

DEDICATION: THE BENEDICTION

“Bestowing a benediction is a great pastoral privilege. By faith, it is much more than a good wish, but rather a divine blessing granted to God’s people. It is not so much a prayer as a promise. While it is customary to close one’s eyes in prayer, during a benediction the pastor should look at his people, and they at him. Many pastors hold one or both hands toward the people (arms high and extended, palms down) as a symbol of a blessing given.”

EFCA Pastor’s Service Manual, 20

The Charge

1. Jesus did...
 - a.
 - b.
2. You must...a holy obligation.
 - a.
 - b.

The Blessing

“In common practice, a Benediction may simply be the perfunctory close to the worship service, with skilled attention a benediction can be a powerful instrument of pastoral care. With the Benediction, hey Pastor can communicate to care of the Heavenly Father with such tenderness and power that worshipers leave the service full of confidence and joy for their work in the world.”

Brian Chapel, *Christ Centered Worship*, 254

1. A benediction is a _____.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. It launches a week of _____.
 - a.
 - b.

3. Some examples of benedictions.
 - a. NUMBERS 6:24-26
 - b. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24
 - c. HEBREWS 13:20-21

“Our worship services should summon us into the presence of God, we should bow together to confess our sins as a people - and represent the sins of our nation before him as we do, we should consecrate ourselves to him fully as we confess our faith, sing psalms and hymns, and hear a message that is preached out of the Bible, we should gather around the Lord’s table weekly, and then, under the benediction of his appointed minister, we should head out into another week to conduct another series of raids.”

Doug Wilson, *Rules for Reformers*, 218