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Potential Publishers,

We are seeking a publisher for our book manuscript/proposal. We are the father and sons' team that operate Jeremiah 20:9 Ministries – *A Ministry to New Testament Churches committed to the glory of God through Expository Preaching*. With over eighty years of combined preaching and pastoral ministry experience, we seek to minister to the church at large, our own churches that we pastor and to the men that God calls into His glorious ministry.

We are eagerly seeking publication of our book – *The Ministry We Need: Paul's Ancient Farewell – the Pastor's Present Calling*. This book offers timely encouragement, pastoral exhortation, and a needed reminder to solidify our focus as ministers regarding “the calling to which we have been called.” This book is unpublished material, drawing from neither our dissertations nor any articles.

Along with this cover letter we are including our book proposal (11 pages). Our proposal provides an in-depth introduction to the project, a detailed summary of our chapters, an assessment of the project's audience and market competition and other pertinent data. You can find brief CV's on pp 6-7 or at: Jeremiah 20:9 Ministries (just click link) or more complete ones on request. Chapters 5, 6, 8 and 11 can be ready for submission shortly. We expect those revisions will be complete by Oct/Nov 2020.

We will be happy to answer any questions or to provide you with further information. Any phone or text correspondence please contact Jeremy Rogers and any mail or email to Tony Rogers. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy A. Rogers  
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Rush Creek Church  
Arlington TX

Jordan N. Rogers  
Senior Pastor  
Hillcrest Baptist Church  
Nederland TX

Tony A. Rogers  
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**PROPOSED TITLE**

*The Ministry We Need: Paul's Ancient Farewell – the Pastor's Present Calling*

**AUTHORS**

Dr. Jeremy A. Rogers, Dr. Jordan N. Rogers, Dr. Tony A. Rogers

**ONE-SENTENCE DESCRIPTION**

This book offers timely encouragement, pastoral exhortation, and a needed reminder to solidify our focus regarding “the calling to which we have been called.”

**CATEGORY**

Church Ministry / Preaching / Pastoral Ministry / Pastoral Theology / Practical Theology

**AUDIENCE**

**Primary:** All those involved in pastoral ministry. Excellence in ministry is that for which we strive, “Do everything for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)” and “Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord (Col 3:23).” Our desire is to encourage God’s faithful men, as well as those who may have veered off course. Our hope is that you will find refreshment and encouragement to press in and press on in your calling. We are not simply interested in what pastors do, but who they are. Knowing what you believe shapes your life and how you pastor.

**Secondary:** Those who are training for pastoral ministry and those who train them. To those training for a lifetime of ministry we trust they will see this as a clear and compelling guide to faithful pastoral ministry. They can receive instruction in some paths to follow and some traps to avoid. Prayerfully, they will discover inspiration in some testimonies of God’s faithful men and will learn to follow Christ, love his bride – the church – and preach the Word. Our hope, as well, is that those training these men will see this as a tool they can use, a companion work for teaching homiletics and practical theology.

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

This book offers encouragement and a needed reminder to solidify our focus regarding “the calling to which we have been called” during a time when ministers are walking away from the ministry or staying in the ministry yet being rendered ineffective due to loss of vision, purpose, or motivation.

Ministers fail in ministry or leave the ministry altogether for several reasons. Carey Nieuwhof states “when you lead a large ministry or organization, it comes with problems and challenges 99% of the population never wakes up to most days” (Aug 18, 2020). Most recently COVID-19 significantly compounds the difficulty of ministry. Barna reports, regarding the pandemic, “Week over week, we’re seeing the beginning signs of this crisis taking a longer-term toll on pastors, on their families and on their people” (Mar 31, 2020). Point is, if we as ministers do not focus on “the calling to which we have been called” we may suffer loss of vision, or worse, loss of ministry. According to Thom Rainer “the pandemic really just exacerbated trends already in place” (Aug 31, 2020).

While analysis and diagnosis are certainly necessary, remedy is paramount – hence *the ministry we need!* One can only find the answer to that *need* in the sacred scriptures. Outside of Christ, there is no greater ministry example in the New Testament than the Apostle Paul. Whether we are just needing a reminder, a refresher, or a complete reorientation of our ministry approach we should all be able to benefit from a look at the ministry of the Apostle Paul as he passionately describes it in his parting instructions to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:17-38).

For every man of God who is spiritually drifting, or knows of one who is considering leaving the ministry and the church behind, this is a book that seeks to fervently and insightfully come alongside and empower them to re-embrace their calling and live out the ministry so desperately needed by the church. The book is conversational, thoroughly evangelical, theologically accurate, pastorally informed, practical, and user-friendly. Each chapter includes real-life stories and insights from those who have faithfully walked the *ministry we need*.

