

Devotion given on Oct 10 at the congregational meeting on Pastor Call:

- This morning we come before the Lord to make two decisions.
- First is to call Pastor Moy as our Pastor. This requires spiritual discernment, as we seek the Lord's will.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> is to determine a remuneration package for him. This is an exercise in Christian liberty and Christian charity, as the Bible does not spell out in numerical terms how to remunerate our Pastor.
- Acts 16: <sup>9</sup>And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed to him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. <sup>10</sup> And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them."
- Here the man of Macedonia cries to Paul for help; there is no mention of how much to pay Paul. Once Paul is assured the Lord has called him, he leaves for Philippi immediately. Paul does not precondition his preaching on a remuneration package.
- Yet 1 Timothy 5:18 (KJV) teaches "The laborer is worthy of his reward." And we must provide for their daily necessities.
- Today we search our hearts as to the scope of this reward. This is no easy task:
  - How much is too much?
  - How little is too little?
  - Should we aim for the biggest bang for the buck?
  - Should we benchmark against the market?
  - Should we base on affordability?
- Those are all valid considerations. But I ask you to include one more guiding principle. "1 Timothy 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are **worthy of double honor**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching"
- How do we honor each other?
  - In action, we serve him
  - In mind, we estimate him higher
  - In soul, we pray for him
- The Bible teaches us to double the honor given to Pastor, who chief work is preaching & teaching. Is "Double" twice as much, or 1.5 times or 10 times? That I don't know and I leave to you.
- But I pray today that we should approach the remuneration with extra grace and extra generosity. May God help us and guide us.