



# PASTOR TO PASTOR

ADRIAN ROGERS

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# INTRODUCTION

If you preach God's Word and shepherd His flock, this book is for you. In fact, this ministry is for you! Love Worth Finding is dedicated to bringing everything we have available to support you in your calling.

Pastor Adrian Rogers treasured spending time with, serving, and mentoring other pastors. He loved pastors, loved their families, and worked for their good.

While he preached for a half century, pastored a 29,000-member church, served three terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, consulted with U.S. presidents, and founded a worldwide ministry, one of his most cherished roles in this life was as a "pastor to pastors." And one of his greatest legacies—beyond the gift of his character bequeathed to his beloved wife, children, and grandchildren—is found in the resources he left behind just for you.

This book is a small part of that legacy. It includes transcripts from seven ordination services Pastor Rogers officiated for some of the young ministers he mentored.

In these messages, Pastor Rogers pulled no punches.

Here's what he said about his own calling: "I can say it frankly, plainly, and I mean it from the depth of my heart, I would not stay in the ministry a skinny minute to build buildings to

run organizations or to do anything else if I did not know that my purpose was to point men and women to Jesus Christ.”

Here’s what he told one young man being ordained about faithfulness to the Bible: “I will come personally with a snake whip, tie you to a wagon wheel, and flay the flesh from your bones if you deviate from this Book. You preach the Word of God. Don’t apologize. No stammer, no stutter, no apology. No back up, let up, or shut up until you’re taken up.”

At the end of this book, we’ve included an appendix with a practical excerpt from Pastor Rogers’ signature training for those in the ministry, “What Every Pastor Ought to Know.” If you haven’t yet taken advantage of this online training, you can use the QR code in the appendix to sign up at no cost.

With that, we leave you to it. Please enjoy this book, and don’t forget to visit **[pastors.lwf.org](http://pastors.lwf.org)** where you will find more of the legacy Pastor Rogers left...just for you.

## THE MINISTER'S ACCOUNTABILITY

Hebrews chapter 13 is about the prophet's payday or the minister's accountability. The first part of this verse is to the Church. The Bible teaches if the pastor is God's man, you ought to follow him. If he's not, you ought to fire him. It's just that simple. "Obey those who have rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls..." Now the second part is to the pastor primarily: "...as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

It is a fact that one of these days I'm going to give an account for my ministry. It is a fact that one of these days you must face the Lord and He's going to ask you to give an account for your ministry. But it is also a fact that all of us who are Christians will one day face the Lord and give that accounting. Now, we are saved by grace through faith and we cannot work our way to Heaven whatsoever. But somehow people have gotten the idea they can live just any way they like, do anything they like. And because they're saved by grace, they can go to sleep in a Pullman car and coast into the yards of glory or perhaps somehow just go to sleep on the good ship Zion and sail on into

that port through the golden gate, and it will make absolutely no difference how they serve the Lord or what they did. But the Bible teaches to the contrary.

The Bible teaches there is coming a day of accountability. The preacher is going to face accountability. I'm going to have to answer to God for the way I lead this church. Even though I'm saved by grace, I'm going to have to give an account. And the Bible says you need to follow me so I'll have an easier time when I give an account to the Lord. But the more follow-ship I have, the more responsibility I have, and so the more I better face my dear Lord right now in sincerity and integrity.

## **A PLACE OF REVIEW**

I want you to notice with me four or five things about that place of accountability. The first thing I want you to notice is that it's going to be a place of review. Turn to 2 Corinthians 5:8-10. The Bible says here, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him" (KJV). The text actually means "acceptable" to Him. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." Now you see, no one is excluded. Paul, the minister, included himself. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that He hath done, whether it be good or bad" (KJV).

One of these days I'm going to come to the judgment seat of Christ and my life is going to be reviewed. My life is going to pass by in dress parade and I'm going to have to review my



life, my thoughts, my words, my deeds, the public things, the secret things, the good things and the bad things. And how ashamed some of us are going to be when we see our lives. Did you know that not everybody is going to meet the Lord Jesus with gladness? Some are going to meet Him with shame.

Put this Scripture down, 1 John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." How ashamed and how humiliated some pastors are going to be, how ashamed and how humiliated some ministers of music are going to be, and some Christians, when they give an account of their ministry and when they face the record. Think of all of the opportunities that God gives us to serve Him. It's going to be a time of review. It's going to pass by.

Some people have a question with this and they say, "Brother Rogers, will my sins be brought up?" Well, your sins have been placed under the blood of Christ if you're saved and every spot and every stain and every blemish is washed away by His blood. The Bible says, "...their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Hebrews 8:12). That is definitely true.