## UNIQUE ANGLES

In this book, the author's will:

- Present 12 ministry principles defining such areas as *a gospel-centered ministry, a content and hard-working ministry, a humble ministry, a vigilant ministry ...*
- We are not simply interested in what pastors do, but who they are – knowing what you believe shapes how you live and, in this case, how you pastor.
- Present 12 examples of God working that principle out in real-life ministry examples through personal pastoral testimony and biography of faithful ministers.
- Present 12 focused prayers so the man of God may zero in on a characteristic or truth he might obtain and/or confess where he has fallen short.
- Reveal the richness and depth of God's Word by drawing from a singular biblical passage (Acts 20:17-38), while retaining both exegetical and applicational integrity.
- Show some of the dangerous pitfalls of ministry such as arrogance, discontentment, laziness, walking in flesh, and the failure to finish well.
- Show some of the glorious wonders of ministry such as being bold for the Lord, having the Spirit lead you, being on mission with God, having a complete ministry leading to the ultimate, "Well done, good and faithful servant! (Mt 25:21)."
- Offer compelling biblical and theological reasoning for their conclusions.
- Provide practical insight for the real world, not the "ivory tower", while maintaining theological and exegetical rigor.
- Provide a sense of urgency and tenacity to the "the calling to which we have been called."
- Provide not only a remedy for what ails the minister, but preventatives to keep him well.

## CURRENT INTEREST

As important as it is for pastors to have the ability and the reservoir to articulate theological and philosophical ideas *about* ministry, they must be able also to faithfully live those out in the church and the world. Relevance is admirable, but fidelity even more.

We are not interested in what the *world* says about pastors and/or preaching – we are however, interested in what *God's Word* says about pastors. It is the God of that Word we seek to please. Pastors exist to shepherd God's people in God's churches until Jesus returns (1 Pet 5:1-5). To that end, God tells us shepherds protect His people, feed them, lead them, and care for them. This is our goal and what *The Ministry We Need: Paul's Ancient Farewell – the Pastor's Present Calling* is all about!

## READER BENEFITS

1. The reader will learn how to minister in an effective way, discerning what he should change or reinforce.
2. The reader will feel both a sense of confidence as he is faithful to the ministry God has given him and a sense of conviction in those areas of ministry where he is lacking.
3. While identifying their story in the pages of *The Ministry We Need*, the reader will discover compelling reasons for a ministry that is biblically accurate, theologically sound, practical, relevant, and God-honoring.

4. The wide variety of stories, from living and historical figures, will encourage and inspire the reader to “keep their hand to the plow” (Lk 9:62).
5. The reader will be able to identify the twelve aspects of ministry that typify the ministry we need: *A Consistent Ministry, A Humble Ministry, A Ready Ministry, A Bold Ministry, A Gospel-centered Ministry, A Spirit-led Ministry, A Mission-minded Ministry, A Blameless and Complete Ministry, A Vigilant Ministry, A Dependent Ministry, A Content and Hardworking Ministry* and *A Relational Ministry*.
6. The reader will not just learn about what pastors do according to Scripture, but who they are or should be as well – knowing what you believe shapes your life and how you pastor
7. The reader will be encouraged to “fulfill [his] ministry (2 Tim 4:5)” and “pay attention to the ministry [he has] received in the Lord, so that [he] can accomplish it (Col 4:17).”
8. Have the benefit of preaching and pastoral ministry presented from the perspective of three thoughtful practitioners who have experienced the difficulties of ministry.

## COMPETING WORKS

There are no current books on the market today that specifically address the issues this book does, as it does; everything from character, calling and contentment. While *On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work* by Derek J. Prime and Alistair Begg (Moody, 2004) and *The New Guidebook for Pastors* by James W. Bryant and Mac Brunson (B&H, 2007) are comparable, this work uniquely stands on its own, focusing on *the ministry we need* from one singular passage (Acts 20:17-38). Also, we are not simply interested in the scriptural activities of pastors, we are interested in who they are or should be – which is why we continually emphasize that knowing what you believe shapes your life and how you pastor. Ministers should find inspiration in their calling and pursue it with excellence.

