

Righteous Insanity
Pastor Appreciation Skits



FEATURING:

At the Pulpit
Back Row Pastor Appreciation
Pastor Rob's Day Off
Profile of a Pastor

At the Pulpit

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com

THEME: Pastor Appreciation

CHARACTERS

Gene and Roger- critics

Cheesy theme music plays. Gene and Roger enter, sit in chairs (or a short pew) at center stage.

GENE: Welcome back to At the Pulpit. Today, we'll be reviewing three very different, very unique pastors and the way they approach the gospel.

ROGER: That's right, Gene, and we'll start with a guy everyone's familiar with because, well, he's on every cable station that he can afford Sunday mornings. We're talking, of course about megachurch pastor Armageddon T. Thunderbird.

GENE: Armageddon T. Thunderbird is not only the pastor at the First Supersonic Holy Roller Assembly in Antioch, Tennessee, he's a best-selling author of books like "Satan is an Evil Booger," "I Am Rubber, Satan Is Glue," and "Sin is for Losers and Commies." He's a fiery pastor in the old school tradition of pulpit pounders with a pompadour hair style that hasn't been seen since Elvis was alive.

ROGER: Gene, I loved Armageddon T. Thunderbird. His whole approach to sin and Satan is dead on. He confronts the evil forces of this world with the power of the Holy Ghost. Excellent, excellent preacher.

GENE: Well, Roger, as usual, you're completely wrong about this. Armageddon's got the sin and condemnation down, but there's no love, no grace, none of the things we love about Christ.

ROGER: Come on, Gene, you can't be about love all the time. Plus, the charismatic nature of this admittedly over the top pastor has got a lot of people's attention.

GENE: It has their attention, but not his. Do you know he never comes in arm's reach of his flock? He has armed security around him at all times.

ROGER: He's a very famous TV personality.

GENE: A pastor should be more available than that. That's why I'm giving Armageddon T. Thunderbird a big thumbs down.

ROGER: Thumbs up from me, Armie. And thanks for the autographed copy of your next hit, "Satan Thinks He's Hot Snot on a Silver Platter, But He's a Cold Booger on a Paper Plate."

GENE: Our next pastor is a man who's been at the pulpit for eighty years. He's preached in the same church for sixty-five of those and taken a small, country congregation of about thirty people to thirty seven. I'm talking about Pastor Jerry Attrick.

ROGER: Gene, I have to be honest, I wanted to like Pastor Jerry. It takes a lot of strength to preach as long as he has. You figure fifty sermons a year, eighty years, that's four thousand sermons. But I can't even remember point one of his sermon because I fell asleep.

GENE: I remember, it was embarrassing.

ROGER: I'm sorry, Gene, but it was kind of boring.

GENE: It's the Word of God, Roger! It's not boring. He preached a solid sermon on loving the poor that day. I've got all the notes if you want to read them.

ROGER: Gene, it doesn't matter. If you can't keep me awake, you're not gonna help me in my walk with Christ.

GENE: Well, I thought the sermon was dead on. And I'm giving the old timer a thumbs up.

ROGER: Narcoleptic thumbs down for me.

****At this point, we're getting to the part about YOUR pastor. There are blanks to add in your city, church, and pastor's name. This dialogue is meant as a guideline for your actors. PLEASE feel free to add in personal items and things that relate specifically to your pastor that the congregation will get. Make it personal, and make it special.**

GENE: Well, let's move on to a guy we've heard a lot about. We kept hearing people say, "You gotta go see this guy." So we went down to [your city] to [your church name] to hear the dynamic preaching of [your pastor's name].

ROGER: Wow, what can I say? This guy has a dead-on presentation of the gospel, well-written, and well spoken week in and week out. I liked him so much, I went back for another service.

GENE: Roger, I couldn't agree with you more. And considering his family obligations and the other activities he has going at that church, it amazed me he found time to develop such a well-crafted sermon.

ROGER: But it's not just the preaching, Gene. This guy's relatable. I was able to go up and shake his hand right after service. He took time to listen to me, ask where I was from, and invite me back. That's a shepherd.

GENE: He's not just available after service, but all week. He makes hospital calls, visits those who are sick, does weddings, does funerals, and he enjoys his time with members of the flock.

ROGER: I gotta tell you, the folks at [your church] are lucky to have a man like [your pastor] in the pulpit. And like you said, he's not just confined to the pulpit. He's a shepherd who loves his church and wants to do life with them.

GENE: That's the mark of a great leader. I gotta give him a solid thumbs up.

ROGER: It doesn't happen often, but I agree completely. Thumbs up from me too.

GENE: Thanks for joining us today. We'll be off next week, because we both agreed we'd rather go hear [your pastor] preach this weekend than have to go listen to anyone new. So until next time, if there is a next time, we'll see you At the Pulpit.

