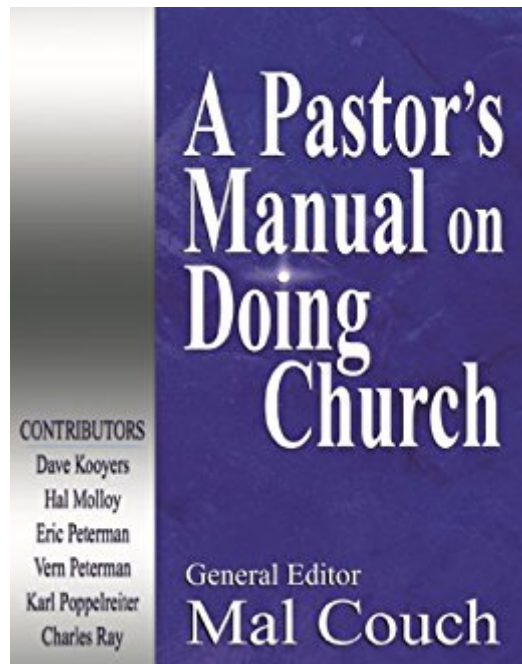


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Pastor's Manual For Doing Church: Issues, Topics And Concerns



Synopsis

Excerpt(s): Pastor, Definition of Surprisingly, the noun for pastor (poimen) is used only once in the New Testament in describing the church officer. Paul writes, Christ has given some to be pastors indeed teachers (Eph. 4:11b). The apostle urged the Ephesian elders to shepherd, pastor the church of God (Acts 20:28). In this passage he also says, "The Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd" (Acts 20:28). There is the inter-twining of the words elder, overseer, and shepherd in Paul's thinking when he refers to the leadership of the church. Elder, Description of According to the New Testament, the only way elders take up their ministry is by an appointment from other elders. McGarvey writes: It should be observed that a plurality of elders were appointed in every church; and this, so far as we are able to trace the facts, was the universal practice of the apostles. In appointing these, Paul and Barnabas were but following the example of the older apostles, by whom this office was instituted in the churches of Judea. (A Biblical Theology of the Church, 194) The elders-pastors-teachers were to be living examples of good works, "with purity in doctrine, sound in speech which is beyond reproach" (Titus 2:7-8). Though the word doctrine (didaskalia) has a basic and simple meaning in Greek, the theological implication as used by Paul is awesome. The lexicon defines the word as "teaching, instruction, to impart." The elders/pastors were to carry out a noble process, with a glorious goal. All was to be aimed at nothing short of an accepting community of believers with a mature reliance on the Head, Jesus. In Acts we can feel the pulse, the heartthrob of this great teacher Paul. His aim was to inform the mind, awaken the understanding, stir the reason, and quicken the judgment. Paul expounded (Acts 28:23), exhorted (20:1), disputed (9:29), reasoned (19:8-9), persuaded (28:23), discoursed (20:25), admonished (20:31), commended (20:32), rehearsed (21:19), and made defense of the truth (24:10). This is the present task of those who are elders as defined and described in the Scriptures. There is no room for weak pastors who may be unsure in their teaching convictions and leadership! Recommended Books Mal Couch, A Biblical Theology of the Church (Grand Rapids: Kregel). See Elder, Definition of; Overseer; Teacher; Pastor; Elder, Education of; Elder, Spiritual Qualifications of.

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Customer Reviews

Mal Couch is the general editor of this book, which is actually 2 books in one. The first half of the book is the "pastor's manual for doing church". The second half is a commentary on the book of Titus. Mal Couch felt the need to write this book because of the pastorate under fire today. Today, with the "organic church" movement spreading (without any biblical leadership structure whatsoever) this book is more essential than ever. Mal Couch says in the Foreword "Let the bible speak" should be the watchword for safeguarding the integrity of local churches. As a companion book and a more in-depth look Scripturally into the issues this book addresses, you should check out: "Biblical Theology of the Church", also by Mal Couch. The book is written by Mal Couch and 6 conservative bible scholars who all respect the Word of God and desire to obey what it says. This book is great for pastors, but also for lay people who want to know if they are part of a biblical church. It is also great for those called to start a church, on a biblical foundation. There are 90+ topics covered in Part 1. They include: baptism, home groups, counseling, church government, leadership, biblical fellowship, church discipline, heresies, hermeneutics, prophecy, preaching, psychology, marriage, missions, music, women in ministry, marriage, etc. The first half of the book has Scripture, Scripture, and Scripture to guide in those 90+ topics. Mal Couch has free articles and many free audio teachings on the website: WWW.SCOFIELDPROPHECYSTUDIES.ORG

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