There are six titles pertinent to the work we are proposing. They are pertinent for the reasons of style and subject matter. The first three speak to style and the latter three to content. They are:

- *Remaining Faithful in Ministry: 9 Essential Convictions for Every Pastor* by John MacArthur (Crossway, 2019). MacArthur is always Word-focused and warns us of the type of ministry to avoid and the one to which we must gravitate. It is an exegesis of 2 Corinthians but is extremely homiletical, more like a sermon or compilation of sermons MacArthur preached. It offers a style similar to that for which we are looking (pastoral truths from a particular passage, in our case – Acts 20:17-38) but is also way too brief (80 pages) and unbalanced – the Introduction (twelve pages) is longer than any other chapter, the longest being seven. Also, it does not cover the spectrum of topics we will speak to.
- *The Book on Leadership: The Power of a Godly Influence* by John MacArthur (Nelson Books, 2004). While the topic is not necessarily the same, it does touch on some areas of pastoral ministry since MacArthur rightly concurs that leadership for the Christian always has a spiritual dimension. He speaks a lot to character issues. The structure of the book is based on a biographical sketch of Paul from the shipwreck of Acts 27 and 2 Corinthians; which he uses to uncover twenty-six characteristics that are true of all leaders. While truth from a singular passage(s) is our goal – some of MacArthur’s leadership characteristics will cross over to arguments we are making, while others do not.
- *Anointed Expository Preaching* by Stephen F. and David L. Olford (B&H, 1998). Primarily this is a book offering in-depth discussion of expository preaching and answers the question, “What does the Bible say about preaching?” In answering, the Olford’s endeavor to unfold both the nature of preaching and the stature of the preacher. They state, “With this awesome understanding of the incarnational nature of preaching ... if a preacher is to be used of God, there is the walk that he must pursue.” Each chapter is an exegesis and application of a topic. Olford’s work has a more homiletic focus instead of our pastoral emphasis and instead of each

chapter focusing on a specific text, we offer one text (Acts 20:17-38) for the entire work. While some of this material would be related, their technical aspects of sermon preparation would not intersect with our work.

- *The New Guidebook for Pastors* by James W. Bryant and Mac Brunson (B&H, 2007). This was an updated version of W.A. Criswell's, *Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors*. The authors assert their goal that while there have been numerous works on pastoral ministry, "Few have been written to encompass the entirety of that ministry. This is an attempt to be comprehensive and complete, recognizing that each chapter could be turned into a book." This is the content we are looking for with the style noted above. There were good reasons for Bryant and Brunson to update Criswell's work (it was over forty years old) but theirs is approaching fifteen years old and focuses much more on the *how* instead of the *who/why* of pastoral ministry.
- *On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work* by Derek J. Prime and Alistair Begg (Moody, 2004). There is a wealth of content in this book. They state their goal is, "[To] review the ministry of pastors and teachers in the Church and, in cases where it may help, share our own experience and practice, not as models but as a possible guide and starting point no matter how amended or adapted, for those who are at the beginning of their ministry or others who may benefit from the stimulus of comparing their own way of doing things with someone else's." While there may be some overlap in material, we are more interested in deriving our pastoral insights from the given text than letting our personal experience guide the ministry discussion. This is the closest text to our subject matter, but it is sixteen years old.
- *Pastoral Ministry: How to Shepherd Biblically* by John MacArthur (Nelson, 2005) is what many would consider the *tour de force* of pastoral theology. MacArthur states his goal as "to encourage and instruct this and the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and teachers to provide the kind of shepherd leadership for the church that God's Word requires... This volume purposes to recover, reaffirm, and restore a biblical approach to pastoral ministry." In this regard, while much subject matter may be similar, we are not intending to write a tome on pastoral theology per se.
- Other works such as Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix (*Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons* and *Progress in the Pulpit: How to Grow in Your Preaching* [Moody, 2017]), Tony Merida (*The Christ-Centered Expositor: A Field Guide for Word-Driven Disciple Makers* [B&H Academic, 2016]) and John MacArthur (*Preaching: How to Preach Biblically* [Thomas Nelson, 2005]) speak to pastoral ministry but they primarily deal with sermon preparation and delivery.

### **PROPOSED BACK COVER COPY**

What would cause the Apostle Paul to testify that "I declare to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you (Acts 20:26)?" There must have been some godly qualities that typified his ministry. Outside of Christ, there is no greater ministry example in the New Testament than Paul. Some have a *ministry they should not want*; some desire a *ministry they think they want*, but this book seeks to identify *the ministry we need*.

