

1 PETER 5

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.”

I. Peter Addresses “Pastors”

A. Elder - *presbuteros* - “senior, old man”

1. “in the Christian churches, those who, being raised up and qualified by the work of the Holy Spirit, were appointed to have the spiritual care of, and to exercise oversight over, the churches.” - Vine’s
2. The term designates spiritual maturity
3. Peter refers to himself as an elder

B. Feed the flock of God - *poimainō* - “shepherd ye”

1. Verbal form of *poimen* - “shepherd”
 - a) Jesus said, “*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep*” - Jo. 10:11
 - b) “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*” - Eph. 4:11
2. The term emphasizes the two primary roles of the pastor-teacher gift; shepherd like care and teaching spiritual truth

C. Taking the oversight thereof - *episkopeō* - “look diligently; take the oversight”

1. Verbal form of *episkopē* - “inspection; oversight” - Strong’s
 - a) “*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*” 1 Pe. 2:25
 - b) “*This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*” - 1 Ti. 3:1
2. The term refers to the office of Pastor

II. A witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed

A. Witness - Peter saw Christ’s gracious response when He suffered for obedience to the Father’s will - Peter could speak authoritatively about Christ’s sufferings

B. Partaker of the glory that shall be revealed

1. Partaker - lit. Share in common
2. The glory that shall be revealed
 - a) “*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*” - 1 Pe. 1:5-7
 - b) Peter was expecting the imminent revelation of Christ’ full glory
 - c) Peter was confident that he would share in that glory

III. The Pastor’s Motivation, Operation, and Reward

A. Taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly

1. Constraint - *anagkastōs* - lit. Compulsorily - Strongs; to be forced to do something
2. Willingly - the office of bishop should only be taken because an individual willingly chooses to do so for themself

B. Not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind

1. Filthy lucre - desire for material gain
2. Ready mind - alacrity - brisk and cheerful readiness

3. The Pastor should not be motivated by the prospect of financial gain but ready eagerness regardless of their compensation
- C. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock
 1. Lords - *katakuriuontes* - lit. Down mastering
 - a) Gentile rulers lord over their subjects - Ma. 20:25
 - b) The Pastor is not to be domineering towards the flock
 2. Ensamples - *tupoi* - lit. Types, models
 - a) "*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample*" - Phil. 3:17
 - (1) The Pastor is to establish the template for the church to follow
 - (2) The church will never grow beyond the maturity of the pastor
 - b) Pastors - "this is THE WAY!"
- D. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away
 1. Chief Shepherd
 - a) Christ is the Chief Shepherd
 - (1) "*For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.*" - 1 Pe. 2:25
 - (2) No pastor is without accountability (under shepherd)
 2. The Bema Seat
 - a) The Bema seat will occur when Christ returns for the Church - 1 Pe. 1:7
 - b) The Chief Shepherd will provide a reward for Shepherding according to God's desirous will

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder, Yea, all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him, for he carted for you"

IV. Peter's Instruction to the Flock

- A. Submission to the elders
 1. "*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls...*" - Heb. 13:17
 2. Believers ought to recognize the benefit of submitting to spiritually mature believers
- B. All of you be subject one to another
 1. "*I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephan's, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) that yes submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helps with us, and laboureth.*" - 1 Cor. 16:15-16
 2. "*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God*" - Eph. 5:21
 - a) Mutual submission is one of the byproducts of being filled by the Spirit - Eph. 5:18
 - b) This type of submission is not possible for carnal believers
- C. Be clothed with humility
 1. Paul encouraged believers to not think more highly of themselves than they should - Phil. 2:3; Rom. 12:3
 2. "I'm not that big of a deal"
- D. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time
 1. Not putting self forward as having the answer - "I can't be HE CAN!"
 2. Due time - lit. Season
 - a) At an appropriate time
 - b) Subjunctive Mood - if the believer humbles himself (no guarantee)

- E. Casting all your care
 1. Casting is grammatically connected to “*humble yourself*” - the believer humbles themselves by casting their worries anxieties upon the Lord
 2. Where do these anxieties arise from?
 - a) Tempted to think we need to fix, find an answer to our circumstances
 - b) Placing too much confidence in self and leaving God out of the equation - “Small God’er”
 3. Need to recognize our powerlessness to do anything apart from God’s goodness to provide what we really need
 4. Need to recognize God’s genuine care for believers

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walks about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

V. Peter’s Warning Against Satanic Attacks

- A. Peter’s first hand knowledge of Satanic attacks - Lu. 22:31-32
- B. Be sober, be vigilant
 1. “Be on alert!”
 2. Satanic attacks will occur. The question is not if, but when?
- C. Your adversary the devil
 1. Adversary - lit. An opponent in a lawsuit
 2. Devil - lit. Accuser, slanderer
 - a) Satan’s accused Job in the heavenly court - Job 1 and 2
 - b) Satan accuses the brethren night and day - Rev. 12:10
- D. Roaring lion
 1. Lion’s roar
 - a) Establish territory
 - b) Show their strength and intimidate others
 2. “This action is meant to cow the believer into spiritual cowardice, spiritual idleness, or at the very least, doubt and discouragement.” - Steve Thomas
- E. Whom resist steadfast in the faith
 1. The faith - collection of promises for living the Christian life
 - a) Peter not just saying to recite any old Bible verse
 - b) Not OT stories, Gospel accounts, or even the the Gospel of initial salvation
- F. Knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren - you are not cut off or isolated from other believers

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

VI. Peter’s Encouragement

- A. But the God of all grace
 1. Reminder from previous chapters about the gracious character of God
 2. The One Who has called us to His eternal glory - suffering is a component of that calling
- B. Suffered a while
 1. A while - *oligon* - lit. Briefly
 - a) There is an expiration date on Satanic attacks
 - b) “This too shall pass”

C. Make you - the Outcome

1. Optative Mood

- a) The outcome is not certain - dependent upon whether we “*resist stedfast in the faith*”
- b) Some lessons are repeated over and over

2. When the believer resists “*stedfast in the faith*”

- a) Perfect - to render fit, complete
 - (1) Mend something that is torn or broken
 - (2) To it out, equip
- b) Establish - to stabilize, make firm
- c) Strengthen - strengthen with bodily vigor
- d) Settle - provide a foundation, solid, immovable

“By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, salueth you; and so doth Marcus my son. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity, Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

VII. Peter’s Salutation

A. Silvanus - Amanuensis

B. The true grace of God wherein ye stand - as compared to false teachings about grace

C. Stand

- 1. Perfect Tense - continuing result
- 2. The believers are continuing to stand upon the grace of God

D. Peace be with you - very necessary reminder and desire for those experiencing persecution and “*fiery trials*”