

Appointed by God

**Presented by Elder Ron Spurgeon, Pastor of Buffalo Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Bethpage, TN,
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Lesson Text: Peter and Cornelius Acts 10:1 - 43

Acts 10:42. "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead."

See G3724 (Strong) ὁρίζω horizō hor-id'-zo

From G3725; to mark out or bound ("horizon"), that is, (figuratively) to appoint, decree, specify: - declare, determine, limit, ordain. **The Greek word horizo is used a total KJV occurrences: 8 :**

Acts 10:42, 17:26 & 31, Luke 22:22, Acts 2:23, Romans 1:4, Heb 4:7, and Acts 11:29

ORDA'INED, pp. Appointed; instituted; established; invested with ministerial or pastoral functions; settled. Webster 1828

Introduction: We are Ordained to Serve: 1 Timothy 3:1 "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

What minister of us in a stable right mind would desire (Greek – *epithumeo*; to set the heart upon, that is, long for (rightfully or otherwise): - covet, desire, would fain, lust (after) to be ordained? Yet, God has appointed (ordained) flawed men to accomplish His Mission on Earth with someone like... ME. I believe in Holy Spirit directed burdens for the Church, and the man of God who deeply feels the leading of God to be ordained. It must be a Church, and a Man after God's own heart...

I. Jesus Set the Standard by Ordaining Apostles, and commanded that we LOVE one another, as He has loved us. Jesus ordained. Read John 15:12 – 17.

God chooses, calls, prepares, and appoints the minister. The Churches are to "search Out" by The Holy Spirit leadership the minister for whom God has equipped and invested with ministerial and pastoral functions, to be the Elder/Bishop. You will NOT find a perfect man, but The Church must select the RIGHT man, which is the man He "God" has appointed/ordained.

II. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence. Psalm 23:1: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." From the book of Phillip Keller (A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT THE 23RD PSALM) We note the 'fence crawlers' and 'Mrs. Gadabout' on page 26 – 27 of the book. "This is a sublime picture of the care given to those whose lives are under Christ's control. He knows all about their lives from morning to night." "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits – even the God of our salvation." Psalms 68:19. "In spite of having such a master and owner, the fact remains that some Christians (AND PREACHERS) are still not content with His control. They are somewhat dissatisfied, always feeling that somehow the grass beyond the fence must be a little greener. These are carnal Christians – one might almost call them 'fence crawlers' or 'half Christians' who want the best of both worlds." "I once owned an ewe whose conduct exactly typified this sort of person. She was one of the most attractive sheep that ever belonged to me. Her body was beautifully proportioned. She had a strong constitution and an excellent coat of wool. Her head was clean, alert, well-set with bright eyes. She bore sturdy lambs that matured rapidly. But in spite of all these attractive attributes

she had one pronounced fault: She was restless, discontented – **a fence crawler**.” So much so that I came to call her ‘**Mrs. Gadabout**’.” “This one ewe produced more problems for me than almost all the rest of the flock combined.”

The summary and end results outcome of the fence crawler Mrs. Gadabout:

- No matter where the shepherd led her to pastures, she was always looking for loopholes.
- The shepherd provided the best pasture, but she just had an ingrained habit of never being contented with the things as they were.
- As often as she got out, it seemed all she discovered was bare, brown, burned-up pasturage of a most inferior sort.
- She NEVER learned her lesson and continued to fence-crawl time after time.
- Another big issue, she taught her lambs the same tricks. They simply followed her example and soon were as skilled at escaping as their mother.
- Even worse, however, was the example she set for the other sheep, in a short time she began to lead others through the same holes and over the same dangerous paths down by the sea.
- Ultimately, the shepherd had to put her down to spare the remainder of the flock...

CAUTION BROTHERS, King David’s example of being a “fence crawler”... idleness is a devil’s playground! While on the subject of Ewes, we must consider Nathan’s rebuke to King David found in 2 Sameul 12:1 - 7: *“And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.”*

The Grass is not always GREENER! “This phrase means that **what seems better or more desirable in another person's situation is not always actually better than your own**; essentially, you should appreciate (and work with what God has blessed you with) and what you have instead of constantly seeking for something else in your personal ministry. (Heb 13:5 – 8).

III. Set the Goal to Be Ready: The aim for this lesson is for All of Us to take a very close examination of the personal Holy divine vocation (calling) for which God has appointed each of His True Called

Ministers. We will set out to examine the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for accomplishing His Will for the ministry. I deeply desire to encourage all of Us to hear these Words from Our Savior... You (We) Must Be Ready. Read **Luke 12:35 – 48. Preach the Word! II Timothy 4:1 – 8.**

- **10 Displeased Disciples. Comparison of Matthew 20:20 – 28, and Mark 10:35 - 45... A Mother's Request: Matthew 20:20 – 28. Compared to The Request of James and John: Mark 10:35**

IV. **Ordination Basics/Responsibilities:** qualifications in a nut-shell? Quotes from: Elder J.M. Pendleton, Elder Calvin Perrigo & Elder Billy Moran.

“Baptist Church Manual” by Elder J. M. Pendleton, published 1867. Chapter 2, Officers of a Church, pg. 22 writes:

“It cannot be said that officers are essential to the existence of a church; for a church must exist before it can **appoint** its officers. After this **appointment**, if, in the providence of God, they should be removed by death, it might affect the interests, but not the being of the church. It has been well said by an able writer, that ‘although officers are not necessary to the being of a church, they are necessary to its well-being.’ No church can reasonably expect to prosper which does not **obey the law of its Head in regard to the appointment of officers**. It is obvious too, from the teachings of the New Testament, that pastors and deacons are the permanent officers of Christian churches.”