Back Pew Pastor Appreciation

By John Cospers

www.righteousinsanity.com

THEME: Pastor Appreciation

CHARACTERS

Mitch, Doug, Gus, Moose, and Sally- Slackers

The five cast members should be introduced by an associate pastor as a special group of people who would like to say a few words to honor the pastor. Feel free to customize this to your church. Mitch reads from a script, like an elementary school student reading a book report. And the others are very wooden in their acting, Most importantly – none of them really want to be up there!

Play it for laughs.

MITCH: Good morning. I'm Mitch. This is Doug, Gus, Moose, and Sally. You may not know us. Those who do, know we are the guys who sit in the back pew and fall asleep every Sunday. No doubt you are surprised that we are up here to show appreciation to our pastor. Believe us, no one was more surprised than us when last Sunday, Doug's alarm failed to go off, and we were the only ones left in the auditorium when the associate pastor came looking for volunteers. While it's true, between the five of us, we've probably only heard two complete sermons, there are lots of things that we appreciate about our pastor. For example, when pastor's around, you never gotta say grace.

The others get into position as if getting ready to eat a meal. Doug plays the role of Pastor.

GUS: Well, it's dinner time. Moose, you wanna say the blessing?

MOOSE: Nope, but Pastor can do it!

Moose slaps Doug on the back.

MITCH: Another thing Pastor's good for is visiting sick people. It's hard going to see loved ones in the hospital, much less that nosy Aunt you can't stand. But if Pastor's there, it's much easier.

DOUG: I'm really sorry your Aunt is sick, Sally.

SALLY: Me too. Well, she's in there. Good luck!

Sally shoves Doug off stage, as if into a hospital room.

MITCH: One thing our pastor's real good at is, well, being a real pastor. See we looked up the word, and it's related to the word pastoral. That's a fancy word that kinda describes like a shepherd watching sheep. Good shepherds know how to care for their sheep. When sheep are thirsty, he gives them living water.

SALLY: Pastor, I'm so discouraged. Nobody loves me.

DOUG: Jesus loves you.

SALLY: Hooray!

MITCH: When sheep are hungry, he knows just how to feed them.

DOUG: Good morning, brothers and sisters. Let's open up the Word of God!

MITCH: And he knows how to help the sheep get their rest.

DOUG: Good morning, brothers and sisters. Let's open up the Word of God!

The other three pretend to sleep.

MITCH: So that's our tribute to the pastor. True, we up here don't hear a lot of his teaching from the pulpit, but he teaches us every day by example. He's not ashamed to pray. He'll talk to anyone about God.

GUS: Including my Aunt Tessie!

MITCH: And he leads us all by his teaching, and by his example. The end.

They all start to leave, then Doug convenes them. They discuss, then walk back to the pulpit.

MITCH: Doug's right. We forgot one thing. In the fall, Pastor us kind enough to make sure church always lets out on time so we can hit the Chinese buffet and STILL be home in time for kick off.

ALL: A-men!

They exit.

Pastor Rob's Day Off

By John Cospier

www.righteousinsanity.com

THEME: Pastor Appreciation, Ministry

CHARACTERS

Tyler, Alyssa, Jason, Leah- Teenagers

Shelly- A pastor's secretary

(The stage is set as a pastor's office. There is a desk and chair and bookshelves full of books. A laptop, two phones, a Bible, and a stack of papers are on the desk. Another phone is inside the desk drawer. There is also a pitcher of water and a stack of cups. A second chair is stage left of the desk, facing the audience. Alyssa slumps in the chair, nearly asleep. Tyler is on the phone sitting at the desk.)

TYLER- Of course, I do... Yes, I think he should be punished... Definitely not going to that party on Saturday, and maybe not to the Zoo next weekend... Well, I trust your judgment on this... I mean it, if you can take care of it...

(Jason enters in a black suit.)

TYLER- What?... How can you say that?... Of course I'm concerned about it... That's not true... No it's not. My family comes before my job. You know that... you're much more important to me...

JASON- Who's he talking to?

ALYSSA- *(rough, scratchy voice)* Pastor Rob's wife.

TYLER- I know, honey... I'll be home soon, I promise... Love you, too... Bye. *(hangs up)* That's it! I am never having a family!

JASON- What was that all about?

TYLER- Rob Jr. got into a fight at school today, and the furniture store delivered the wrong color sofa. She's bawling her eyes out about it, meanwhile, I still have a ton of things to do!

JASON- Need I remind you it was your idea to take over Pastor Rob's job for a day.

TYLER- I thought it would be a good experience, seeing as how we all want to go into ministry. I had no idea a pastor's life was so busy.

JASON- So how was your day?

