



JUNE 23-24, 2023
COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH
SOUTHLAKE, TX

FAITHFUL STEWARDS

LOVING CHRIST BY LEADING HIS SHEEP



WELCOME

Faithful Stewards exists to encourage pastors and leaders of local churches as they pursue faithful, biblical ministry. In 1 Corinthians 4, the apostle Paul reminds us that God will not measure our ministries by their results—whether outward success or failure. We contribute nothing to the spiritual results of our efforts. Only God can give life to dead hearts through the gospel—regeneration (Jas. 1:18). And only His Spirit can transform the hearts of His people through His Word—sanctification (John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18). All that God requires of us is to be faithful stewards. Paul writes, *“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”* (1 Cor. 4:1–2 ESV).

Our chief assignment as stewards is to be faithful with the *“mysteries of God”* revealed in the Word of God. Church leaders have many responsibilities in Christ’s church, but our chief duty, our primary task, is to feed His sheep! We must first be faithful stewards of the Word of God and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember who holds the final verdict on our ministries. It is not the unbelieving world around us or the churches we serve. Not even our own personal assessment really matters. Only Christ’s final verdict matters.

When we stand before His Judgment Seat, He will base His assessment primarily on whether we have handled *“accurately the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15). He even measures our love for Him on how faithfully we feed the sheep He loves and died for (John 21:15–17). May God help us to make the primary aim of our ministries to be *faithful stewards*.



FROM PASTOR TOM:

In an authentic New Testament church, every leader commits to following Christ's plan for His church.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he lays out Christ's plan, including the way biblical leadership is to function. Since pastors, elders, and church leaders cannot serve in every ministry, part of our role is to identify those people who are qualified and gifted to lead in the local church and help train and equip them for leadership.

In your church, you probably have many serving in ministry, ranging from especially gifted and experienced leaders to those who are new or developing in their roles. Both need encouragement and training to be established in the truth and grow in their ability to biblically lead others. That is why the theme of this year's Faithful Stewards Conference is "Loving Christ by Leading His Sheep."

Thank you for attending *Faithful Stewards*. I look forward to what promises to be a rich time studying God's Word and a refreshing opportunity for fellowship. May the Lord continue to extend His grace to you.

In Christ,

Tom Pennington

Pastor-Teacher, Countryside Bible Church



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

4:00 pm	Check-in
5:00 pm	Welcome/Music
5:15 pm	SESSION 1
6:15 pm	Dinner
7:15 pm	SESSION 2

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

8:00 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	SESSION 3
9:45 am	Break
10:15 am	SESSION 4
11:15 pm	Break
11:30 pm	SESSION 5
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm	Q & A
2:00 pm	Closing

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



TOM PENNINGTON

Tom Pennington has served as Pastor-Teacher at Countryside Bible Church since October, 2003. Prior to arriving in Texas, he served 16 years at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, including as an elder. He spent his last four years there as Senior Associate Pastor and as personal assistant to John MacArthur. Prior to that, he served as Managing Director of Grace to You, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the international radio, tape, publications, and internet ministry.

Tom completed his B.A. and M.A. at Bob Jones University and served as a member of the faculty while taking additional Ph.D. classes in New Testament Interpretation. In 2013, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) from The Master's University.

Tom's role at Countryside includes teaching during the Sunday services, overseeing the church staff, and working with the rest of the elders to provide leadership to the entire church. Tom's teaching ministry is featured on The Word Unleashed. In addition to his role as Pastor-Teacher, he is actively involved internationally in training pastors in expository preaching. Tom and his wife, Sheila, have three children, Lauren, Katie, and Jessica.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



JONATHAN ANDERSON

Jonathan has served on staff at Countryside since February 2003. He initially served in Youth Ministry as an intern, the Assistant Youth Director, and then as the Youth Pastor. In 2007, Jonathan transitioned to become the Family Pastor, giving leadership to the children's ministry and providing shepherding and training for families. He currently serves as the Senior Associate Pastor, providing oversight and encouragement to the staff and ministries of Countryside. He also continues to provide leadership to the family ministries and serves on the Missions Leadership Team.