But the whole time that you were sinning, you were failing to do what you ought to be doing. While your sin will not be brought up to condemn you, there's going to be a gap in your life. There's going to be a space in your life, there's going to be a blank there where you could have been serving, and God is not going to reward you for sin that was forgiven. He certainly can't reward you for that. The only thing He can reward you for is service. Even though your sins will not be brought up in the sense that you'll face them in condemnation, your life will still be reviewed. And the things that are done, whether they be

good or whether they be evil, will be reviewed. How ashamed some are going to be. How humiliated they're going to be.

## **A PLACE OF REWARD**

Even though their sins may have been forgiven, even though their sins are under the blood, those who've not served the Lord are going to be humiliated, and those who have served Him are going to be so grateful and so thankful as they hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21a). Not only is it going to be a place of review, it's also going to be a place of reward. What a payday there is for the man of God.

Now, I know there's some who don't like the idea of their lives coming up for review. They just want to coast on into glory. They want to say, "I'm just saved by grace. Lord You forget all that and just give me a big mansion up there." And then there are other people who don't like the idea of rewards. Oh, I've had people just get in heated arguments with me about the fact that some people are going to be rewarded in Heaven and that some are going to have more reward than others. And if you're one of those, I want you to note these Scriptures.

Revelation 22:12. The Lord Jesus speaks, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." We're saved by grace, rewarded by works.

Matthew 16:27. "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works."

First Corinthians 3:8b. "and every one will receive his own reward according to his own labor."

And here's the clincher above all: Matthew 6:20. "But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." That verse makes absolutely no sense if everybody's going to have the same reward in Heaven. Lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven. I cannot explain it all because there are many things about Heaven I don't know. You don't know. No one knows. But we know this: some are going to have more treasure in Heaven than others. What these treasures will consist of, whether it'll be a greater capacity to know and love God, we don't know, but some are definitely going to receive a reward that others do not receive.

The minister must give an accountability. He must answer for his ministry. One day his ministry is going to pass by in dress parade. He'll receive the things done in his body, whether they be good or whether they be evil. Therefore, it's going to be a place of reward.

What criteria will God use as He rewards us? What makes the distinction as to whether some are going to be rewarded not rewarded?

### ■ EMPHASIS UPON QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY

God is going to place an emphasis upon quality, not upon quantity. Paul is talking about his ministry:

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry..." That is God's vineyard. "Ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me..." Now, Paul was the minister. "...as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon. But let every man take heed how

he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (1 Corinthians 3:9-13, KJV).

It doesn't say the fire's going to test every man's work of how much it is, but of what sort it is. Paul compares gold and silver and precious stones with wood, hay and stubble. Which would you rather have, a pound of gold or a truckload of hay? Which would you rather have, a handful of diamonds or a wheelbarrow full of dirt? You see, the emphasis here is upon quality—gold, silver, precious stones as over wood, hay and stubble. I know ministers who work very hard, but their ministries are marked by the natural rather than the supernatural. Their ministries are much, but are not quality ministry, and what is done is done in the energy of the flesh. God is going to be putting the emphasis upon quality.

### ■ EMPHASIS UPON MOTIVATION

And not only will the emphasis be upon quality, but the emphasis is going to be upon motivation when He rewards you, not only for what you did but why you did it.

Look in 1 Corinthians 9:16. This applies so clearly to the pastor. Paul says, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" I think when a young man comes a minister and says, "I think God is calling me to preach.

What do you think about it?," many ministers would say to that young man, "Get out of it if you can. Just stay in if you can't get out." What that means is no one should preach, no one should take this calling, unless he says, "Necessity is laid upon me."

I have sometimes gone through a little reverie and thought what I might do if I weren't a minister, but it's absolute daydreaming because I know I'm stuck. I know I can't get out of it. Necessity is laid upon me. "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel." I know that. I know it's God's calling and God has His hand on my life, but it goes further than that.

Paul goes on to say in verse 17, "For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me" (KJV). Now you see, people can do things because they can't get out of them and still lose their reward. When we minister, we're not just to do it because of compulsion and because necessity is laid upon us and because there's a dispensation against us that says we must. But oh, what a glad heart we ought to have, what a willingness, what a joy. How we ought to do it as unto the Lord. And you see, you can do the right thing for the wrong reason.

Remember how the Lord Jesus told about those men who prayed to be seen of men? (See Matthew 6.) He said, they have their reward. That is, they're seen of men. Remember how Jesus talked about those who gave to be seen of men and sounded the trumpets before them? And He said they have their reward. That is, men see them. That's all the reward they get. And what Jesus is saying is not only for what you do but for why you do it.

Oh, how important it is that we have the right motivation. A man went to the army, I'm told, and his wife kept on writing him letters and finally he was over on the battlefield. He wrote