TYLER- I started at the mayor's prayer breakfast at 8:00, where I spoke. Then I went to the city council's hearing on school prayer, where I spoke. Then I went to the county ministerial association luncheon where I spoke. At the luncheon, I was elected to go to the ground-breaking of the new Wal-Mart where I spoke. And for the last hour, I've been on the phone with the pastor's wife.

JASON- Why?

ALYSSA- Pastor Rob said managing your family is part of the job description of being a minister.

JASON- What happened to you?

ALYSSA- I was on the phone... all day... and now I don't have a voice... *(cries, comically)* I can't even sing!

TYLER- How were hospital visits?

JASON- Didn't make it to the hospital.

TYLER- You didn't?!?

JASON- I was headed out the door when Pastor Rob's pager went off. I called the number, and found out the person I was going to see at the hospital died last night.

ALYSSA- Oh no.

TYLER- So where have you been all day?

JASON- The funeral home.

TYLER- You went to visitation?

JASON- I did the funeral.

TYLER- Oh my gosh!

ALYSSA- You're joking.

JASON- Why else would I be wearing a black suit?

(Leah enters, sweating, white as a sheet, panting. She is out of breath as she speaks.)

LEAH- I need... I need... Water!!!!

(Tyler pours a glass of water. Leah pours it over her head.)

JASON- Gee!!

TYLER- My goodness, Leah, what's the matter?

LEAH- It was horrible.

JASON- What was horrible?

LEAH- Pastoral counseling.

JASON- What happened?

LEAH- I just spent an hour... with a married couple... my parents' best friends...

TYLER- Really?

LEAH- They're having... problems... Big problems...

JASON- Like... finances? Kids?

LEAH- No... I mean *(hinting at bedroom problems)* THOSE kind of problems It was so horrible...

TYLER- It couldn't be that bad.

LEAH- Oh no? Do you want to know the things I've heard during the past hour?

(Leah whispers in Tyler's ear.)

TYLER- Oh my gosh!!!! They told you that?

LEAH- I feel as if every bit of innocence I had left has been stripped away from me.

TYLER- What did you tell them?

LEAH- I told them to go to the mall and each of them buy a new outfit.

JASON- Why did you tell them that?

LEAH- (*shrugs*) It's what I do when I have problems. Always makes me feel better.

(Shelly enters.)

SHELLY- Hey, kids, how are you holding up?

ALYSSA- How does it look?

SHELLY- Oh, you poor dears. I almost hate to do this.

TYLER- Do what?

SHELLY- While you were on the phone with Pastor Rob's wife, I took six messages for you.

(Alyssa whimpers painfully.)

SHELLY- You also might want to check email as you have fifty messages waiting.

JASON- That's it! I'm cooked.

LEAH- Me too.

SHELLY- Oh come on, kids. Where's the determination I saw this morning when you got here?

JASON- I buried it at the funeral.

TYLER- We're burned out. We started the day promptly at 7:00 with Bible study, then at 7:01 came the first phone call we've been bombarded ever since.

SHELLY- You know, Pastor Rob goes through this every day. Not just Monday through Friday, mind you. Seven days a week, he is at work.

LEAH- It just feels like there's so much to do. He's responsible for so many things. Leading the church, the staff, his family...

SHELLY- Reaching out to the community, serving and praying for missions here and abroad, serving on local civic councils... It's quite a burden.

JASON- It's inhuman! How does he do it all by himself?

SHELLY- He doesn't.

(At this point, Alyssa shuts her eyes and begins to fall asleep.)

TYLER- What do you mean? Are there little elves that help him like Santa Claus?

SHELLY- No, no. The pastor does all that you have done today and more. But he doesn't rely on his own strength to do it. Pastor Rob may hold the title as the leader of this church, but he's not really the one in charge. God is the leader of Pastor Rob, his family, and his ministry. He takes all of his responsibilities and lays them at God's feet, because Pastor Rob knows he can't carry the burdens by himself.

LEAH- We started to do that this morning. But then the phone rang, and... I guess we forgot.

SHELLY- It's easy to forget, which is why Pastor Rob has his staff members and close friends to keep him accountable and focused on God.

JASON- I can imagine. Without help from God, he'd be dead.

(Alyssa starts to snore.)

SHELLY- Well, you've got an hour to finish up. That should be plenty of time to return calls and emails.

(Everyone still awake groans.)

SHELLY- But before you get back to work, might I suggest you give this last hour to God, and see if He doesn't lighten the load for you.

LEAH- Good idea. We need all the help we can get.

SHELLY- And the next time you see Pastor Rob, let him know how much you appreciate his faithfulness as a minister of God.

TYLER- Believe me, we will.

(Shelly exits. Blackout.)

Profile of a Pastor

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THEME: Pastor Appreciation

CHARACTERS

Roy- A newspaper reporter

Judy- The pastor's secretary

Dave- A teenage boy

(Judy sits at her desk. Roy enters.)

