

# MELVIN JOURNAL

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(week 12)

## A PREVIEW OF MY UPCOMING PACKET OF LETTERS TO LAY PASTORS

*Wordshapes both your life and the lives of those you P.A.C.E.*

A few years ago the Lord pressed a simple idea on my heart: *Write a series of letters to lay pastors.* Since that time I have been pecking away at it, filing ideas as they come, writing bits and pieces, completing a few. My extended time of fighting cancer is nearly over, praise God, and I am ablaze with a new passion for writing (Ps. 45:1).

I have a lot to give lay ministers. I want to pay you up to 50 ""visits"" (each one five minutes or so) via letters. Each epistle comes from my heart and 62 years of *clergy pastoral care* in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Hawaii and Ohio, the last 32 of them given mostly to *lay pastoral care*, crisscrossing the USA, Canada, The Bahamas and parts of Australia to give seminars, speak and preach. Via e-mail and phone, I am now consulting with Lay Pastors Ministry leaders in South Korea, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Pakistan, and more. Each letter will be a useful and serendipitous visit about one of the following three categories of vital subjects:

**DO IT ALL:** *Discharge all the duties of your ministry* (II Tim. 4:5). I will write about what lay pastors are called by God to do in their ministry, give tips on how to do it, and what you can expect as you do it.

**BE IT ALL:** *Participate in the divine nature* (II Pet. 1 :4). You'll read about offering your body to God as a ""living sacrifice,"" what it is for your body to be a member of God's "body," and how to have your Father's "genes" (Spirit) and word-shape both your life and the lives of those you P.A.C.E.

**RESPECT IT ALL:** *Remember your leaders ... their way of life-Respect all your leaders and all the ministries they lead. Obey your leaders ... they keep watch over you as those who must give an account"* (Heb.13:7 & 17). In case you wonder about *obey*, the Greek word is *peitho*, meaning assent, agree with or obey- take your pick. All human effort, Christian or not, needs leaders and organization. God calls *many* of his people to tend his flock, *but few* to lead – *We have different gifts ... if it is leadership, let him govern diligently* (Rom. 12:8). We'll have a lot to learn from Moses' leadership, he is one of our posthumous leaders (Ex. 18).

*from the Letters to Lay Pastors*



**How do you** think of these above; Do it, Be it and Respect it? What actions can you take now to impart a sense of responsibility into your ministry?  
Byeong