

## **Awaken Bible Prophecy Update 11-9-22: An Open Letter to Pastors**

The times are such that what I say in the following several minutes will more than likely be ignored – if even heard by any pastors to whom this applies. Given the small size of my audience – and it is what it is by the grace of God – there may not even be any pastors among it. Perhaps if what I convey convicts some of you who are still in a church – as opposed to worshiping each week at home because you can't find a good one – maybe you'll decide to have a conversation with your pastor and ask him some hard questions.

I am a credentialed, licensed, (technically) retired pastor with the Assemblies of God. I never was a lead pastor, as I obtained my credentialing at the later age of 65. From there I served as the Missions Director and Bible teacher in my church until my wife and I felt we needed to leave there when a new lead pastor came in. I say this to give the caveat that I've never shepherded a church flock, so to speak. I don't have the experience of the stresses and balancing acts that may indeed be necessary to engage in such a role successfully.

The one thing that I do have is a deep and enduring love for the Word of God. I came to saving faith in Jesus Christ in 2005, again later in life at the age of 54. At that point – because of how the pastor in my church at that time challenged me – I began faithfully reading the Bible completely through at least once each year. In fact, - not bragging, just providing the contextual background – I typically read the Bible multiple times through yearly and have read it completely some 30-plus times in these intervening years, in addition to the New Testament alone numerous other times. Astoundingly, through God's guiding hand on my life, I've never

missed one single day in reading the Bible. I'm not much for memorizing Scripture – that hasn't worked real well for me trying to do so being older – but I can tell you I know the Bible pretty well from having read it so many times. I know what pleases God and I know what grieves Him – just as He has conveyed in Scripture. Because of my faithfulness in God's Word – I'm absolutely convinced of this – He has blessed me and my family beyond measure.

When I turned to the Lord 17 years ago, because of the conviction I had that He was real, and that my true and only salvation is indeed solely through Jesus Christ and being faithful to Him, I made a vow that I would always follow hard after Him. In other words, I wasn't messing around with this salvation thing. If you've read Biblical accounts of people making vows, you know how seriously God takes them. People that go back on their vows to Him often suffer greatly. Having learned that since beginning my Bible reading journey, it makes me even more determined to obey Him to the fullest.

I started thinking about this and about writing a letter upon receiving my quarterly Ministers' magazine from the Assemblies of God. In there are articles that talk about being more effective in various ways, from handling the abortion issue in the church to the very real problem of pastors who face depression. The one thing I couldn't ever recall seeing was an article that brought rebuke upon pastors as a group for how they might have aggrieved God.

From what I've previously said in this forum, many of you are probably aware that I've spoken quite forcefully about the issue of: Where's the church, i.e. where are the pastors and ministry leaders speaking out against the evils of the COVID mRNA injections? That has distressed me immensely, and I wondered if the A/G ministers' magazine would even publish a letter/rebuke dealing with this subject. I've sent an email; I week later I don't even have a response to my basic inquiry. However, I figured maybe I should just write

what I want to say as a letter to pastors and bring it into my sphere by doing this Prophecy Update on it.

I'll read you my letter momentarily. First, we'll pray and begin with a Scripture.

<PRAY>

## **Scripture**

Ecclesiastes 7:10; 10:1; 12:13-14

*Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.*

*Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;  
so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.*

*The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

## **Awaken Bible Prophecy Update 11-9-22: An Open Letter to Pastors**

Dear Pastor:

Although I've never been a lead pastor in a church – having served only as a Missions Pastor and Bible teacher – I'm none-the-less quite

aware that you have a difficult, challenging position in God's Kingdom. Being the lead shepherd for your flock is both an amazing privilege and a great responsibility. Despite my absence of qualifications for having been in your shoes, I am a student of the Word of God. As such, what I have to say to you is done with fear, trembling, and love because of what God expects of me and you.