All ministers struggle and we all know those who frustratingly toil alongside us in the Lord's field. You may be amid deep struggle now; worn, tattered, scarred, ready to quit – you have lost the focus and the joy of your calling. Most of us in ministry have known those who have either left the ministry or shipwrecked their faith. Quite possibly this is you. Sadly, many feel ministry carries with it too much baggage and the church they pastor or the one they aspire to is not the one found in the New Testament. Whatever the current percentage is for ministers leaving the ministry or flitting from church to church – *one* is too high a number. What we need to do is "*put our heads down, focus on our calling and the path before us, and determine to finish well!*"



Drawing from Acts 20:17-38 the authors will prescribe ministry principles touching on a wide range of pastoral and preaching insights. There are preaching/pastoral ministry books out there that are nothing more than self-help narratives Paul would have condemned at Corinth. This is not one of those books! We are not seeking, nor is our motivation, the wisdom of this world.

- *What does it really mean to have a ministry that is Gospel-centered?*
- *Is the Holy Spirit the welcomed participant or the intrusive guest in my ministry?*
- *Can we say to those to whom we minister “I am innocent of the blood of all of you?”*
- *Is my ministry more about exalting me or exalting Christ?*

### **POTENTIAL ENDORSERS**

- Dr. David Allen (friend, Distinguished Prof of Preaching, Director of the Southwestern Center for Text-Driven Preaching, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)
- Dr. Jim Richards (friend, Executive Director, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention)
- Dr. Jimmy Draper (friend, Pastor, President Emeritus of LifeWay Christian Resources)
- Dr. Danny Akin (friend, President, Prof of Preaching and Theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary)
- Dr. Barry K. Creamer (friend, President and Prof of Humanities, Criswell College)
- Dr. Ben Awbrey (friend, Sr Prof of Preaching, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)
- Dr. R. Alan Streett (friend, Sr Research Prof of Biblical Theology, Criswell College)
- Dr. Tony Wolfe (friend, Director of Pastor/Church Relations, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention)
- Dr. Shane Pruitt (friend, National Next Gen Evangelism Director for the North American Mission Board SBC, Alpharetta, GA)
- Dr. Nathan Lorick (friend, Executive Director, Colorado Baptist General Convention, Centennial CO)
- Dr. Christopher Moody (friend, Lead Pastor, Beaumont’s FBC, Beaumont TX)
- Dr. Dante D. Wright I (friend, Sr Pastor, Sweet Home – The Pinnacle of Praise, Round Rock TX)
- Dr. Terry Turner (friend, Sr Pastor, Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church, Mesquite TX)
- Dr. Andrew Hébert (friend, Lead Pastor, Paramount Baptist Church, Amarillo TX)
- Dr. Nathan Lino (friend, Sr Pastor, Northeast Houston Baptist Church, Houston TX)
- Dr. H. Leroy Metts (friend, Distinguished Sr Prof of Greek & NT, Criswell College)
- Dr. Rodney Harrison (friend, Prof of Christian Education, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)

### **OTHER DETAILS**

- Format:
- Word Count:
- Page Count: 200-260
- Deadline: 6-12 months after signed contract

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR’S**

Tony, Jeremy and Jordan Rogers are the father and sons’ team that operate Jeremiah 20:9 Ministries – *A Ministry to New Testament Churches committed to the glory of God through Expository Preaching*. With over eighty years of combined preaching and pastoral ministry experience, they seek to minister to the church, their own churches and to the men that God calls into His glorious ministry.

Jeremy A. Rogers is the Campus Pastor of Rush Creek Church (Arlington Park) in Arlington TX. He began preaching when he was thirteen years old and has been in ministry for twenty-five years. He is

recipient of numerous preaching and ministry awards, as well as *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* (2010). He holds the DMin in Expository Preaching from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dissertation: *An Experimental Design Strategy to Examine Adult Congregational Involvement with the Weekly Sunday Morning Expository Sermon at Arlington Park Baptist Church in Arlington TX*). He has served in many areas of Southern Baptist denominational life including the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and has served as Adjunct Professor of Preaching at Criswell College in Dallas TX. He has book reviews in the *Midwestern Journal of Theology* and *Criswell Theological Review*. Jeremy's helpmate and greatest earthly blessing is the former LouAnn Donathan. They have been married for seventeen years. She is a homemaker and runs a business from home. They are the parents of five children: Jeremiah (age 15), SaraBeth (age 14), EllaGrace (age 12), Micah (age 11) and Katerina Joy (age 8).

