

**PAVING THE WAY FOR OTHERS WITH A
THOROUGHLY BIBLICAL MINISTRY
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John 21:15-17 *After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.” “Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him. 16 Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.” “Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said. 17 A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”*

The calling, responsibility, and labor for the Lord’s sheep have eternal ramifications.

Jeremiah 3:15 *And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.*

Shepherds who do not love the sheep will drive the sheep and not lead the sheep.

Psalms 23:1-3 *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

“THE GOAL OF A PASTOR AND OTHER LEADERS OF A CHURCH SHOULD BE TO GENERATE PROPER SPIRITUAL ATTITUDES IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE.”

JOHN MCARTHUR

There is no perfect church or ministry, but the church should strive to be durable, systematic, and submitted to the Word of God. This means that over the years, the sheep (people) will have their lives enriched by the teaching ministry of God’s Word.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 *I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: 2 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths. 5 But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.*

Colossians 1:28-29 *So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. 29 That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.*

A ministry where the sheep are strengthened includes teaching, maturing, work, and dependence on Christ.

We are all paving the way for others and their faith in Jesus. We will impact generations of people we will never meet this side of heaven.

Our church's mission statement is: *Inviting the lost and broken into our Christ-centered journey from empty religion to generational life change.*

Invitations matter. There are lost and broken people everywhere. Christ is always the answer to the empty religion of self-effort and self-worship. Generational life impact touches a lot of lives.

- We get one life. **What are we doing?**
- We can invest for eternity. **Are we?**
- We can invite people. **Do we?**
- We can pave the way for others. **Will we?**

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.