Since the beginning of 2020 this world has been turned upside down. No doubt you're well-acquainted with Isaiah 5:20-25:

*20 Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!*

*21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!*

*22 Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine,  
and valiant men in mixing strong drink,*

*23 who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
and deprive the innocent of his right!*

*24 Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,  
and as dry grass sinks down in the flame,  
so their root will be as rottenness,  
and their blossom go up like dust;*

*for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts,  
and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*

*25 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people,  
and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them,  
and the mountains quaked;  
and their corpses were as refuse  
in the midst of the streets.*

*For all this his anger has not turned away,  
and his hand is stretched out still.*

My question to you is: Do you see how God's Word to ancient Israel pertains to today?

The Old Testament teaches us much about God's character and how He responded to Israel's rejection of Him. The people – very much including the leaders and rulers of that time – determined that they had no need to follow His commands or even acknowledge Him as the One and Only true God. Because they turned from obeying Him, His voice became fainter and fainter until only specific prophets could hear Him and relay the intent of His heart.

Some declare that today we have apostles and prophets that God has anointed to bring a new revelation and to lead the church into a new and glorious future, but that's not what God's Word says. In fact, Scripture informs us that the world will grow darker, and the vast majority of people – including much of the church – will reject Him until the point is reached where He must bring judgment in line with His holy and righteous character.

One of the things that God birthed in me when He brought me to Himself was a love of Bible prophecy. That led me to teaching it and then to convey it in a public online format. What I've done each week for several years is to present video Bible Prophecy Updates.

God has taught me to view the world through a Biblical, prophetic lens. Doing so, in many respects, enables me to connect various dots from Scripture to what is occurring today all over the earth. It doesn't make me a prophet by any means, but it does bring me in line with God's acclaim to the Bereans and the Men of Issachar.

Acts 17:11 says:

*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

1 Chronicles 12:32 tells us:

*Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do . . .*

I examine the Word, and by seeing the world through it, gain an understanding of the times. This is nothing special. There are a number of us who look, learn, and live in this manner. It's quite humbling, because the fact of the matter is that so very few people in actuality do this, and ignorance – particularly in the church – rages and screams its folly. I know that sounds harsh, but I'll hopefully back up what I just said with three major points – of many that I could raise.

These issues are critical to the times in which we live and, frankly, areas of rebuke that I think God wants to be made known more widely. These three items are:

1. There is a significant absence of Bible prophecy teaching from the pulpits
2. Pastors seem to have no problems coddling people in their churches who support a major political party that has embraced wickedness as its agenda
3. In this era of COVID, pastors have been universally silent on the evil of the so-called vaccines

Let's take each one in turn and examine the premise.

## **1. There is a significant absence of Bible prophecy teaching from the pulpits**

Approximately 30% of the Bible is comprised of the prophetic Word. Given this significant amount of Scripture dedicated to God foretelling what is to come, one would think that it would be a major topic within churches a goodly portion of the time. One would think incorrectly.

I wasn't a Christian in the 1970s and 1980s, but I've read and heard that during those years there was a fairly heavy emphasis on Bible prophecy, particularly on the soon-coming of Jesus through the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church. Much of this came about because of pastors who had been steeped in eschatology and Hal Lindsey's book *The Late, Great Planet Earth*. My understanding is that people misinterpreted what Lindsey said regarding the timing of the Rapture, thought it would definitely happen right around then, and they'd soon be with the Lord. When Christ didn't appear for His church in those years, disillusionment set in, and both pastors and people in the pews began dismissing His imminent return. Many began mocking it; literally fulfilling 2 Peter 3:3-4, which says:

*knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."*

They became "pan-Trib" adherents, saying that it would all pan out in the end. Added to this falling from belief in pre-Trib Rapture doctrine was the covenant theology folks who dismissed Dispensationalism and advocated for a post-Trib Rapture. All-in-all, it's brought us to the situation today where very few believers have faith that Christ will come at any moment for His true church prior

to the Tribulation. In fact, the majority of church people and their leaders appear to think that we as believers must go through the 7-year Tribulation. They're girding up and bearing down to endure this most horrific of times with gritted teeth, if they even worry about it at all.

