

The Unnecessary Pastor Rediscovering The Call

This comprehensive textbook on pastoral ministry for pastors, church leaders, and students articulates a biblical model for shepherding God's people. Written by a leading psychologist and seminary professor who has served as a pastor for more than two decades, the book covers twelve major areas of pastoral ministry, highlights the essential work of the Holy Spirit, and focuses on the personal and family life of the pastor. It includes cross-cultural perspectives of special interest in our diverse world and a foreword by John Ortberg.

"In a rapidly changing world,... the central missionary vision of the church must be constantly renewed, lest its foundations become lost in the confusion of change or its practices trapped in missionary models of the past." In this second edition of *Missions*, long-time missionary Gailyn Van Rheezen revises and updates his classic text on Christian missions, laying sound theological and strategic foundations for the missionary of today and tomorrow. Van Rheezen helps renew the missionary vision by discussing areas such as: The history of Christian mission, and how it affects where we are today Spiritual formation for God's mission The missionary cycle Cross-cultural communication The character and calling of missionaries Types of missionaries Church maturation Selecting mission fields The role of money in missions Four levels of involvement in missions But *Missions* is more than blackboard theory. Written by a long-time missionary, it carries the conviction and insights of one who has lived his subject. Accessible to students, practitioners, and laypeople alike, *Missions* provides a primary go-to resource for understanding and becoming involved in the dynamic activity of world missions.

Does God call women to serve as equal partners in marriage and as leaders in the church? With careful exegetical work, Lucy Peppiatt considers relevant passages in Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Peter, 1 Timothy, and 1 Corinthians. There she finds a story of God releasing women alongside men into all forms of ministry, leadership, work, and service on the basis of character and gifting, rather than biological sex.

What if the biggest danger to the church of Jesus Christ is not blatant heresy, the moral failures of church leaders, persecution, the rise of Islam or the loss of our rights? What if the biggest threat is counterfeit gospels within the church, ways of thinking and speaking about the good news that lead to a gradual drift from the truth of Scripture? The gospel is like a three-legged stool. There's the Gospel Story – the grand narrative of Scripture (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration). Within that overarching framework, we make the Gospel Announcement about Jesus Christ (His perfect life, substitutionary death, resurrection, exaltation). The gospel announcement then births the Gospel Community: God's church – the embodiment of the gospel, the manifestation of God's kingdom. A counterfeit gospel is like a colony of termites, eating away at one of the legs of this stool until the whole thing topples over. This book exposes six common counterfeits (Therapeutic, Judgmentless, Moralistic, Quietist, Activist, and Churchless) that would get us off track. The goal of *Counterfeit Gospels* is to so deepen our love for the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ that we would easily see through the many counterfeits that leave us impoverished. So come, love the gospel, recognize and overcome the counterfeits, and be empowered for ministry!

This book examines how social change affects the role of the pastor in an African context. Through field study in African churches, author Zawadi Job Kinyamagoha explores how pastors work amid the tensions of rapid social change and suggests how pastors can constructively respond to social change by using it as an opportunity in their pastoral ministry. Contemporary society is characterized by three cultural spheres: the economic sphere, the public sphere, and the democratic or self-governance rule, the realities of which many pastors seem to overlook. Church authorities seem to adhere rigidly to strict principles and rules without accommodating the realities of society. Conversely, a changing society demands that

pastors work with the reality at hand, leaving pastors caught between two conflicting tensions: the pressure from church authorities and from a changing social reality. The Pastor in a Changing Society seeks to help Tanzanian and African pastors rethink existing doctrines and practices in order to better respond to the reality of a changing society.

Since its publication in 2000, *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross* has provoked thought among evangelicals about the nature of the atonement and how it should be expressed in today's various global contexts. In this second edition Green and Baker have clarified and enlarged the text to ensure its ongoing critical relevance.