Prior to coming to Countryside, he and his wife, Christy, lived in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where Jonathan completed his B.S. in Middle School Math and Science Education from Southeast Missouri State University. In 2012, Jonathan graduated with his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Jonathan and Christy have five daughters, Anna, Abby, Aubrey, Ashlyn and Allie.



DUSTY BURRIS

Dusty Burris has served as the Pastor/Teacher of Northlake Bible Church since June of 2019. Prior to this, he served as Associate Pastor of Countryside Bible Church where he oversaw the college ministry and several other ministries of the church. Dusty graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in May of 2010. Prior to his time at Countryside, he served in various roles at other churches in the East Texas area. Besides teaching the Word of God, he also enjoys hunting, writing Christian music, and leading worship. He and his wife Rebecca have one daughter, Avery, and one son, Luke.



**THREE
SIXTEEN
PUBLISHING**

In February 2020, Three Sixteen Publishing participated in a meeting at Grace Community Church where the idea of the Legacy Standard Bible was born. 2021 marked two historic launches—the LSB New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in February, and the first complete edition of the Legacy Standard Bible (The LSB Handy Size - First Edition; Fall, 2021).

Three Sixteen Publishing has since released several more formats of the LSB, including the first full reference edition in 2022 and is planning more for the upcoming years. We are grateful for the growth that our publishing company has experienced and through God’s grace and strength we will continue to fulfill our mission.

Discover more about recent product announcements by reading our blog articles and subscribing to our email list to be notified of upcoming releases, particularly future typesets and binding styles for the LSB. You can also learn more about the LSB at lsbible.org and discover the list of free downloadable LSB apps.



BOOK GIVEAWAY

Handbook for Praying Scripture
William Varner



BANNER *of* TRUTH

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY THROUGH LITERATURE

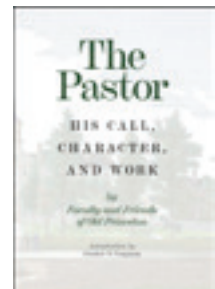
The Banner of Truth Trust is a Christian organization which publishes books, organizes conferences, and publishes a monthly magazine. Our objective is the promotion, advancement, and dissemination of a better knowledge and understanding of the history and doctrines of the true Biblical Christian Faith. We seek to inform, encourage, strengthen, and equip ordinary Christians, and have a particular concern for ministers/pastors, and those training for the ministry. We also seek to produce material that is evangelistic and in God's providence may be used as a means to bring people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

As an organization, while being interdenominational in outlook and with our staffing, our doctrinal standards are best summed up by the Westminster Confession. We believe in Biblical Christianity, and if we have to be labeled, we would be thought of as a reformed, Calvinistic, conservative evangelical publisher. We seek to focus in our activities on the major and fundamental truths of Biblical Christianity, rather than on those truths which may be regarded as secondary (although not unimportant), such as church polity.

We trace our theological heritage from the apostles, through the early church, to the reformation, the Puritans such as Owen, Sibbes, and Brooks, the 18th century heritage of George Whitefield (our logo) and Jonathan Edwards, then on to the likes of Spurgeon, Ryle, Alexander, and Hodge in the 19th century, and Warfield, John Murray, Hendriksen and Lloyd-Jones in the 20th century. We publish books that were written from the time of the reformation right through to the modern day.

BOOK GIVEAWAY

The Pastor: His Call, Character, and Work
Faculty and Friends of Old Princeton



In his letter to the Ephesian church, the apostle Paul explains the eternal plan of God as it relates to Christ and His church. The first three chapters capture the rich theology and doctrine of that plan. When chapter four begins, Paul explains how Christians should respond to the spiritual blessings they have received in Christ (Eph. 1:3). Paul writes, *“Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called”* (Eph. 4:1). In the subsequent verses, Paul explains how believers must live in light of what God has done for them through Christ. Christians serve Christ and one another in Christ’s church. Ephesians 4:7–13 says:

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, ‘When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.’ (Now this expression, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

In these remarkable verses, we discover Christ’s plan for His church, how it should function.

First, Christ sovereignly distributes spiritual gifts to each member of His church. Ephesians 4:7 says, *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”*

Second, Christ appoints the leaders of each church. Paul writes, *“He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers”* (Eph. 4:11). This is a list of gifted leaders that God has given, in Christ, to the church.