Jordan N. Rogers is the Senior Pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Nederland TX. He has pastored for the last ten years and has been in ministry for nineteen years. Jordan played college baseball at both San Jacinto Jr. College and Rice University in Houston TX. Drafted to play Major League Baseball three times by the Colorado Rockies, San Diego Padres, and Chicago Cubs. He holds the PhD in Biblical Studies (emphasis in Expository Preaching) from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dissertation: *Abstracting Concrete Phronesis: A Methodology to Guide the Derivation of Biblical Principles for the Purpose of Preaching*). He has served in many areas of Southern Baptist denominational life including chairman of the Southern Baptist of Texas Credentials Committee. He is the author of *Authentic Faith: Do I Have Real Faith* (2015), "Proclaim the Glorious Exchange" a contribution in *Evangelism Takes Heart* (2019) and a book review in the *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*. Jordan's helpmate and greatest earthly blessing is the former Julia Channing Sallee. They have been married for twelve years. She is a homemaker and sings in the praise team at church. They are the parents of three children: Josiah (age 11), Elijah (age 9) and Addie Jo (age 7).

Tony A. Rogers is the Senior Pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Bowie TX. He has pastored for the last thirty years and has been in ministry for forty-two years. He has been a member of the Evangelical Theological Society for thirty-three years. He holds the DMin in Expository Preaching from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Dissertation: *Enhancing the Skill of Sermon Introductions for Expository Preaching*). He has served in many areas of Southern Baptist denominational life including chairman of the board of Criswell College in Dallas TX. He has numerous book reviews in the *Midwestern Journal of Theology*, *Criswell Theological Review*, *Themelios*, *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*, *Denver Seminary Journal*, *Luther Rice Journal of Christian Studies* and upcoming reviews in *Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* and the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*. Tony's helpmate and greatest earthly blessing is the former Terrie Lynn O'Brien. They have been married for forty years. She is a homemaker and runs several in-home businesses. They are the parents of three children: Jeremy (married to LouAnn), Heather (married to Robert Blake), and Jordan (married to Julia). They have fourteen grandchildren.

### **AUTHOR'S PROMOTION**

The authors are experienced men of God who are passionate about God, His Word and His church. They will work closely with the publisher to actively promote, through whatever means deemed helpful, *The Ministry We Need: Paul's Ancient Farewell – the Pastor's Present Calling* and are open to any suggestions.

### **DEDICATION**

Dedicated to all those who have taught us to preach and pastor in class, seminar, dissertation or life. More importantly, they taught us about *the ministry we need*.

*“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2*  
*“Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17*

Dr. Daniel Akin, Dr. David Allen, Dr. Denny Autrey, Dr. Ben Awbrey, Dr. Russ Barksdale, Dr. John Bisagno, Dr. Mac Brunson, Dr. James Bryant, Dr. Vern Charrette, Dr. Lamar Cooper, Dr. Barry Creamer, Dr. Bill Curtis, Dr. George B. Davis Sr., Dr. Lanny Elmore, Dr. Charles Harvey, Dr. Greg Heisler, Dr. Mark Howell, Dr. Kevin King, Dr. Tony Merida, Dr. James Merritt, Dr. H. Leroy Metts, Dr. Dwayne Milioni, Dr. Bob Overton, Dr. Kenneth Parker, Dr. Jim Richards, Dr. Jim Shaddix, Dr. Don L. Stephens, Dr. Alan Streett, Dr. Chuck Ward, Dr. C. Richard Wells, Dr. Hershael York.

## PROPOSED OUTLINE

[Quotes related to the topic of <i>the ministry we need</i> ]	2-3 pages
[Endorsements of this book]	2-3 pages
[Dedications for this book]	2-3 pages
[Amplified] Table of Contents	1-2 pages
[Foreword]	2-3 pages
[Preface] General overview and purpose	1-2 pages
[Acknowledgments]	1-2 pages

**Introduction:** *Reclaiming the ministry we need* 4-6 pages

The book begins by asking readers, “What is *the ministry we need*?” and explaining what is meant (and not meant) by that important question.

The authors will present their own stories and perspectives to describe the positive difference a biblically driven ministry brings about in the life of the minister and those to whom he ministers. They will draw upon years of experience and theological expertise to aid readers in remembering what it means to be a proper minister. While other works might focus on the activities of a minister (and this one will), the author’s here will focus on *who* the minister is.

They will then ask readers, “Is your ministry one that really pleases God or is it a ministry just going through the motions?” “Does what you do please the Lord?” “More importantly, is *who you are*, as minister, pleasing to Him?” From Scripture they will show the biggest temptations for the minister may be in doing things that are not necessarily ministry, or ministry’s best.