What do Christians believe about human sexuality? In *Mere Sexuality*, author and pastor Todd Wilson presents the historic Christian consensus about human sexuality, the Great Tradition of the church for centuries as taught in each of its major expressions - Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. Wilson highlights the stunning shift of opinion on issues of sexuality in the evangelical church and why this break with the historic church is problematic for the future of Christianity. Along the way he provides ordinary believers with an introduction to the historic Christian vision of sexuality, yet does so in conversation with some of the twenty-first century's leading challenges to this vision. In a culture that is deeply confused about human sexuality, Wilson believes it is time for evangelicals to retrieve the historic Christian tradition and biblical teaching on the question of sexuality. *Mere Sexuality* seeks to guide readers back to the beauty and coherence of this vision of sexuality in the face of an aggressive and all-consuming pagan and secular worldview.

Explores the life of Martin Luther, delving into his life and works, as well as how his ideas had a profound impact on later conceptions of faith, virtue, and freedom.

Discusses the importance of observing the Jewish Sabbath as both a practical and spiritual exercise, and provides guidelines for properly incorporating the Sabbath into everyday life.

Following up on her *Reaching Out without Dumbing Down*, Marva Dawn here insists that churches need to engage in a serious process of community discernment concerning worship in order to employ the best tools and forms, and she offers extensive reflections to further the discussion. Each part of *A Royal "Waste" of Time* begins with a sample Scripture-based sermon since Dawn emphasizes that the church's worship must follow biblical guidelines and form a biblical people.

Find Your Way in Scripture. Scripture is another world. One we find our way into. And one that finds its way into us. Steeped in Scripture, Eugene Peterson's faith-filled reflections open the door. The *Message Devotional Bible* invites you on a journey—call it practicing resurrection, call it eating this book, or call it simply a long obedience in the same direction. From the pastor who translated the entire Bible, the *Message Devotional Bible* sets you on the right path—devoted not just to the Bible but to God, who, in Jesus, became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. Open the door between Scripture and your world. From Eugene . . . Over 600 scriptural insights 52 contemplative readings Introductions to the books and genres of the Bible Plus . . . More than 400 reflection questions 9 neighborhood-themed articles

What would God say about those who blatantly misrepresent His Holy Spirit; who exchange true worship for chaotic fits of mindless ecstasy; who replace the biblical gospel with vain illusions of health and wealth; who claim to prophesy in His name yet speak errors; and who sell false hope to desperate people for millions of dollars? The charismatic movement has always been a breeding-ground for scandal, greed, bad doctrine, and all kinds of spiritual chicanery. As a movement, it is clearly headed the wrong direction. And it is growing at an unprecedented rate. From the Word of Faith to the New Apostolic Reformation, the Charismatic movement is being consumed by the empty promises of the prosperity gospel. Too many charismatic celebrities promote a "Christianity" without Christ, a Holy Spirit without holiness. And their teaching is having a disastrous influence on a grand scale, as large television networks broadcast their heresies to every part of the world. In *Strange Fire*,

bestselling author and pastor John MacArthur chronicles the unsavory history behind the modern Charismatic movement. He lays out a chilling case for rejecting its false prophets, speaking out against their errors, showing true reverence to the Holy Spirit, and above all clinging to the Bible as the inerrant, authoritative Word of God and the one true standard by which all truth claims must be tested.

A thorough exploration of what biblical servanthood is, why each Christian is called to serve, and how to grow as true servants of our Lord.

Pastoral ministry today is often ruled by an emphasis on short-sighted goals, pragmatic results, and shallow thinking. Unfortunately, those in the academy tend to have the opposite problem, failing to connect theological study to the pressing issues facing the church today.