Accompanying these sentiments was the thinking that Israel no longer mattered to God. The people behind this put forth that since the Jews rejected Jesus, God has forsaken them. In other words, God's promises no longer hold true for Israel and the Jewish people. This is called Replacement Theology. It's very prevalent in reformed tradition churches, mainline churches, and Catholicism. It has also become a strong movement within evangelicalism. Essentially, Replacement Theology posits that the church is the new Israel, having replaced Israel as the heir to all her covenant promises. This has even led to the Old Testament being labeled as unnecessary; and with some that we should only read the red letters of Jesus in the New Testament.

All of these developments should be cause for concern among churches, but they're not. Far too many pastors continue as though God hasn't spoken about what is to come, thus not preparing their congregants for His next move in this world.

Astoundingly, all that is transpiring around us is not seen through a Biblical, prophetic worldview. The attitude seems to be that we've had some rough years but we'll get back to normal. Yet, what's going on? The rise of the surveillance state; the hostility among Americans against each other; the satanic push for abortion and gender dysphoric issues among our children; the threat of wars in every corner of the globe; the potential for mass starvation worldwide; the threat of a tyrannical, totalitarian government in our nation; upheaval in the physical realm with great increases of life-threatening natural disasters; the potential for more

pandemics/plagues on every side; the irrational fear of climate catastrophe and the geoengineering attempts to avert it - all these issues and more press in upon us. Yet in the pulpits there is seemingly no concern nor warning that something in the spiritual realm is occurring and will soon result in a major move of God.

And, what might this be that God is preparing to do? We learn from the Old Testament and God's dealing with His Chosen People Israel that He did not spare them when they chose to follow other gods and live for themselves without Him. He gave them time and opportunities to mend their ways, to wake up to the fact that only by following Him could their lives be rich, fulfilling, and blessed. The Israelites said no to all this and in so doing raised the ire and wrath of God. He had no alternative other than to bring judgment upon them.

The question becomes: Why do we think we're immune to God's wrath and judgment for having done essentially the same thing, namely rejected Him and followed any god but Him?

There is a reason for the litany of Biblically convergent signs outlined above. Jesus, Paul, and John, all told us about the time of the end and what it would look like. We ignore their counsel at our peril. Judgment is coming to this world - very soon.

Pastor, have you taught your flock about all this? Are they putting together the pieces of the prophetic puzzle because you've been faithful in teaching them how all these parts are interrelated when seen through the lens of Scripture?

Or, have you determined that the 30% of Bible prophecy has no relevance to our lives today and getting people ready for Jesus at His glorious appearing in the clouds to take us to His Father's House as His magnificent Bride is a myth not worthy of discussion?

My word to you, Pastor, is to be ready to explain your negligence in this matter when you stand before Christ at the Bema Seat.

## **2. Pastors seem to have no problems coddling people in their churches who support a major political party that has embraced wickedness as its agenda**

This issue is like the third rail of an electrified train. Touch it and you die from 750 volts coursing through your body. At least this seems to be the fear of pastors causing them to stay far from it in their weekly discourse in the pulpit.

Of course, I'm speaking about the Democrat Party and all that it stands for. Don't get me wrong: the Republican Party and many of the people in it are extremely problematic. However, what should cause every single pastor who professes any kind of understanding and allegiance to the Bible, i.e. the inerrant, infallible Word of God, to make clear as noon on a brilliant sunny day is that anyone who associates with, or declares themselves to be aligned with, this party is yoking themselves to sin and death.

You might think that's a pretty harsh and unloving thing to say. Well, let me prove it to you.

