**Lifelong Appointment (November 18, 2018)**

As a nation, we have survived the process of appointing a Supreme Court Judge. Whatever one’s opinion on the matter, it is a position that requires much consideration. To be considered an individual has to work their way up through law school, as an attorney, local judge, federal judge, etc. and then be recommended by the President of the United States. The role of a Supreme Court judge is one that is prestigious, highly important, and provides many rewards. It includes a tremendous amount of responsibility involving the interpretation of the law of the land, making decisions on high profile cases, and setting precedent for policy to be followed by our country.

**It is a lifelong appointment that includes many rewards:** An annual salary in excess of a quarter million dollars; Three months off a year; Many opportunities to earn speaking fees; Outstanding health care; One can retire after 10 years at age 70 or 15 years at age 65 with your ending annual salary for life.

I got to thinking about the ***lifelong appointment*** that Jesus offers for those who would become His disciples.

* ***A Christian also has important responsibilities***
	+ Example to others (**1 Timothy 4:12-16**)
	+ Influence and teach others to come to Christ (**Matt. 5:13-16, Acts 8:4, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, 1 Peter 3:15**)
	+ A soldier in the Lord’s army (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**)
	+ Priests in the eternal Kingdom of Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10, Revelation 1:6**)
	+ Ambassadors of Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:20, Ephesians 6:20**)
* ***A Christian also enjoys great rewards***
	+ Physical provisions while on earth (**Mark 10:28-31**)
	+ Perfect spiritual health care (**1 John 1:8-10**)
	+ Mental health care (**Ephesians 4:20-24, Philippians 4:6-7**)
	+ It can be a lifelong/eternal appointment (**Matthew 6:19-21, 7:13-14**)

**A Supreme Court justice is sworn in before he is officially appointed on the Supreme Court.**

*Although Christians are not sworn in, they are required to make a commitment*

* One must believe and give the good confession (**Acts 8:37, 1 Timothy 6:12**)
* Repent of sins (**Luke 13:3**)
* Be baptized/immersed in water for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38, 8:36-38**)
* Commit to grow in the knowledge of the Lord (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:17-18**)
* Diligently serve the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 4:11, 2 Peter 3:14; 1 John 5:1-5**).

**A lifelong appointment:** The big difference between an appointment to a position in this life and an appointment to the Kingdom of God, is that by being a disciple in the Kingdom of God you reap rewards in this life and an eternal reward in Heaven (**Acts 13:48**)! OFF PPT

Last November many of you took part in a surprise party for me and Beth to celebrate our 30th anniversary. It was overwhelming that our kids and the Paden’s worked that out, and for all of you who added to and shared in that special occasion. When Beth & I got married we knew it was a lifelong appointment. We knew that no matter what we would stick together. With the Lord's help and through many ups and downs, we have persevered. ***But you know what; it was never only about this life!*** We both wanted to find someone that would help us get to eternal life. That is what is so different with the lifetime appointment that Jesus offers. If we faithfully follow Him in this life, then we will enjoy the life in Heaven He has promised us! Today is our 31st anniversary, and I hope and pray we can keep trying to help each other toward that eternal goal!

**Maybe you need to renew your lifelong appointment to the Lord today?** Maybe you could use some prayers and encouragement in that. We stand ready to assist.

**Maybe you need to join the Lord’s Army, the only appointment that will save you eternally?**

Whatever your need is, please make it known while we stand and sing.