Contemporary evangelicalism has lost sight of the inherent connection between pastoral leadership and theology. This results in theologically anemic churches, and ecclesial anemic theologies. Todd Wilson and Gerald Hiestand contend that among a younger generation of evangelical pastors and theologians, there is a growing appreciation for the native connection between theology and pastoral ministry. At the heart of this recovery of a theological vision for ministry is the re-emergence of the role of the "pastor theologian." *The Pastor Theologian* presents a taxonomy of the pastor-theologian and shows how individual pastors—given their unique calling and gift-set—can best embody this age-old vocation in the 21st century. They present three models that combine theological study and practical ministry to the church: The Local Theologian—a pastor theologian who ably services the theological needs of a local congregation. The Popular Theologian—a pastor theologian who writes theology to a wider lay audience. The Ecclesial Theologian—a pastor theologian who writes theology to other theologians and scholars. Raising the banner for the pastor as theologian, this book invites the emerging generation of theologians and pastors to reimagine the pastoral vocation along theological lines, and to identify with one of the above models of the pastor theologian.

Eugene Peterson may be the most influential theological writer in the church today. Yet because most of his career has not been in academia there is not much critical engagement with his work. Here some of the finest scholar-pastors we have describe the way Peterson has inspired and infuriated on the way to (hopefully) more faithful pastorates. Book jacket.

Arguing that the way Jesus leads and the way we follow are symbiotic, Peterson begins with a study of how the ways of those who came before Christ revealed and prepared the way of the Lord that became complete in Jesus. He then challenges the ways of the contemporary American church, showing in stark relief how what we have chosen to focus on--consumerism, celebrity, charisma, and so forth--obliterates what is unique in the Jesus way.

Have you ever felt in over your head? When Eric Peterson became the pastor of a brand-new church, he quickly and wisely turned to his dad for guidance.

Eugene Peterson, author of more than thirty books including his bestselling memoir *The Pastor* and his groundbreaking Bible *The Message*, here reflects on pastoral ministry in all its complexity--from relationships to administration to the sheer audacity of leading God's people in a particular place. This is Eugene Peterson at his best--lifelong wisdom written with deep love. As the reader, you will glimpse into the tender, witty, personal side of Eugene mentoring his own son. These intimate letters will be treasured by all who read, and applicable to church leaders around the globe. Purchase individually or together with *Letters to a Young Congregation* as a memorable gift for a church leader or seminary graduate.

Everyone knows that pulpits are for preaching and pews are for listening to sermons. This obvious scenario, however, masks an essential prerequisite for

faithful, fruitful preaching -- namely, that preachers listen to God and to their people before they speak. Roger Van Harn here puts forth pointed questions that sermon listeners really ask of preachers: Why should we listen to sermons? Does every sermon need a Bible text? How can a sermon be the word of God? Do you preach for the church or the world? Van Harn grapples with and discusses such questions, giving preachers fresh insights into the needs and desires of congregations. *Preacher, Can You Hear Us Listening?* will foster an ongoing dialogue between pulpit and pew and sharpen listening skills in both directions. Evangelicals stand divided in their view of women in the church. On one side stand complementarians, arguing the full worth of women but assigning them to differing roles. On the other side stand egalitarians, arguing that the full worth of women demands their equal treatment and access to leadership roles. Is there a way to mend the breach and build consensus? Sarah Sumner thinks there is. Avoiding the pitfalls of both radical feminism and reactionary conservatism, she traces a new path through the issues--biblical, theological, psychological and practical--to establish and affirm common ground. Arguing that men and women are both equal and distinct, Sumner encourages us to find ways to honor and benefit from the leadership gifts of both. *Men and Women in the Church* is a book for all who want a fresh and hope-filled look at a persistent problem.

