

# expound

EXPLORING THE  
**TRUTH** OF THE  
WORD OF GOD

## 1 Peter

Dr. Mike Chapman  
City Church Chattanooga

## **God' Grace in Suffering (Part 3)**

### **1 Peter 5:1-14**

Looking back on the first four chapters, we discover some major themes of Peter's letter to the Christians in Asia Minor...

- Christians are "strangers" (aliens) in the world.
- Christians have been born again into a living hope and that hope is a person – Jesus Christ.
- Christians, in light of the hostility of the world around us, must prepare our minds for action in order to live holy lives.
- Christians are called out of darkness into God's light and are a chosen people, belonging to God, in order to show forth his praises.
- Christians are called to model the example of Jesus in bearing up under suffering for our faith and not to return evil for evil.
- Christians are blessed when they suffer insults and other persecution and do so in a Christ-honoring way.
- Christians are called to live such good lives in the presence of those who accuse them in order to have the opportunity to give an answer to questions regarding the hope that they have.
- Christians, living in the Last Days, who wait for the consummation of the Kingdom and the restoration of all things, live in the overlapping of "this present evil age" and "the age to come."

### **The Ministry of Elders**

#### **5:1-5a**

Therefore...

This connecting word ties the ministry of the Elders of the church to the reality of persecution and suffering.

The role of elder(s) (Greek - *presbuteros*) in a church is a highly significant and important for the maturity and the witness of the church.

Peter addressed the elders of the churches in Asia Minor as a "fellow elder."

Peter's specific instruction to Elders. (vv.2-4)

The key word describing the work of an Elder is "shepherd."

Elders are to serve as "overseers" (Greek - *episkopos*).

Their motive for serving must be pure.

A key to the elders' effective leadership is the example of their lives and devotion.

At the return of Christ elders who have served well will be rewarded.

Peter instructs the young men to be submissive to those who are older. (Greek - *presbuteros*) (v. 5)

## Key Principles of the Christian Life 5:6 - 11

In this section, Peter gives us a series of imperatives that outline important virtues that Christians should pursue.

1. Humility – *humble yourselves under God's mighty hand.* (v. 6)

*Clothe yourself with humility.* (v. 5)

The blessing of humility...

*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

*God will lift you up in due season* (Greek – *kairos*)

2. Serenity – *Cast your anxieties on the Lord. (v.7)*

*Because he cares for you.*

3. Vigilance – *because your adversary the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. (v. 8)*

This is the wakeup call we need every morning.

4. Resistance - *Resist the Devil (v. 9)*

(See James 4:7)

Peter's praise and benediction (vv. 10-11)

Everything the Devil attempts to do against a Christian or the church will backfire. God will use it for good to make us strong.

He is the God of power.

### **Peter's Closing Words 5:12-14**

Silvanus is the name Peter used in the original text.

It is the Latin version of Silas (Greek)

Silas assisted Peter in composing this letter. This is why it contains such excellent Greek composition.

Peter's letter is a testimony of grace.

*Babylon* is more than likely a metaphor for Rome.

Some say that the pronoun "she" is a reference to the church in Rome. (e.g. "your sister church")

Some say it is Peter's wife.

Mark is most likely John Mark, a companion of Paul on this first missionary journey.

Early Church leader Papias said this, "Mark who was Peter's interpreter, wrote down accurately though not in order, all that he recollected of what Christ had said or done. He followed Peter. His one concern was neither to omit nor to falsify anything he had heard."

Irenaeus, another Early Church leader, wrote "Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, also handed down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter."

### **Questions for Table Conversation**

1. In light of persecution, why do you think Peter thought the ministry of Elders was important for the church?
2. What are some of the characteristics of humility in a person's life?
3. How does a Christian "humble himself/herself?"
4. Is there a difference between being free from worry and anxiety and being nonchalant or lackadaisical? In what way?
5. As you reflect over this study of 1 Peter, what is a key "take away" that you want to remember and apply to your life?