

# ***Instructions for Shepherds and Sheep Undergoing Persecution***<sup>1</sup>

## **1 Peter 5:1–14**

### **WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?**

Peter gave instruction to “God’s elect,” urging consistent Christian living in the face of great opposition and suffering. He was martyred not much later, faithfully practicing his own advice. Leadership examples are important. As he was ready to close this letter, Peter described what it meant to lead and to follow in the church of God. God’s shepherds and sheep ought to:

#### **A. CHURCH LEADERS (SHEPHERDS): TEND TO GOD’S FLOCK (v. 1–4)**

- a. Exhortation to **elders** (v. 1)
- b. What church **leaders** must do (v. 2–3)
- c. The **reward** for leaders in the church (v. 4)

Note: Crowns are not only for shepherds but also for everyone who was faithful to Jesus and who did what He called them to do (1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12).

#### **B. GOD’S FLOCK (SHEEP): BE RESPONSIBLE TO RESPOND TO GODLY LEADERSHIP (v. 5–11)**

- a. Be **submissive** (“be subject”) and **humble**; place yourselves under the authority of godly leaders. What value is a quality shepherd if the flock will not follow? By following godly leaders, we humble ourselves before God, trusting Him. (v.5–6)
- b. Give your **anxieties** over to God’s care (v.7)
- c. Recognize the reality of **spiritual** warfare (the devil wants to destroy you); Resist Him and know you are not alone. God Himself will establish, strengthen, and support you! (v.8–11)

#### **C. FINAL GREETINGS TO GOD’S FLOCK (12–14).**

- a. The letter carrier: Silvanus, a **faithful** brother (v.12)
- b. The brevity and **purpose** of First Peter (v.12)
  - To exhort and encourage believers not to be **discouraged** by the coming persecutions but to remain steadfast.
  - To **testify** to believers that they have the true grace of God despite trials and suffering.
- c. Greetings from, and to each other with a kiss of **love** ... (v.13–14)
  - Church at “Babylon” (Rome)
  - Mark (A convert of Peter)
  - Peter himself

<sup>1</sup> Outline adapted from Smith, F. Sherwood. *Life of Peter: Blueprints for 30 Messages Built upon God’s Word*. Edited by Jim Eichenberger. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing, 2000. Guzik, David. *1 Peter*. *David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible*. Santa Barbara: David Guzik, 2013.