Neither a commentary on the book of Revelation nor a devotional work -- though it offers aspects of both -- *Joy in Our Weakness* is instead a theological and practical guide that ushers readers into the very presence of Christ and His Lordship over the powers of evil. Marva Dawn writes compassionately for those who suffer, for this book was born out of her own struggles with physical limitations and chronic illness, and it is intended to help the whole Church learn how to find Joy in every circumstance of life, especially in trials and sufferings. After outlining some important foundational principles in three introductory chapters, Dawn guides readers through the whole book of Revelation, pointing out the errors of those who try to calendarize the end of the world and instead delineating how The Revelation reveals Christ's Lordship, exposes the workings of the powers, and sustains those who suffer until evil is ultimately defeated. Now thoroughly revised for a wider readership, *Joy in Our Weakness* highlights The Revelation's original purpose -- to comfort afflicted, suffering believers -- and spells out a biblically grounded "theology of weakness," offering a rare gift to the Church today. A wealth of insight and encouragement truly awaits the readers of these pages.

"The Book on Adler is Kierkegaard's most revised manuscript, his longest unpublished book, and the book of which he left the most drafts. When he decided not to publish the book, he pulled a chapter ("The Difference between a Genius and an Apostle") and published it in *Two Ethical-Religious Essays* (1849). All this rowing and backwatering show the complexity of his personal involvement in this book and concern for the person of Adler." "The ostensible subject is the claim by a pastor of the Danish state church, Adolph Peter Adler, that he had

received a private revelation from Jesus in which He had dictated the truth about the origin of evil. The content of this revelation was quoted verbatim in the preface to one of Adler's several books of sermons. Such a claim to a private revelation was then and is still in conflict with the concepts of revelation and authority in Christian churches." "Jesus had further commanded Adler to burn all Hegel's texts that he owned, which he did without hesitation. Adler had written his doctoral thesis on isolated subjectivity in Hegel's thought, and he apparently thought that the burning of Hegel's books cleaned up his categories and ridded him of Hegel's influence on his thinking. The irony is that this observable act demonstrated his own isolation not only from the Hegelian tradition but also from Christian theology, which addresses itself to the human heart." "Kierkegaard considered Adler's revelation claim to be an extreme but still typical example of the religious confusions of the age." "The essays in this volume address the issue of revelation, subjectivity, and related topics that remain problematic to this day and are perhaps even more acute in a postmodern age."--BOOK JACKET. While evangelicalism dukes it out about who can be church leaders, the rest of the 98% of us need to be well equipped to see where we fit in God's household and why that matters. Recovering from Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is a resource to help church leaders improve the culture of their church and disciple men and women in their flock to read, understand, and apply Scripture to our lives in the church. Until both men and women grow in their understanding of their relationship to Scripture, there will continue to be tension between the sexes in the church. Church leaders need to be engaged in thoughtful critique of the biblical manhood and womanhood movement and the effects it has on their congregation. Do men and women benefit equally from God's word? Are they equally responsible in sharpening one another in the faith and passing it down to the next generation? While radical feminists claim that the Bible is a hopelessly patriarchal construction by powerful men that oppresses women, evangelical churches simply reinforce this teaching when we constantly separate men and women, customizing women's resources and studies according to a culturally based understanding of roles. Do we need men's Bibles and women's Bibles, or can the one, holy Bible guide us all? Is the Bible, God's word, so male-centered and authored that women need to create their own resources to relate to it? No! And in it, we also learn from women. Women play an active role as witnesses to the faith, passing it on to the new generations. This book explores the feminine voice in Scripture as synergistic with the dominant male voice. Through the women, we often get the story behind the story--take Ruth for example, or the birth of Christ through the perspective of Mary and Elizabeth in Luke. Aimee fortifies churches in a biblical understanding of brotherhood and sisterhood in God's household and the necessity of learning from one another in studying God's word. The troubling teaching under the rubric of "biblical manhood and womanhood" has thrived with the help of popular Biblicist interpretive methods. And Biblicist interpretive methods ironically flourish in our individualistic culture

that works against the "traditional values" of family and community that the biblical manhood and womanhood movement is trying to uphold. This book helps to correct Biblicist trends in the church today, affirming that we do not read God's word alone, we read it within our interpretive covenant communities--our churches. Our relationship with God's word affects our relationship with God's people, and vice versa. The church is the school of Christ, commissioned to discipleship. The responsibility of every believer, men and women together, is being active and equal participants in and witnesses to the faith--the traditions of faith.

