

There's No Hurry

Isaiah 28:16-29

"...the one who believes will not hurry." (v. 16, HCSB, footnote reading)

Being patient during a time of transition is a demonstration of trust in God. A time without a pastor is a transitional period in which God wants to do a work in the life of every church member. The focus should not be on finding the right person but becoming the right people. Use this time to refocus your congregational vision for God and His kingdom.

Here are three reasons why there is no need for a church without a pastor to get in a hurry:

1. **You've lost a leader but not your Founder** (v.16)

Christ is the tested stone, a precious cornerstone, and a sure foundation. The church is built on Him, not a human shepherd, even though the New Testament affirms the importance of pastors. No one has more invested in the church than Jesus, for He is the Buyer¹, Builder², and Boss³ of the church.

2. **You've lost your earthly comfort and security but not a chance to learn and grow** (v.20, 26, 29)

Without a pastor, a church can lose its sense of familiarity and comfort, like the warmth of a nice blanket. The previous ease and security has left in the face of increased responsibility. Nevertheless, this period can become one of the greatest periods of growth in the lives of the church, both individually and corporately.

3. **You've lost a pastor's tenure but not God's timing** (vv.23-24)

In the cycles of nature, there are seasons, times when certain activities must be done. There are also times when these same activities are not done. A period without a pastor is like a period of cultivation and plowing, to break up the soil, so that planting and growth can occur in the future.

Isaiah 5:18-19 says, *Woe to those who...say: "Let Him hurry up and do His work quickly so that we can see it! Let the plan of the Holy One of Israel take place so that we can know it!"*

Here are some reflective questions for you as a church to ask when you are without a pastor:

- Do we believe that God has brought us to this place?
- Is God in charge of the timing of our pastor's departure?
- What is our church really founded on?
- What is essential to the survival and growth of this church?
- Can we trust God to the point where we can move ahead with Him but not hurry ahead of Him?

¹ Acts 20:28

² Matthew 16:18

³ Colossians 1:18