

November 29th – A Word for Pastors

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2-3)

Pastors do a lot of preaching, but sometimes they need to be preached to as well. Today’s verses are focused on the work of a faithful pastor. In verse 1, Peter addressed the pastors as “elders.” The Greek word is *presbuteros*. It can be used to denote an older person, but it can also be used of the office of pastor. Basically it implies that a pastor is a man worthy of respect because he lives a life that is above reproach.

Peter commands the pastors to “shepherd the flock of God.” Of course, Peter is not talking about sheep – he’s talking about the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the church. A pastor’s job is to shepherd the church – to lead them in paths of righteousness for the glory of God. Further, the pastor is to act as “overseer.” The Greek word is *episkopos*, and it is a derivative of words like telescope, stethoscope, etc. It means that the pastor is to be the overseer of the church’s ministries.

Peter says that the pastor’s service should be rendered willingly and not by compulsion. In other words, the pastor serves the Lord and the church because it is the passion of his life. Also, the pastor doesn’t do his work for “dishonest gain.” That is, he doesn’t pastor to manipulate others and get rich. He serves because he has to serve – his love for God won’t allow him to do otherwise. Peter also says the pastor is not to lord his authority over the church, but rather he’s to be a servant leader. Every true pastor looks forward to the second coming of “the Chief Shepherd” – Jesus Christ. When Christ appears, He will reward every faithful pastor with “the crown of glory that does not fade away.”