In this book Peterson clarifies the pastoral vocation by turning to the book of Jonah, in which he finds a captivating, subversive story that can help pastors recover their "vocational holiness". Peterson probes the spiritual dimensions of the pastoral calling and seeks to reclaim the ground taken over by those who are trying to enlist pastors in religious careers.

"Every good giving and every perfect gift is from on high, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). This verse conveys a powerful image of God as the source and referent of all beauty. This book demonstrates how the experience of beauty is related to our inherent longing for the God who is reflected in such moments. Richly informed by Junius Johnson's expertise on Bonaventure and von Balthasar, the book offers a robust, full-orbed theology of beauty, showing how it has functioned as a theological concept from biblical times to the present day.

Lillian Daniel shares how her congregation re-appropriated the practice of testimony one Lenten season, a practice that would eventually revitalize their worship and transform their congregational culture.

Examines the practices of the modern church focusing on its conformity to contemporary culture and emphasis on powers. Argues that the church needs to embrace its call to weakness.

In an attempt to combat the widespread confusion regarding sexual issues, Dawn offers a clear biblical understanding of human sexuality. Her fresh perspectives will challenge and encourage readers and her engaging, non-preachy style will appeal to parents, ministers, youth group leaders, and others coping with life in our sex-saturated society. There is no greater pursuit, no greater journey, and no greater joy than discovering the extraordinary character of God. Incomparable explores sixty names and descriptions of our creator. Each chapter is filled with profound Biblical insights and revelations that will inspire and enrich your faith. Selah moments allow for a time of reflection and worship. And practical applications connect each truth with your daily life. Throughout, Incomparable unfolds the greatest wonder our minds and hearts will ever contemplate. Immerse yourself in His character. Delve into the depths of His presence. And experience a God that is truly beyond compare.

In this volume, two of today's most respected authors help pastors recover their gospel identity and clarify their vision of Christian leadership. Eugene Peterson and Marva Dawn reconnect pastors with biblical texts that equip them to be countercultural servants of the gospel. In his chapters Peterson explores 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus,

drawing from them scriptural images for pastoral identity. In alternating chapters Dawn turns to Ephesians for instructions to churches seeking to live faithfully against societal tides. This book is for anyone involved in church or parachurch leadership or for anyone now preparing for ministry.

Ordained ministry, says Will Willimon, is a gift of God to the church—but that doesn't mean that it is easy. Always a difficult vocation, changes in society and the church in recent years have made the ordained life all the more complex and challenging. Is the pastor primarily a preacher, a professional caregiver, an administrator? Given the call of all Christians to be ministers to the world, what is the distinctive ministry of the ordained? When does one's ministry take on the character of prophet, and when does it become that of priest? What are the special ethical obligations and disciplines of the ordained? *Pastor: Revised Edition* explores these and other central questions about the vocation of ordained ministry. It begins with a discussion of who pastors are, asking about the theological underpinnings of ordained ministry, and then moves on to what pastors do, looking at the distinctive roles the pastor must fulfill. The book also draws on great teachers of the Christian tradition to demonstrate that, while much about Christian ministry has changed, its core concerns—preaching the word, the care of souls, the sacramental life of congregations—remains the same. Ordained ministry is a vocation to which we are called, not a profession that we choose. To answer that call is to open oneself to heartache and sometimes hardship; yet, given the one who calls, it is to make oneself available to deep and profound joy as well.

This book invites the reader to experience the wholeness and joy that come from observing God's order for life—a rhythm of working six days and setting apart one day for rest, worship, festivity, and relationships. Dawn's work offers both motivation and methods for enjoying a special holy day.

Chuck DeGroat has been counseling pastors with Narcissistic Personality Disorder, as well as those wounded by narcissistic leaders, for over twenty years. Offering compassion and hope for both narcissists themselves and those affected by its destructive power, DeGroat takes a close look at this insidious issue and imparts wise counsel for churches looking to heal from its systemic effects.

