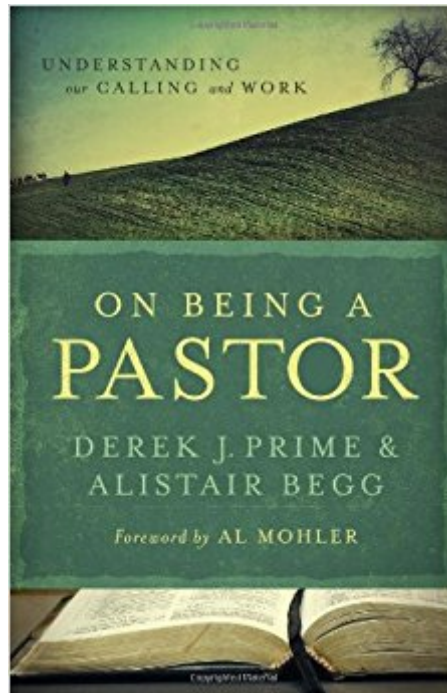




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On Being A Pastor: Understanding Our Calling And Work



Synopsis

The ministry of pastors is not simply a job; it's a vocation and a lifestyle. A pastor's responsibilities are unique, demanding that he not only nurture his own spiritual life but also the lives of those in his care. What a challenge this can be! Derek Prime and Alistair Begg provide practical advice for both the spiritual and practical aspects of pastoral ministry. They delve deep into topics such as prayer, devotional habits, preaching, studying, and specific ministry duties. The result is an essential tool for those in pastoral ministry.

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Customer Reviews

Being a pastor is a high calling, which requires devotion, skillfulness, and unique spiritual preparation. Derek Prime and Alistair Begg provide clarity for the call, wisdom for the journey, and experience for the task. This book is like a conversation with good friends providing no nonsense counsel for the ministry challenges of the 21st century. -Jack Graham, Pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

On Being a Pastor is an outstanding book, which should be on every pastor's shelf. I have read and consulted the previous version from the pen of Derek Prime for many years. Now it has been revised and enriched with the cooperation of Alistair Begg, and the result is splendid! -Eric Alexander, Retired Pastor, St. George's-Tron Parish Church, Scotland

The ministry of pastors is not simply a job; it's a vocation. A pastor's

responsibilities are unique, demanding that he not only nurture his own spiritual life but also the lives of those in his care. What a challenge this can be! Derek Prime and Alistair Begg provide practical advice for both the spiritual and practical aspects of pastoral ministry. They delve deep into topics such as prayer, devotional habits, preaching, studying, and specific ministry duties. The result is an essential tool for those in pastoral ministry.

This book should form part of every Pastor's library (whether current or aspiring). *On Being a Pastor* provides the rich details that only decades of service to the body of Christ can yield. I found myself highlighting most of the book and that's saying something since I seldom do so with other Christian books. Pastors Alistair Begg and Derek Prime join their experiences to provide some of the most biblically sound and spiritually enriching advice. The book covers the Pastor's role in the church and outside of from Worship, to preaching and teaching, evangelism, and so forth. It can't be stressed enough, this book is a gem and should be read carefully to draw the maximum potential from it. You will after reading this book be much closer towards understanding the role of a shepherd in the life of the believer. The highest calling in life is undoubtedly to be a shepherd one that leads primarily by example and depends solely on the Holy Spirit.

As an up coming Pastor, the Senior Pastor in my church, as part of an ongoing curriculum, required several of us to read this book. When I began this book, I started to get somewhat frustrated because Derek Prime and Alistair Begg kept referring to their respective ministries in Scotland. I thought, "what does this have to do with what my future ministry"? After a couple of chapters, I began to see why my Senior Pastor required this reading! It revealed situations and problems not uncommon in any ministry. However, how DP and AB, each dealt with them at their churches even though the set-ups are different. I can see where in a Scottish church how the ministry has to deal with their flock. For example, as stated in their book, if you live in a church owned house, it is a common practice for the minister to be on a constant call, and where his wife or elder has to run interference to allow them some type of privacy to prepare. Whereas in the States, most Pastors do not live in a parsonage. Also, except in the top 5% of American churches, Pastors are "expected" to serve on various committees. Or even oversee them to make necessary decisions. In my home church, we have over 3,000 members, (children included), Our Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, and Zone Pastors rarely if ever serve on any committee. Each Pastor has his own field of "expertise" where he may be of most use. Other wise, they do not step on each others toes. It should be the

responsibility of the rank and file to run the church as DP put it. The Pastors should bring the word, see to Pastoral care, and perform pastoral counseling when and where needed. Anyway, I've come to appreciate this book and the wisdom given by DP and AB. I plan to put their insights to good use in the coming months.

If you are looking for a practical, hands on, manual for being a good pastor, look no further. Alistair Begg and Derrick Prime bring many years of pastoral experience to the table in a very readable, encouraging, and transparent way. Good theology, humor and examples are in every section of this concise, thoughtful work. I recommend it without reservation!

This was a very helpful book. The helpfulness of this book will be determined by your approach to the book. I got half way before I found the best approach for me. I decided that when the authors took breaks to give their personal insight, I would do the same. This helped me think through more what was being taught. It also helped me interact with the authors and think through their approaches to ministry.

A very practical guide for young and even more experienced pastors, or even those wrestling with the call. Very sound and clear advice. Nice to have the opinions of two different pastors (different personalities and some different ways of doing things) and yet with many good common denominators about the office of a pastor, as they share from their personal experience as well as their convictions from God's Word. It was very encouraging and enlightening read.

Prime and Begg offer decades of pastoral ministry experience and wisdom in somewhat different cultures (Scotland & US). The intention of the book is to be more practical than providing a theology of pastoral ministry, and it is very helpful toward that end. They do provide a biblical grounding for how they approach pastoring and then build from there into areas that require biblically-shaped wisdom. For example, they include lots of details to think through when visiting people (age, stage of life, children or no children, married or single, etc.). They emphasize that the ministry of the Word of God, a key part of pastoral ministry, isn't limited to the pulpit but extends into informal interactions. Pastors are seeking to build up the church toward maturity and Christ through the Word. Overall, it's a helpful volume.

One of the best. the unique feature of this book is that two pastors comment on the chapter as they

go along sharing their own experience. very nice

Derek and Alistair both give a great look into the position of a pastor, their personal experiences, and what they found to be the most successful way of performing their duties. They are very honest as well in their shortcomings and what may be a better way of doing things, I believe many a pastor could avoid mistakes if they read this book, I also believe it would be a great book for new or young pastors to read and help them view things differently for their future calling.

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