If you look at the Party Platform of the Democrats, it's full of high-minded and uplifting words as to how they will create a better America for all people. But, what does this really mean? Under their section titled "Healing the Soul of America", they discuss *Protecting Women's Rights* and *Protecting LGBTQ+ Rights*. From those two sections, here are some quotes:

*Like the majority of Americans, Democrats believe every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal **abortion**.*

*We will work to ensure **LGBTQ+** people are not discriminated against when seeking **to adopt or foster children** . . .*

*Recognizing that **LGBTQ+** youth and adults suffer from significant health disparities, including mental health and substance use disorders, Democrats will expand mental health and suicide prevention services, and **ban harmful “conversion therapy” practices**.*

From the highest branches of government in our land, in both the Executive and Legislative Branches – and often in the Judicial Branch – Democrats work toward these goals. We have only to see the Executive Orders coming from the White House and the bills that emerge from Congress to see that the Democrats are fully committed to achieving the ends that they declare, namely:

- They fully support abortion up to and even beyond the birth of a child.
- They seek to confuse and harm children by indoctrinating them into a lifestyle completely opposed to God’s will by having them live with people who have rejected God in their lives.
- They intend to prevent children from learning their true identity as God made them and will pursue any means necessary to achieve gender dysphoria in these innocent ones.

How is it possible for a true believer in Jesus Christ to be part of such wickedness that promotes all that is antithetical to God? How can a born-again, blood-bought person saved by grace even consider being a Democrat? Worse still, how can you, Pastor, not speak out

and bring the clear Gospel message that absolutely none of us should have anything to do with the evil stench of this Party?

Yet, few pastors have the courage. Oh, I know, you're so concerned for their souls that you wouldn't want to say anything that might trigger them to leave and miss the few Biblical nuggets you toss from the pulpit. Or, you have big donors who are Democrats and you're afraid you might upset them to the point that they'd withdraw their tithes. Perhaps you're concerned that the government might begin persecuting you for going against its woke agenda.

Here is what Romans 6:13 tells us in this regard:

*Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

Can you truthfully tell me that those who align in your church with the Democrat Party or you, Pastor who condone that are actually practicing what this verse instructs?

How might God view your excuses when you stand before Him?

### **3. In this era of COVID, pastors have been universally silent on the evil of the so-called vaccines**

When the world was first introduced to COVID-19 in the early months of 2020, out of prudent caution, most everyone agreed to follow the dictates of the medical authorities to stop the spread of the virus and get it under control. After all, they were the professionals whom most people trusted. It just made sense.

But some of us had a check in our spirit. In our God-given discernment something didn't seem to add up. Government leaders were echoing the doctors and scientists: wear a mask, social distance, wipe down every surface with disinfectant, lockdown all businesses – oh, except if you're a major corporation. Thus, lockdowns were imposed on small businesses, but large ones – selling exactly the same products – were allowed to continue unhindered. If one followed the mainstream news media, this spin was repeated ad nauseum.

Some of us, however, watched and listened to alternative media, and a different message came out almost immediately. Viruses are incredibly small. Given the weave of masks of any kind – whether homemade or N-95 – they would do no good against a virus. It would be like throwing a grain of sand toward a tennis net. Would it get through? Yes, because the distance between the strings is far greater than the size of the particle of sand. With masks and viruses, that analogy is probably flawed because you'd need much bigger holes in the net to make the comparison.

In regard to businesses, what made box stores immune from the spread of the virus, whereas it attacked Mom & Pop ones relentlessly?

Add to this the mixed messages from people like Dr. Anthony Fauci, who first declared – correctly – that masks were of no use, then changed his tune to profess his absolute faith in masks, maybe even by wearing two or three of them. It was difficult to know what was really going on.

When we saw that a simulation of a novel coronavirus unleashed upon an unsuspecting world had been role played in what is known as Event 201 just a couple months prior to the outbreak of a novel

coronavirus, that definitely hoisted some red flags. Every Christian with a modicum of wisdom and discernment should have been questioning the narrative at that point.

Time kept rolling and the authoritarian dictates remained in place and caused many to suffer – not least of whom were the elderly confined in nursing homes and cruelly isolated from their loved ones.

Deaths began piling up in hospitals. How could that be? They were reported as coming directly from COVID. It was so deadly that America and the entire world were on the brink of collapse because of this awful pandemic.

But a few doctors began speaking about phenomenal results with an easily obtainable, generic drug called Hydroxychloroquine. Subsequently, Ivermectin was also shown to be highly effective if taken within the first 4-5 days of contracting the illness. However, we learned that these drugs were being demonized. No one should take them, as they were supposedly incredibly dangerous – contrary to decades of use around the world against malaria and parasites.

