

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Rev. Philip Donn Butler
615 W. Pleasant St.
Colfax, IA 50054
515.975.0791
PastorPhilButler@hotmail.com

Ministry Life Verses:

*Psalm 56:13 "For You have delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling,
So that I may walk before God in the light of the living."*

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

*Colossians 4:17 "...Take heed to the ministry which you have received from the Lord,
that you may fulfill it."*

The goals of my Pastoral Ministry are to do all things with excellence for the glory of God, to live and communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ from the Word of God, and to make a positive difference for my Savior in this world and for eternity. The following ministries show how I desire to serve the Lord.

Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This is both evangelism and discipleship. Evangelizing the lost is presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who need to know the Savior. It is important to look for opportunities to share the gospel with others. The church is both to "go and tell" and invite others to "come and see."

Discipleship is helping believers in Jesus grow in their personal faith and walk. This is helping people develop spiritual disciplines, to live obedient and holy lives, to experience the fruit of the Spirit, and to exercise their gifts of the Spirit.

I have been blessed to lead people to Christ. I believe every message I preach needs to provide the basics of the gospel calling people to make personal decisions for Christ.

Preaching and Teaching the Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-4:2 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be fully equipped for every good deed. I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction."

Pastors and elders are to be "able to teach." What an honor to expound the Word of God to others. A faithful preacher and teacher needs to "accurately handle the word of God," and proclaim the "whole counsel of God."

God's written Word is our first and final authority for faith and practice. We are able to understand it by being in a saving relationship with the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ, and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

I enjoy preaching and teaching the rich depths of the inexhaustible Bible. My years of experience continue to verify this as a primary role of the pastor and a privilege I must not take for granted.

I believe expository preaching is the best way to communicate as it lets the Scripture speak for itself by looking at the historical-grammatical context and then applying it to our lives today.

I appreciate studying from a variety of Bible translations, but my preaching mainly has been from the New American Standard Bible, though I have referenced others such as the NKJV, ESV, NIV, and NLT.

Shepherding and Leading a Local Church

Acts 20:26 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

This is both the pastoral care giving and the ministry oversight of the church. The church needs pastors and elders who care for the personal needs of the family of God. The local church also must be effectively and efficiently lead to be faithful stewards of the gifts and resources of the church body.

I enjoy developing relationships with the people of my church, it is a privilege to interact in their lives and to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."

I also have gifts of administration and can organize and direct the business of the church. Yet leadership is more than management of the present activities, it is also directing the church to its future to better fulfill the Great Commandments and the Great Commission for the glory of God.

Prayer and Study of the Word

Acts 6:2, 4 "So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables...But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This is a very personal and intimate relationship with the Great Shepherd of the sheep. I need to be a student of the Scriptures with my life and ministry bathed in prayer. I value the ACTS pattern for personal prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication).

Corporate prayer for the Body of Christ is essential to the church's spiritual health. There are many ways the church family can share together in prayer.

We are blessed today to have so many resources for Bible Study available to us. I appreciate the many I use, both personally and professionally. There are several excellent Study Bibles such as the Ryrie Study Bible and the NIV or NASV Study Bible.

Praise and Worship

Psalms 30:4 "Sing praise to the Lord, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name."

Psalms 95:6-7a "Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker, for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand."

This is last on the list, but certainly not the least. We have a great God who is worthy of our praise and worship. Praise is exuberant celebration of God, and worship is quiet contemplation, both done in humility and reverence.

I appreciate a blended style of worship incorporating the traditional hymns and songs of our faith, and also the newer contemporary praise and worship music. Music is a great means to focus ourselves on our God as the Body of Christ together.

Praise and worship are both private and public, and personal and corporate. When the Body of Christ gathers together our praise and worship must first be God focused and each part of the "Worship Service" is to help draw us in greater relationship with our Triune God, but also to encourage each other in the family of God, and to be a witness to our world of the amazing grace of God.

******* All by God's grace, in God's love, and for God's glory. *******