is acceptable as long as one does not get drunk /because the Israelites drank wine in the Old Testament times. /However, there is a difference between the Old Testament times and today.

/In the Old Testament times, the Israelites harvested grapes and stored grape juice in jars in order to keep it for long periods of time. /The juice fermented and became grape wine.

/Beverages were not common in those times as they are today. /At the time, it was not easy to find clean water that was not polluted. /Thus, the Israelites diluted the wine by mixing it with water to drink as a beverage.

/At the time, the people were forbidden from drinking grape juice without diluting it with water. /In the history of the ancient Near East, peoples of nations surrounding Israel did not drink raw fermented grape juice.

/The foreign peoples at the time considered it barbaric to drink raw fermented grape juice. /Hence, the situations of such times and today are completely different. /The Israelites stored grape juice for survival.

/When they drank the juice, they strictly drank it by diluting it with water. /Today, we have plenty of water to drink. /We can also find various beverages everywhere.

/Furthermore, the alcohol content of drinks sold in stores today has been artificially increased. /Therefore, it is clearly wrong for believers to drink alcohol today. /Proverbs 23:31 says, do not gaze at wine.

/Ephesians 5:18 commands, do not get drunk on wine. /Therefore, pastors today must absolutely not drink alcohol, and they must teach believers not to drink alcohol. /Pastors must not drink alcohol, and they must also not live lives of debauchery.

/Pastors must not be morally corrupted. /Pastors must not be swept away by corrupted worldly cultures even if they did not commit moral sins. /Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world.”

/The perverse culture is especially growing in this generation. /We must not let our hearts be taken by perverse and secular cultures and corrupt cultures in such times. /We cannot properly do God’s work if our hearts are taken away.

/A pastor must separate himself from this world and live godly lives. /Believers must also not be polluted by worldly trends because they are God’s children, and they must live godly lives. /A pastor has a holy office. /A pastor is a leader of a church.

/Therefore, a pastor must be godlier than other believers. /Then the pastor can discipline and lead the believers. /A pastor must not fall to the perverse cultures of the world or to corrupt cultures.

/If that happens, he cannot influence the believers, no matter how hard he may teach them with his knowledge. /If a pastor falls to a debauched lifestyle, he will lose power. /Then the pastor will not manage his ministry well.

/Fourth, a pastor must not love money. /1 Timothy 6:10 says, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” /Pastors especially do not make money or save money.

/If we want to make lots of money, we must give up being pastors. /It is better to give up earlier on. /Then we will not harm others or ourselves.

/Today, pastors of big churches love money and cover the glory of God. /Such pastors block the doors of evangelism. /Pastors must not love money from the beginning to the end.

/1 Corinthians 9:9 says, “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” /This

means that the owner feeds the ox that works. /God called his servants. /God gives work to his servants.

/Hence, God will surely feed his servants. /God takes care of his servants so that they can live. /Pastors must have firm belief in this.

/Fifth, a pastor must not do anything deserving of rebuke from others. /There must not be faults in a pastor, other than the four mentioned above, /that are deserving of rebuke from others.

/A pastor is the leader of a church who teaches God's truth. /Therefore, although a pastor cannot be perfect, /he must reach a high level of morality. /A pastor must not have faults that are deserving of rebuke from others.

/Those who will be pastors or those who have already become pastors must keep this fact in mind. /A pastor must strive to be untainted before God and before others. /We must examine ourselves daily.

/We must continually seek God's grace, and be transformed into morally faultless individuals.

/Here we will conclude the first lecture on pastoral theology. /Thank you.