Those who went to the Emergency Room with initial COVID symptoms were told to go home until things got really bad – then come back. Instead of treating people immediately, all medical common sense about early treatment was set aside. When they came back feeling really bad, the hospital narrative was to separate people from family and isolate them in the COVID ICU. It was a terrible time because bodies began piling up. COVID was such a killer disease that it made the 1918 Spanish Flu pale in comparison.

Again, the narrative became suspect when it was learned that most COVID patients were being given a drug called Remdesivir, and soon thereafter were put on a ventilator. To help them accept the

ventilator, patients were given Midazolam or a similar drug to relax the body.

Where to start with this combination of treatments?

They came about because the government dictates certain protocols and hospitals receive significant sums of money for following them. The government-directed, computerized protocol for COVID treatment was exactly what I noted above. For following this, hospitals were paid per patient per each of the drugs and procedures. It was highly lucrative.

But what was the result? Remdesivir had been previously shown in Ebola patient treatment to kill upwards of 50% of those receiving the drug. When patients performed poorly on it, the “obvious” necessity was to place them on a ventilator to help them breathe. Midazolam-like drugs were administered on people with respiratory problems to facilitate the ventilator insertion. What does Midazolam do? It relaxes the lungs and actually makes breathing more difficult. On the ventilator, per the protocols, many patients’ lungs were literally blown out because the settings were too high. There is also evidence that these computer-assisted ventilators may have been hacked to increase to oxygen flow and kill people.

Given all this, one would think that doctors and nurses witnessing the results of their treatments would rebel en-masse. You don’t remember that? It’s because it never happened. What did happen was legally sanctioned hospital homicide – Hospicide, as I call it – and the deaths attributed to this atrocity are countless.

Did any pastors notice this? Did any speak out in order to warn or counsel their congregants about these evils?

In conjunction with these events was the ubiquitous PCR test – the supposed gold standard to determine if someone had COVID. Except that – as its inventor Carey Mullis stated – it was never intended to perform such diagnosis. One can actually find anything he wishes through this test just by changing the cycling rate and declaring its use for a particular disease. There is more regarding these tests, but the bottom line is that they are completely useless. If you're able to find COVID in a mushroom by testing it, what does that tell you?

In the midst of these alternative media disclosures, we had the incident of a pastor in Canada (actually one of several) who wouldn't close down his church and obey the government dictates. He preached on Romans 13, the role of government and the believers' obligation under its tyranny, and within two days was sent to prison for several months. When finally released, he chose to take his church underground because he knew that further persecution would come. How many pastors in America took heed to prepare their churches for persecution in line with what Jesus said would occur for true believers?

Then, in 2021 the real issue surfaced. So-called vaccines to combat COVID were developed at breakneck speed, actually bypassing all traditional FDA vaccine-testing protocols. Based on mRNA technology – which enabled the hacking of “the software of life” – America's government and every single other government around the world bought the drugs and mandated its people take these shots.

From the very beginning, certain, brave, medical professionals called for a halt to this because of their unknown quality. Actually it was known, because animal experimentation around 2010 had shown that they resulted in a 100% kill rate for their test subjects. For their troubles, these outspoken doctors and researchers began

to be throttled through the cancel culture originating from the highest echelons of government.

As time has gone on, absolute proof that these injections are deadly continued to mount. The government vaccine injury database known as VAERS began showing deaths and incredible numbers of adverse effects piling up. As bad as that was, a 2010 Harvard study had concluded that only 1% – 10% of actual cases were reported in VAERS because of the difficulty of entering data. This means that today as I write this with VAERS showing somewhat over 31,000 deaths in America due to the COVID injections from Pfizer and Moderna, the real number is likely closer to 3.1 million deaths.

Add to this the results of ingredient testing of vaccine vials around the world by reputable doctors and labs and what they contain is beyond the pale, including graphene oxide, various types of nanoparticles, hydrogel parasites, quantum dot technology, and much more.