Seeking to help local churches think more thoroughly about worship and culture so that they can function effectively in contemporary society, Dawn roots her discussion of worship issues in a careful assessment of significant aspects of the present technological, postmodern society and names criteria by which to judge various cultural influences. She also sketches the essential attributes of true worship - worship that keeps God at the center, builds believers' character, and upbuilds the community. In the process, Dawn discusses music, preaching, Scripture readings, rituals, liturgies, art, and all the accoutrements of worship, and offers practical suggestions for choosing the best tools and forms to deepen worship life, to nurture faith development, and to increase believers' outreach throughout the church and to the world.

Lynn Cohick provides an accurate and fulsome picture of the earliest Christian women by examining a wide variety of first-century Jewish and Greco-Roman documents that illuminate their lives. She organizes the book around three major spheres of life: family, religious community, and society in general. Cohick shows

that although women during this period were active at all levels within their religious communities, their influence was not always identified by leadership titles nor did their gender always determine their level of participation. The book corrects our understanding of early Christian women by offering an authentic and descriptive historical picture of their lives. Includes black-and-white illustrations from the ancient world.

Harbaugh captures your interest with dramatic stories of the inner lives of working pastors, weaving these stories into patterns of meaning from his own reflection and research. An excellent study guide for the individual pastor, the pastor's support group, or the seminary class that really wants to come to grips with the dilemmas of being a person who is also a pastor.

How can we help the church's children not to make the same choices as the children of the dominant culture around them concerning their sexuality, their use of money and time, their attitudes toward work and life? Is it still possible in our post-Christian, post-modern society to raise children with Christian faith and moral character? In this sensitive and astute work, Marva Dawn insists that forming genuinely Christian children is not a lost cause if congregations, pastors, and parents wake up to the present crisis of a society at odds with the gospel and to the crucial need for deliberate formative efforts and intensive discipleship in both home and Church. Drawing on thirty years of experience working with young people in churches and schools, convocations and camps, Dawn examines some of the forces in our culture that harm our children's spiritual development and suggests biblically centered parenting and mentoring habits that are necessary for producing godly and faith-full children today.

The Unnecessary Pastor Rediscovering the Call Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing
The emergence of the pastor Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position in churches today has become widely acceptable in Mega and Meta churches. Recent studies have not explored this issue. David Fisher acknowledges that in the 21st century, being a pastor presents major challenges because it leads to professional and personal identity crisis resulting from secular and ecclesial challenges. Studies have supported the idea that there is the need for church leaders to adopt the secular models of leadership and several noted authors have shown that churches today have become like other organizations that have to market their products. This is a problematic interpretation because leadership in modern churches has gone beyond the biblical and theological definitions of becoming shepherds of their flock and servants of God. In the search for an effective pastoral leadership role, this paper will explore the contemporary definition of pastoral leadership and compare it with what the scriptures say concerning the elders and servants of God assigned the duty of being shepherds of their flock.

In this prophetic call to faithful Christian living, Marva Dawn identifies the epidemic socio-cultural attitudes that destroy hope in our modern lives. Because affluent persons don't know what to value--how to choose what's important and

weed out the rest--we remain dissatisfied with what we have and are compelled to want more. Dawn demonstrates, however, how Christians can organize their lives to live in ways that allow them to love God and neighbor and, in the process, alleviate the despair in their lives and in the lives of others in the world.

"Philip Gulley invites us into a bracing encounter with the rich truths of Quakerism-- a centuries-old spiritual tradition that provides not only a foundation of faith but also vision for making the world more just, loving, and peacable by or presence. In *Living the Quaker Way*, Gulley shows how Quaker values provide real solutions to many of our most pressing contemporary challenges. We not only come to a deeper appreciation of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality, we see how embracing these virtues will radically transform us and our world."--P.[4] of cover.

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