Paul uses the expression *“pastors and teachers”* to identify one particular office within the

church, that of teaching shepherds. The office of *“pastor-teacher”* is also described in the New Testament as an *“overseer”* and *“elder”* (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–2). In fact, all five terms are used interchangeably in the New Testament to describe an elder of a church. Both Acts 20 and 1 Timothy 5 describe a plurality of elders who shepherded the church in Ephesus, some of whom were paid and others were not (1 Tim. 5:17).

Third, the leaders of the church are to equip the members to do the ministry of the church. Those in church leadership positions are called to equip the people of God (4:12). The primary role of the elders isn't to do the ministry. Rather, it's to equip believers to do the work of ministry. If the pastors and the elders do all the work, that represents a skewed view of Christ's plan for the church. A healthy, biblical model is for the elders to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

Fourth, the members do the ministry of the church. Church leaders ought to be equipping the members of the church *“for the work of service”* (4:12). The Greek word for *“service”* can be used for any kind of service. For example, in Acts 6:4 it's used for ministering the Word. In Luke 10:40 and Acts 6:2 it's used for preparing and serving food. Therefore, every member of the church is required to be involved in service at some level, from the public proclamation of God's Word from the pulpit in corporate worship, to menial acts of service across the church. The point is everyone should be serving!

Fifth, following Christ's plan results in the spiritual growth of the church. Paul refers to this as *“building up of the body of Christ”* (4:12). As God's plan for the church unfolds and as we faithfully serve one another, the church grows spiritually. Service, then, isn't peripheral. Instead, service is integral to Christ's plan for His church, including the spiritual growth of every brother and sister in Christ. Therefore, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, His plan for you is to serve in His church, and to do so faithfully.

But leaders in Christ's church, just like the apostles in Acts 6, cannot serve in every ministry of the church. Not only is that an impossible task, it is also an unbiblical one. We simply do not have the capacity to lead every ministry, and Christ doesn't require us to. Our role as elders and church leaders is to identify those in the church who can lead ministries, and equip them to lead God's people. The elders also have a responsibility to identify and train men that

God has called to lead the entire church—those men that meet the biblical qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9). Church leaders also must identify and train people in the church who don’t hold a particular office in the church but whom God has gifted to lead various ministries.

You likely have faithful and gifted believers leading the ministries of your church. Praise God for His goodness in that! But you probably have others who are new to your church that would benefit greatly from a biblical understanding of leadership. They desperately need to be established in the truth of God’s Word. And even seasoned leaders need encouragement to press on and further develop their leadership skills.

It is critical that pastors and church leaders understand they cannot and are not called to do every ministry. Rather, they are called to lead others according to Christ’s plan. That is how He designed leadership—in His church—to work.

BECOMING A BIBLICAL LEADER

JONATHAN ANDERSON

The church matters. As Robert Saucy writes, “Throughout the course of history God has worked in the world in a variety of ways through individuals, nations, and peoples. The focus of His present work is the church...not only is Christ building His church, but it is the primary instrument through which He ministers in the world.”¹

Church leadership matters. Leaders in the church have a significant impact on the health and maturity of the congregation and the resulting ministry on behalf of Christ. This is why the New Testament provides such clear teaching regarding appointing leadership in the church and why it spends a significant amount of time providing instruction to church leaders.

Biblical church leadership looks very different from the leadership of the world, and so it

¹ Robert Saucy, *The Church in God’s Program* (Chicago: IL, Moody, 1972), 7.

must be intentionally cultivated through the study and application of God's word. Being a faithful and effective leader in the church involves many things. The Scriptures highlight God's grace in choosing and enabling leaders, apart from which they can do nothing. They also instruct regarding the needed character and gifts for godly leadership.

Being a leader is more than having a title or filling an office. John MacArthur writes, "To put it simply, leadership is influence."² It means having people follow. However, we must not simply be concerned that people are following us as leaders, but with how we are motivating them and why we desire them to follow. Unlike worldly leaders, biblical leaders do not lord it over for selfish gain; instead, they serve and lead by example for the glory of Christ. They do not manipulate others with clever words, but rather they clearly speak the truth of God so that He will be understood, exalted, and obeyed.

