



Does the Bible permit both men & women  
to be pastors/ elders/ overseers?

# TACKLING TOUGH QUESTIONS

What leadership roles does the Bible  
teach for men & women in scripture?

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6 – 7:30 pm

A pair of weathered, brown hands are held up in a gesture of prayer or supplication. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers spread. The background consists of rough, reddish-brown stone walls. A warm, golden light source, possibly a candle or a small fire, is visible behind the hands, creating a soft glow and casting long shadows. The overall mood is one of solemnity and faith.

Proclaiming Christ with Joy &  
Peace in all Circumstances

# **PHILIPPIANS**

By the Power of the Resurrection

**Will We Proclaim  
Christ, Without  
Fear, Until Our  
Last Breath?**

# Pew Research Poll Data *in America*

In 2023, 62% identify as Christians.

In 2014, 67% believe that those who lived “good lives” go to heaven.

In 2007, 65% of “Christians” believed other religions are pathways to heaven.

In 2013, only 32% indicated they are afraid or very afraid of death.

Many Christians proclaim & defend conservatism more than Christ.

***Houston (and every other city), we have a problem!***

The Bible is clear; your works will never earn your place in heaven. It is through Jesus' sacrifice & following Him as “the way” that you receive grace & the gift of the Holy Spirit from whom eternal life is found.

Americans should be very afraid of death... unless they're in Christ.

**But if we're *in Christ*,  
then we are called to  
have no fear of death  
or of suffering for Him.**

**Philippians 1:19-22 (NKJV)** <sup>19</sup> For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, <sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. <sup>22</sup> But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

*Paul knew that he had 2 deliverance options: 1. Freedom from his chains. 2. Death at Rome's hand, resulting in freedom to be with Christ. Either way, he was going to boldly proclaim Christ until His last breath.*

*Our life is Christ's, so we are called to live both in Him and for Him. When we do this, the expectation, after our last breath, is to be in his presence and hear, "Well done, good and faithful slave."*

**Do you consider your life to be your own, or to be Christ's?**

**Philippians 1:23-26 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to **depart and be with Christ**, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup> But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

*Though the word "sleep" is used symbolically of death in scripture, the doctrine of soul sleep is not biblical. When believers depart this world, we are immediately ushered into Christ's presence, as demonstrated here, with the thief on the cross, and other passages.*

*Though we should long for being in the presence of Christ, we should be using every opportunity, while we are here, to proclaim the saving grace of King Jesus and the power and treasure of His kingdom.*

Though rest is truly found in Christ, will you choose to faithfully serve His Kingdom until you meet Him face-to-face?

**Philippians 1:27-30 (NIV)** <sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

*When people see our lives, do they see the light of the gospel of Christ?*

*We must encourage one another in our faith and in our boldness to serve Jesus, in expectation that we will suffer for our King.*

*When we stand in faith, without fear, this is a sign of coming salvation & destruction.*

Do we continually remember how our King suffered for us?  
Are we willing to proclaim His Kingdom until our last breath?