***"Prerequisites & Patterns For Pastors"***

**1 Timothy 3:1-7 - 2/3/19**

*What are the Biblical requirements for a person to be a pastor?*

A "prerequisite" is: "something that is *required* as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist."

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**

1) A Man Must Yearn For Oversight & Supervision of Christ's Church **\*Vs.1**

The office of pastor is intended solely for men, which was/is God's foreordained plan due to spiritual headship; it began with Adam. (1 Timothy 2:12-14)

This is under Christ's Headship - as a role of service. It is be carried-out in humility. It is not to be understood, seen or employed through lording it over God's people.

There's to be a deep sense of stretching-out and reaching for this special "office", which conveys conviction and \*calling - both \*subjectively and \*objectively.

The idea of "aspiration" is both biblical and essential, as being a pastor comes with a warning: 'It can be harmful to your health!'.

It is also, "a fine ('beautiful, good') work, He desires to do". (Vs.1)

As we look at the specific requirements and prerequisites for being a pastor, we need to understand that *no pastor* meets 100% of these, 100% of the time.

**1 Timothy 3:2+3**

2) They Are To Be: "above reproach - the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine, or pugnacious - but gentle, peaceable, and free from the love of money."

The requirements are *high* (*as they should be*), but the keys are character, and consistency.

There are prerequisites, which are to not only be met initially but they are to be maintained throughout the pastor's ministry (patterns).

Christ-likeness is paramount, not only because of *perception*, but also because of power.

*"It is not great talents God blesses so much but rather, great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God."* - Pastor Robert Murray McCheyne

**1 Timothy 3:4+5**

3) They Must Handle Their Home-Life First, *As* They Would Christ's Church

If a pastor can't manage his own household well, then not only is he disqualified but he would then fail in doing so, in Christ's Church.

As the pastor goes from years into decades, his understanding, experience, complexities and issues often change, and so does he.

It is in the midst of these challenges and changes, that he is to continue to manage his own household well if he is going to manage Christ's church, well.

Not that we are looking for perfection, but consistency and conviction in this particular area, matter.

**1 Timothy 3:6+7**

4) He Can't Be A New Christian, & He Must Be Consistent In His Christian Walk

The pastor/elder's reputation outside of the church must be maintained so that he won't be disgraced or entrapped by the enemy, nor do damage to the reputation of Christ/the church.