The Introduction will close by addressing the truth statement that, “Just because you are in ministry, it does not necessarily follow that it is the ministry we need.” The end of this Introduction will motivate readers to discover how to prevent (or correct) their own tendencies to spiritually drift away from the Lord and the ministry they and the church need.

Each chapter will include a commentary on the “Text Focus” which will include in-depth exegetical insights which will lead to the practical pastoral application found in each chapter.

**Chapter 1:** *The Ministry We Need: A Consistent Ministry* 15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 17-18. (ἀπὸ πρώτης ἡμέρας ἀφ’ ἧς ἐπέβην εἰς τὴν Ἀσίαν, πῶς μεθ’ ὑμῶν τὸν πάντα χρόνον ἐγενόμην – “from [the] first day of which I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time”)



**Ministry Principle:** Over time we can become comfortable in the routine of ministry, and not in a positive way. We must begin to think of our ministries not in terms of frustrating monotony but of faithful steadiness and reliability, hence *a consistent ministry*.

**Chapter Focus:** As our daily tasks are so similar and the focus and purpose of our lives is always the same, we can grow so familiar and at-ease in what we do that we begin to slack in the areas of Preaching, Mission, and Lifestyle. Our preaching, our mission/focus, and our lifestyles should be faithfully consistent. Our preaching, our focus, our lifestyle cannot be subject to the winds of change in the theological landscape, the “spirit of the age”, or even the day to day difficulties of life. We must be an example of faithful consistency to those God called us to guide, showing them that one can live a faithful, bold, present, authentic life for Christ in this ever-changing world.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Father, I cannot be consistent unless you help me. I need consistency in my preaching, mission and lifestyle, forgive me for my lack of inconsistency.

### **Chapter 2: *The Ministry We Need: A Humble Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** v 19a. (*δουλεύων* [Present Active Participle] and *ταπεινοφροσύνης* – “meekness, lowliness, humility.”)

**Ministry Principle:** Pride incessantly pulls at us in every area of ministry. We need a ministry that mirrors that of Jesus, *a humble ministry*.

**Chapter Focus:** God chose to describe his ministers as shepherds. Humility defines and characterizes the shepherd. Their priority is on their sheep, not themselves; it is on God’s Word not their opinions. An arrogant shepherd is an oxymoron.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, forgive me for my arrogance. In being arrogant, I have failed to be like Jesus. May meekness, lowliness and humility characterize my personal life and my ministry.

### **Chapter 3: *The Ministry We Need: A Ready Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** v 19b. (*δακρύων* – “tears” and *πειρασμῶν* – “trials” and *ἐπιβουλαῖς* – “plots”)

**Ministry Principle:** No matter the season we find ourselves in ministry, ministers prepared and ready whatever may come – what we need is *a ready ministry*.

**Chapter Focus:** Scripture commands us to “be ready in season and out of season” (2 Tim 4:2). We minister during the flourishing times of joy and peace, but ministry should also flourish in the face of tears, trials, and plots among other things.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, may I prepare myself to be ready for ministry in whatever form or fashion that takes. Forgive me for my laziness, lack of preparation and my failure to be an ever-ready minister.

### **Chapter 4: *The Ministry We Need: A Bold Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text focus:** v 20. (*ὕπεσσειλάμην* – “to avoid, withdraw, shrink back”)

**Ministry Principle:** Boldness, for the minister, is not always natural and he should never take it for granted. Because the Spirit lives within the minister there may be reasons for our lack of boldness but there is never any good excuse. What we need in a day of fear is *a bold ministry*.

**Chapter Focus:** Boldness is not a personal characteristic. A shy person can be bold; it is Spirit-empowered conviction, courage, and urgency. “In [Jesus] we have boldness and confident access through faith in him” (Eph 3:12). Each is essential, absence of boldness in ministry makes us feeble, fearful and indifferent. Also, boldness is something believers receive from the Lord as in Acts 4:29 and Acts 4:31 and should be something we constantly desire from Him.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** How can you improve on the Apostle Paul? “Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should” (Eph 6:19-20).

**Chapter 5: *The Ministry We Need: A Gospel-centered Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text focus:** v 21 (*τὴν εἰς θεὸν μετάνοιαν* – “repentance toward God” and *πίστιν εἰς τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν* – “faith in our Lord Jesus”)

**Ministry Principle:** ministry can be many things to many people, but what we need is a ministry based on and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ, therefore a *gospel-centered ministry*. This is not just theory, but also practice.