Embalmers have spoken up and provided videos of astounding clots in their dead patients ranging from one foot to six feet in length in the arteries of those on whom they're working. These clots themselves are not comprised of blood, rather of various inorganic materials.

Is it any wonder that millions of people have “Died Suddenly” as the headlines put it? Or that life insurance companies are reflecting this fact? Should we be surprised that very fit athletes worldwide have simply dropped dead on the playing field by the hundreds? Would it shock us to know that the actual patents for these “vaccines” contain the very ingredients that researchers have found, and that these substances are subject to control by 5G electromagnetic frequencies?

None of this is conspiracy. It'll all proven fact.

For those with eyes to see, we understand that this is Bible prophecy playing out right before us. This is the problem with the lack of understanding of what the Bible foretells. Pastors who should be on the cutting edge of these events, are lulled into false security as to what is going on in the world. They cannot connect the dots because they don't even see them. For those who do grasp that a puzzle is being assembled exactly as Scripture tells us, the vast majority of pastors in this camp have stayed silent.

If you don't get it that the 7-year Tribulation has been casting its shadows upon this world, what you say in the pulpit won't reflect the reality of the deadly circumstances on the ground that are being directed by the spiritual realm.

Tyranny has been rising at a breath-taking rate. Soon a man with a plan will enter onto the world stage whom people will believe can fix the ills of this planet. Deception will be ripe. Our second point about the Democrat Party is part of this. This is where the greatest lies are originating and they're coming from demon-possessed people to demon-possessed people. Does this mean that every Democrat has a demon lurking inside him? Of course not, but because of whom they associate with they are subject to much greater satanic influences. We have only to look at what going on in our schools today to understand this with the literal war on children.

Silence from the pulpits is unacceptable in the eyes of the Lord. Pastors have literally neglected their duties before a Holy God.

Proverbs 24:10-12

*If you falter in a time of trouble,  
how small is your strength!*

*Rescue those being led away to death;  
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.  
If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who guards your life know it?  
Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?*

Pastor, have you faltered in fear of man and neglected to learn and convey what you should have these last several years? Is it really moral and Godly, Pastor, to tell your congregation that taking this dangerous, deadly injection is their choice? Given what you should have known and now do know based on what I've said here, shouldn't you be urging and warning your flock: "Do NOT take these COVID vaccines – period! They are hazardous to your health and will only harm you."

Will you walk in righteousness or in the way of the world?

Proverbs 25:26

*Like a muddied spring or a polluted well  
are the righteous who give way to the wicked.*

Pastor, has your fear or ignorance affected your moral authority? For not speaking out, it should certainly have done so.

Ezekiel 3:16-19

*At the end of seven days the word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not*

*turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.*

Pastor, by not declaring the evil around us – evil easily found out so that ignorance is not an excuse – where do you stand in your role of shepherd and watchman to protect your flock from harm and to call out the wickedness being perpetrated in America and elsewhere?

We are in a spiritual war like no other. The Bible gives us the enemy's playbook – if we read it and believe it. What I've outlined here are not conspiracy theories, they are truths that have enveloped the world exactly as Satan has planned.

Pastor, what will you do now that you're heard what is really going on around us? Will you continue to hole up inside the walls of your church and say it's all someone else's problem – that your purpose is to simply preach the Gospel?

That would be fine if Jesus hadn't told us to watch, to wait with eager expectation for His glorious appearing, and to be busy about the work of God's Kingdom – occupying until He comes. Might some of that work include educating your people and others about what's been foisted upon them? Might that specifically include praying against the harmful effects of the COVID shots if through your neglect people took them because they didn't know any better – that they were seeking guidance from you?

I know I've seemingly been harsh in this letter, but Pastor – or Ministry Leader, do you not deserve such rebuke for failing to uphold God's standards for your life and position of trust and authority? Paul's prayer to the Corinthian church is my prayer for you:

2 Corinthians 13:5-10

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.*

Thank you for your careful consideration of what I have said here today. May the Lord guide you to bring forth truth and not fear what is soon to come.

In Christ's Name,

Gary W. Ritter