In addition to being careful about how and why they lead, biblical leaders must also be intentional about where they lead others. They must have a clear biblical direction. This is why Paul wrote to Timothy, a young church leader, in 1 Timothy 3:15, "*In case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*" To lead the church, Timothy needed to know the truth and understand and appreciate the church. Such is the case for every church leader.

But church leaders must not only be concerned with being biblical leaders themselves. They must also be intentional to cultivate future leaders. Throughout Paul's ministry, he was faithful to pour into the next generation of church leaders. Men like Timothy and Titus were equipped and encouraged by Paul. As he neared the end of his life and ministry, Paul recognized that he had faithfully passed the baton to these men, and he exhorted them to be faithful to pass it on to others. Nowhere is this clearer than in 2 Timothy 2:2, where Paul wrote, "*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*"

Timothy had been entrusted with God's truth by Paul, and he was also to pass the baton.

2 John MacArthur, *Called to Lead* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2004), vi.

But to what kind of person is such treasure to be entrusted? Paul sums it up in one word: faithful. Not popular or exceptionally gifted. Not influential or having a charismatic personality. But faithful. Church leaders must always be on the lookout for faithful men.

But we must do more than identify faithful men in our churches. We must also devote time and energy to uniquely invest in them. Jesus Himself modeled this approach to ministry. He was faithful to minister to the multitudes, but He also focused on training his disciples and particularly on investing in those who would be the leaders among them. The format for such an investment will vary. But the fact of that investment should be a consistent quality of biblical church leaders.

We must be biblical leaders ourselves. And we must cultivate biblical leadership in others, entrusting God's truth to faithful men who, able to teach, will in turn entrust the truth to other faithful men. And so, the baton will be passed for generations.

THE LOVE OF A SHEPHERD

DUSTY BURRIS

Pastoral ministry requires precision and intentionality on every front. This most certainly includes the pastor's efforts as he weekly prepares to teach God's inspired words with vigor, clarity, accuracy, and passion. But Christ's call for faithfulness in pastoral ministry is not confined only to the pastor's public teaching ministry.

The Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, also demands that His under-shepherds exercise great precision in the way they love and care for His sheep. After all, He has not given His sheep away but merely divided them into smaller pens to be fed, protected, and cared for by His chosen under-shepherds. And while that shepherding care is defined by many virtues, chief among them is love.

Love for Christ's sheep is to be founded upon and sustained by the pastor's love for the Shepherd. It was Christ Himself who taught us this in His restoration of the apostle Peter. In John 21, three times He asks the same piercing question: "*Peter, do you love Me?*" (v. 15–17). And three times He follows Peter's positive reply with an instructive command: "*Tend [or] Shepherd My sheep*" (v. 15–17). As our love for the Shepherd grows, so must our love for His sheep.

Far too often, we allow ourselves to repeat the sins of Corinth. Perhaps not their unbridled immorality or their tendency toward division. But we can certainly be guilty of imitating their penchant for elevating gifts over character. We as pastors cannot afford to forget that it is the proper exercise of spiritual gifts that lays the context for Paul's now famous "love chapter," found in 1 Corinthians 13. While we ought to unwaveringly commit ourselves to rightly dividing God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) and preaching it as a dying man to dying men, if we then walk out of the pulpit and lord our authority over Christ's sheep with harsh, loveless words and demands that go beyond what is written, our preaching is as a "*noisy gong or a clanging symbol*" (v. 1)! Our Savior is not impressed or amused by such leadership in His church.

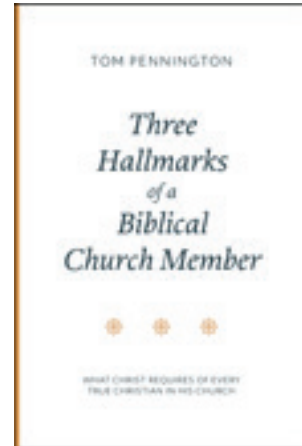
How easy it is to quiet our convicting conscience over areas in which our love for Christ's sheep has missed the mark by reminding ourselves of the skillful exegesis and clever illustrations displayed in our last Sunday sermon. But the Chief Shepherd does not concern Himself with only our pulpit ministry! He is concerned with every private interaction with His sheep in the church lobby. He takes note of every counseling session with a struggling or hurting believer. In our most public and private moments, He desires that His love for His sheep be on display in the character of our love for His sheep. And this is true when we receive more praise than we deserve and more criticism than is fair.