**Chapter Focus:** The authors will point out that a ministry must find its grounding and practice in the gospel of the Lord Jesus. If not, then it does not really qualify as *Christian* ministry. Like Paul, ministers faithfully testify/preach/witness/minister/live out to everyone the salvific elements of repentance and faith.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, forgive me for my lack of gospel-centeredness in my theology, ministry, and proclamation. You have placed at my disposal the gospel – the power of God for salvation. Enable me, help me to remain focused and stay true to “the *eternal gospel* to announce to the inhabitants of the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people (Rev 14:6).”

**Chapter 6: *The Ministry We Need: A Spirit-led Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 22-23 (*δεδεμένος ἐγὼ τῷ πνεύματι* – “bound by the Holy Spirit” and *τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον κατὰ πόλιν διαμαρτύρεται μοι* – “the Holy Spirit warns me”)

**Ministry Principle:** *Spirit-led* conjures up all sorts of images, some biblical, some unbiblical. What we need is a ministry based not on experience or opinion but one fixed, dependent and grounded on the revealed Holy Spirit of Scripture, therefore a *Spirit-led ministry*.

**Chapter Focus:** The authors will reveal the necessity of the Spirit’s work and vital presence in the life of the man of God. The Spirit will lead the minister in every facet of ministry, and he will completely obey the biblical mandates by the power of the Spirit. This will entail his personal holiness, practical holiness and his ministry of proclamation.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, forgive me for walking in the power of flesh, instead of the power of the Spirit. My lack of the Spirit’s leadership in my personal walk, ministry, and proclamation is sin. You have placed Your Spirit within me – the power of God for holiness, ministry and proclamation. May I truly begin to understand and live out that it is “not by strength nor by might, but by my *Spirit*,” says the LORD of Armies” (Zech 4:6).

**Chapter 7: *The Ministry We Need: A Mission-minded Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** v 24. (*ἀλλ’ οὐδενὸς λόγου ποιῶμαι τὴν ψυχὴν τιμίαν ἐμαυτῷ* -- “But I consider my life of no value to myself” and *ὡς τελειῶσαι τὸν δρόμον μου καὶ τὴν διακονίαν ἣν ἔλαβον παρὰ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ* -- “with a view to completing my mission and the assignment I received from the Lord Jesus”)

**Ministry Principle:** The Great Commission mandates that we *make disciples*, therefore we are always “on mission.” From the moment of salvation until its glorious culmination our ministries have a goal – to fulfill the glorious calling we have received from the Lord. We need a *mission-minded ministry* for we are either mission-minded or a mission field.

**Chapter Focus:** Like a soldier on a mission...will do anything to achieve the objective...no price too great. A ministry that is mission-minded will die to self and remember it is His ministry in which He has allowed you to participate.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, help me to stay focused on the mission before me and the specific mission you gave me. Give me the strength to persevere until the end, fulfilling your calling to me.

**Chapter 8: *The Ministry We Need: A Blameless and Complete Ministry***

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 25-27 (*καθαρός εἰμι ἀπὸ τοῦ αἵματος πάντων* – “I am guiltless of the blood of all of you” and *οὐ γὰρ ὑπεστειλάμην τοῦ μὴ ἀναγγεῖλαι πᾶσαν τὴν βουλὴν τοῦ θεοῦ ὑμῖν* – “for I did not shrink back from declaring the whole will/purpose/counsel of God to you”)

**Ministry Principle:** Sadly today, many who occupy a pulpit stand accused of actions, activities, and attitudes that bring reproach to Christ and His church – in a moment, a ministry can face ruin, therefore what we need is a ministry that is blameless *and complete* from start to finish.

**Chapter Focus:** This chapter will reinforce the minister’s resolve to minister and to preach the Word until he fulfills his calling. He will declare all of God’s truth, thereby making him innocent of the blood of those who hear him. “Oh, my hearers, some of you in a little time will be on your dying beds. When your pulse is feeble; when the terrors of grim death are round about you; if you are still unconverted to Christ, there is one thing I shall want you to add to your last will and testament; it is this—the exclusion of the poor minister who stands before you this day from any share in that desperate folly of yours which has led you to neglect your own soul.”

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, I acknowledge my weakness – I can do nothing without you. May I live my life in such a way, may my actions and attitudes honor you, so that You, God may find me *blameless*, as well as those I serve. May I persevere through the days, weeks, months, years, and decades to present to you a *complete* ministry.