ROY- Yes, my name is Roy Watson from the newspaper. I'm doing a series on occupations, and I was wondering if I might have a word with the pastor.

JUDY- You mean Pastor Brown?

ROY- Is that his name? Sure sounds good.

JUDY- He's not in at the moment, but if you'd care to wait--

ROY- Ehh, that might not be necessary. I can probably learn all I need from you. After all, how much can there be to being a Pastor? What does he work, three, four hours a week?

JUDY- *(stifling a laugh at his ignorance)* Three or four hours?

ROY- Yeah, I figured this would be an easy one. I've got a crazy schedule this week, so I figured I could knock this one out real fast.

JUDY- Well, I don't know about that. You see--

(The phone rings.)

JUDY- One moment *(answers phone)* Pastor Brown's office... Oh, hi, Janette... He's not in, can I take a message?... Uh huh... The temperature was too cold last week on the right side, and this week it was too warm, and can we find a happy medium? All right, I'll see that Pastor Brown gets the message. *(hangs up)* Every week, the same thing from the same old lady. It's either too hot, or too cold, and can the pastor fix it?

ROY- He takes care of that?

JUDY- Oh, he hears a lot of things. The thermostat is messed up. The music was too fast. The music was too loud. The toilet tissue was on the roll wrong.

(The phone rings.)

JUDY- Pastor Mike Brown's office... Yes, Mrs. Baker, how are you?... Oh dear... Oh I am sorry to hear that... Where is he?... Uh huh... Intensive Care Unit? Right, I will let Pastor

Brown know, and I am sure he will be there as quickly as possible... Bye bye. (*hangs up*)
Poor dear, her father's had such a rough year.
ROY- Yes, well, as I was saying, I only need a few moments of Pastor Brown's time. I can't imagine there being that much to know about being a Pastor.
JUDY- You'd be surprised. Why in a given week--

(*Dave enters.*)

DAVE- Excuse me. I had an appointment with Pastor Brown?
JUDY- You do? What's the name.
DAVE- Dave Vincent. I'm here to see him--
JUDY- Ah, yes, you're the boy interested in dating his daughter Donna. The pastor's out at a lunch meeting with the worship leader, planning this week's service, but you can get started on the application.
DAVE- Application?

(*Judy sets a phone book sized application on the desk.*)

JUDY- Here you go. The sections in pink you don't need to fill out, but be sure to include five references, including one clergy; the criminal background check; the medical records check; and sign (*flips to different pages*) here, here, here, here, and initial here, here, and here.
DAVE- A little protective, isn't he?
JUDY- If you like the girl, you'll do it.
DAVE- Okay, okay.

(*Dave exits. Phone rings.*)

JUDY- Pastor Mike Brown's office... Hi, Kathy... Uh oh, what's Ben gotten into now?... Okay, I will have Mike call him, and you, when he gets in. (*hangs up*) That was the pastor's wife. Seems their son Ben had a car emergency and needs some extra cash.
ROY- I see. So, two kids?
JUDY- Three. The youngest is still in elementary school. His wife works full time, teaching Kindergarten.
ROY- Wow.
JUDY- Yes, there's plenty to keep him busy with the church and family and--

(*The phone rings.*)

JUDY- Pastor Mike Brown's office... Addie!!! Oh, it's so good to hear from you. Congratulations!... Of course, he was expecting that... How does next Monday at 5:30 pm sound? Great, I will put it down. And don't forget to bring the lucky boy along. That's rather important, you know. All right... bye bye. (*hangs up*) Where was I?

ROY- He does marriage counseling too?

JUDY- And hospital visits, and prayer breakfasts, and staff meetings, on and on and on. And even with all that, he manages to find several hours a week just to prepare sermons.

(Dave re-enters.)

DAVE- Quick question. This one here, number 123: "If you were to be shot with a shotgun, what part of your body would you least want to be shot?" He's kidding, right?

JUDY- He loves his daughter, Dave.

(Dave sheepishly walks off.)

JUDY- Oh that reminds me, I better call his hunting buddies. He was supposed to go hunting this weekend, but it looks like he has a funeral to do and won't make it.

ROY- Wow. You know something? I think I'll just come back some other week.

JUDY- Oh no, don't be silly. The Pastor will be back in fifteen minutes, and after he works over Romeo out there, I'm sure he can give you time.

ROY- Unfortunately, I don't have the time to do him justice. I'll come back when I have a little more time. He will still be here? Not gonna get burned out and fly off to Vegas to be an Elvis impersonator.

JUDY- I don't think so.

ROY- Then I'll be back. *(looks at the tiny note pad in his hands)* And I'll be bringing a lot more paper.

JUDY- All right, I'll let him know.

(Roy exits.)