Shepherding with love will demand our maximum effort and attention, down to the level of our thoughts, our tone of voice, and even our body language when interacting with Christ's sheep. In each of our interactions, the scratching sound of Paul's pen ought to pierce our hearts: "*Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things*" (1 Cor. 13:4–7).

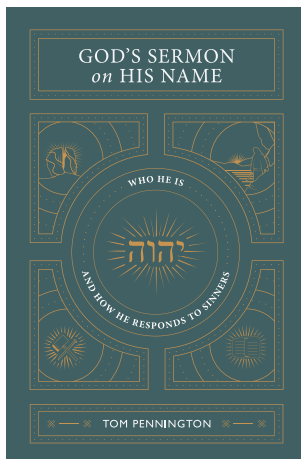
By God's sustaining grace, may our love for the Chief Shepherd compel us to imitate His character with precision and faithfulness in both our preaching and the loving care of each sheep He providentially herds into our local churches.

THREE HALLMARKS OF A BIBLICAL CHURCH MEMBER

Tom Pennington identifies from Scripture three nonnegotiable hallmarks that every Christian must pursue to be a biblical church member. Tom challenges believers to assess their own involvement in Christ's church to determine if they are truly biblical members—not only for the health of the church, but for the glory of the One who gave His life for the church, the Lord Jesus Christ.



GOD'S SERMON ON HIS NAME



In Exodus 33–34, God uniquely revealed His character to Moses. He is just and cannot forgive sin. He is also gracious and forgives sin. How can both be true? In *God's Sermon on His Name*, Tom Pennington explains how a holy God responds to the sins of His people and why the greatest enigma in the Old Testament can be solved only through the one mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ.

PREACHING IN THE SPIRIT'S POWER

If you preach God's Word, you long to do so with the same scriptural philosophy and spiritual power that marked the preaching of the apostle Paul. In one brief New Testament passage, Paul explains the unique source of his power.

In first-century Corinth, the Greeks highly prized and even idolized the ability to speak intelligently and eloquently. Unfortunately, many in the church in Corinth had embraced those secular standards, even causing serious division in the church. Paul responded to the crisis by explaining his approach to preaching. He did not depend on his personality, the power of his own gifts, or any human techniques. Instead, in 1 Corinthians 2:1–5, he explains three crucial commitments that every preacher of God's Word must make to preach in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.



BEING THE RIGHT KIND OF LEADER



Tom Pennington's skillful exposition of Matthew 23:1–12 gives us a fresh look at Christ's heart for biblical leadership in the church. This book offers exegetical and pastoral insights, encouraging leaders to serve effectively in ministry. Pastors, elders, church leaders, and laypersons who desire to be faithful in leadership would do well to implement the key commitments in this book.

Alexander Strauch,
*Author of Biblical Eldership,
Serves in the leadership and teaching ministry,
Littleton Bible Chapel, Littleton, Colorado*

SESSION 1

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes, spanning the width of the page.

SESSION 2

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

SESSION 3

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

Dotted lines for writing notes.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, spanning the width of the page.

SESSION 4

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

SESSION 5

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

NOTES

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes, starting below the 'NOTES' header and extending across the width of the page.

Q&A

NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



The Word Unleashed
THEWORDUNLEASHED.ORG



XL Ministries
XLMINISTRIES.ORG



THE MASTER'S SEMINARY
The Master's Seminary
TMS.EDU



The Master's
Academy International
TMAI.ORG



Banner of Truth
BANNEROFTRUTH.ORG



316 Publishing
316PUBLISHING.COM



Boundaries Coffee
BOUNDARIESCOFFEE.COM



THE WORD
UNLEASHED

Exalting God's Glory.
Explaining God's Truth.

THEWORDUNLEASHED.ORG



A Conference Series by

W THE WORD
UNLEASHED