The Apostle Paul gives us the main reasons God makes these appointments, according to Ephesians 4:11 - 16. “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*”

1. For the perfecting of the saints
2. for the work of the ministry
3. for the edifying of the body of Christ
4. (For how long?) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ
5. Eph. 4:14 – 16... The ultimate goal is to be grounded in doctrinal TRUTH, speaking truth in LOVE, MATURE in the Headship/Lordship of Christ, promoting UNITY, ultimately edifying (building up) the Church in LOVE.

“Pastors – Deacons Conference”, May 4,5, 1990. Independent Missionary Baptist Church. THE BAPTIST ORINATION SERVICE (I Corinthians 14:40. “Let all things be done decently and in order.”) by Elder Calvin Perrigo. On page 2 of 4, **A POTPOURRI OF INFORMATION:**

“The local church has the authority and the responsibility to ordain men from their membership, (see Acts 6:3 and Acts 13:3). Ordained brethren may be invited to attend and assist in the work as an advisory council, but only the **host church as the power to ordain**. **Sister churches** do not seat in the ordination

service, but they may be represented by their ordained brethren. Ordination invitations are left completely to the discretion of the church that has set the ordination service.”

“Handbook for Missionary Baptist Churches” by Elder Billy L. Moran. Published Copyright 2016. Chapter 14. **“Recommended Procedure for Ordinations”** page 110.

“An ordination, whether it is for deacon or preacher, can only be called for and carried out by the church where the candidate holds membership. If a church calls an unordained preacher to be their pastor, they may then request that his home church ordain him.”

“The traditional practice is to invite sister churches (churches that hold in common the doctrines and practices of sound Baptist churches; to send their ordained brethren to join them in forming a presbytery, sometimes referred to as a council, **for moral and doctrinal investigation and advice**. A church can ordain both preachers and deacons without the assistance of any other church, but this is rarely done, and for good reason. The approval of well-known, ordained brethren who themselves were interrogated and are respected as being sound in the faith adds credibility to those newly ordained.”

“It is my opinion that all preachers and deacons from churches of similar faith and order should meet the **same minimum moral and doctrinal qualifications**. All men under consideration for ordination should likewise meet the same minimum requirements. **It is a privilege to be a member of a Baptist church**, and it is a **great honor to be a servant of the Lord’s church and to wear the title of ordained preacher or deacon**. I also believe that churches should insist that those of us who have been ordained maintain that same level of qualification in order to keep our credentials. The church where we hold membership has the authority to defrock us (deprive/remove an Elder or Deacon to serve in the office) if we default in our obligations.”

“As I said in chapters eight and nine regarding the qualifications for ordination, I believe the presbytery amounts to the **‘quality-control department’** for both the eldership and the deaconship in our churches. That is why I refer to the presbytery as a council for doctrinal investigation and advice. My scriptural support for the statement is this: *‘Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partakers of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure’* (I Tim 5:22).”

- **Vetting a Brother for Ordination consideration as an Elder or Deacon:** Responsible Churches must carefully examine, investigate, assess, and evaluate a God Called Preacher before setting out to ordain One (note same care should be taken in considering a Deacon for ordination). The Vetting Process must be Holy Spirit led from start to finish:

Vetting a Brother for Ordination consideration as an Elder or Deacon:

1. The Church (for which the brother holds membership) should ensure the brother meets the biblical qualifications to be ordained, prior to setting an ordination service (refer to I Timothy 3:1 – 16 & Titus 1:1 – 16).
2. The Church for which the brother holds membership, has the authority to ordain, or to invite Sister Churches to assist by sending ordained brothers to council, or not to invite anyone.
3. If you, as an ordained brother, have been invited to set in on an ordination, it is wise to seek approval from The Holy Spirit and the Church you hold membership, prior to setting in a presbytery.
4. If you (as an ordained brother) are liberated by your church to attend and seat in an ordaining council, you are not demanded to seat, but as Brother Moran states, we are the quality-control department.

5. Therefore, I recommend to seek and pray for Holy Spirit liberation to seat with a presbytery, and participate in the council.
6. If (He - God) gives you peace to attend, you are present to recommend or **NOT recommend** a brother to deaconship or eldership (you must discern in your heart to lay or not to lay hands on a newly ordained brother).
7. The presbytery makes the recommendation, if the brother displays evidence of soundness of Faith and Biblical Doctrine of a Missionary Baptist Church, then proceed with laying on of hands.
8. The Church hosting the ordination makes the FINAL decision on approving the work of the presbytery.
9. The credentials (refer back to 1) of the ordained brother are in the hands of the ordained brother and Church to monitor and ensure that the brother is earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (see Jude 3).

Key points about this lesson:

1. **Comparison trap: See how Jesus handled the popularity dispute among the Disciples/Apostles...** People often compare their lives to others, assuming their circumstances are better, but this is usually just a perception. (Perception is reality, in the eyes of the beholder.)
 2. **Focus on your own life/ministry** The saying encourages you to focus on improving your own situation rather than envying what others have. (Keep in mind, YOU have been appointed by God.)
 3. **Spiritual Time Stewardship: 365 Days in a year**, must be devoted to reading God's Word, not just 52 Sundays a year. This should be in addition to in depth study in preparation for sermons, meditation, devotions, lessons, and personal Spiritual Growth. **"Jesus wept." John 11:35... When,... Why?**
- **It (HE) takes Us All, but especially The Holy Ghost leadership and direction to accomplish our appointed calling from God:** Review: Eph 4:1 - 16. The Gospel chooses to use us (divinely appointed men) to advance the Good News message.