### Chapter 9: *The Ministry We Need: A Vigilant Ministry*

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 28-31. (προσέχετε ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ -- “be on guard/pay special attention to yourselves and the flock” and εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιζίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου – “after my departure savage/fierce/cruel wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock” and καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς – “And from among you men will rise up and say distorted things to wrench away/lure away the disciples” and διὸ γρηγορεῖτε – “For this reason be watchful” and μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρῶν νουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον – “constantly remembering that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each of you with tears”)

**Ministry Principle:** This is a treacherous world; sadly, the church is not immune. There is a constant battle for the souls of men within the church because of wolves appearing as shepherds and hellish fare appearing as divine sustenance. We need a *vigilant ministry* always alert, ready and willing to pay the price for truth.

**Chapter Focus:** False teachers are real and resolve to protect the flock of God at all costs. A shepherd fights for his flock and will need to keep his weapons ready and sharp. This is a constant battle, requiring a vigilant guard.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, I need both resolve and courage to “contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.” The price is too high for me to fall asleep – may I be alert, ready, prepared and willing to protect my flock against all predators.

### Chapter 10: *The Ministry We Need: A Dependent Ministry*

15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** v 32. (καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, τῷ δυναμένῳ -- “And now I commit you to God and the to the word of His grace, which is able”)

**Ministry Principle:** Ministers depend on many things – some good, some not so much. God and His grace are both *efficient* and *sufficient* for the minister’s and his ministry’s well-being. What we desperately need is a *dependent* ministry.

**Chapter Focus:** Paul tells them that their only hope, to which he commits them, one finds in God and His grace...they are completely dependent upon God for everything both now and in eternity. “In the face of such threats, the elders and we might be tempted to ask, with Paul, “Who is equal to such a task?” (2 Cor 2:16). He commits (*paratithēmi*) the elders, puts them on deposit with *God and ... the word of his grace*. In the safekeeping of God and the gospel, they will not face destruction but will grow spiritually (*which can build you up*). In fact, they will be empowered for perseverance all the way to heaven: *give you an inheritance with all those who are sanctified.*”

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** There are times when I depend on you, Lord, but too often those times are when I “need” you. May my dependence be a constant drawing upon you and your grace.

**Chapter 11:** *The Ministry We Need: A Content and Hardworking Ministry* 15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 33-35 (ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα – “I have not coveted/desired anyone’s silver, gold, or clothing” and ὑπηρέτησαν – “we served/ministered” and κοπιῶντας – “we toiled to the point of growing weary”)

**Ministry Principle:** Pulpits today are full of unhappy and discontented fellows always looking for the next “big thing.” The call to ministry and the call to work hard are not mutually exclusive, they go hand in hand. The ministry needed today is a *content and hard-working* ministry.

**Chapter Focus:** The authors will present a biblical case for avoiding the damnable pit of greed. Anything a minister has he is to hold loosely and everything he needs the Lord will supply. He should never use his position for personal gain. Ministry is not for the lazy, it entails demanding work, it requires sweat.

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, may I be content with the provision that you give, the place you called me to, and the gifts and calling that come from you. May all my work be “as unto the Lord” and may the energy I exert be for the glory of God. While “every good and perfect gift” comes from you, may I find ultimate contentment in You.

**Chapter 12:** *The Ministry We Need: A Relational Ministry* 15-20 pages

**Text Focus:** vv 36-38. (ὀδυνώμενοι – “they were suffering pain/greatly distressed”)

**Ministry Principle:** Some pastors keep a safe distance from their congregations, fearing transparency and vulnerability. The minister that knows his congregants well, will do so by allowing them to know him well. We must have a *relational* ministry to minister.

**Chapter Focus:** Remember to build relationships with people. Look at the Ephesian elders’ response, notice in Acts 21:12-14 the Caesareans, Luke, and Paul’s other travelling companions plead with him. “Then there was a lengthy and emotional farewell, the elders embracing and kissing the apostle. Luke describes their embracing as “falling upon his neck” in language reminiscent of the patriarchal narratives. All the Greek tenses are imperfect, which would indicate that their parting was lengthy.”

**Prayer Point to Ponder:** Lord, forgive me for being a distant shepherd, with no thought of mingling my life with others. Help me realize that I need to be a bridge-builder and a lover of souls.

**Conclusion:** *The Ministry We Need: Put Your Hand to the Plow* 5-10 pages

This last section will provide a final personal encouragement from each of the three authors and will provide both biblical and practical advice. A recap of all twelve facets of *the ministry we need*, with a look to the future and the minister’s judgment when we stand one day before the Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20).

<b>About the Authors</b>	2 pages
<b>Bibliography</b>	7-8 pages
<b>General Index</b>	5-6 page
<b>Scripture Index</b>	5-6 pages