



**About Shepherds and Sheep
Instructions on How to Be Sheeepy
Part 2
1 Peter 5:1-14**

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We are in chapter 5 of 1 Peter where he provides instructions for fellow elders as well as for the sheep on how to do church.

After going through a rather short, but extensive list of dos and don'ts for those the Lord has called to be elders, teachers, or leaders of any kind in the church. He moves to talking to the sheep.



When we wrapped up last time, we were at the reason why we need to be doing His work His way.

Let's look at our text including the promise for faithfulness.

1 Peter 5:1–4

“Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. **And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.**” (NASB 2020)

Peter makes it clear that when we shepherd the flock, serving in ministry that He has called us into, one which we do with joy and love and eagerness because of Jesus and following Him, we wind up being examples to the flock as we do this. We are to lead and shepherd the way Jesus would. When we are doing His calling, we find ourselves driven because of Jesus. We must be about His business.

I love what it is He has called me to do, and I love being able to teach His word to you. I am also scared spitless the entire time as I am fully aware of the responsibility.

James 3:1

“My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers. As you know, we teachers will be judged with greater strictness than others.” (GNB)

I do not want to add anything to the Word or subtract anything from the Word.

As we serve Him, we are promised here by Peter that the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, as He appears, that we will receive an unfading crown of glory.

How? By shepherding the flock as He would want us to. Doing the ministry He has called us to do willingly and joyfully according to His will and not worrying about any of the benefits we might obtain here on this planet but look forward to the ones He has for us. Not domineering others but loving and correcting as necessary as we are examples to all. All I want to hear is the following.

Matthew 25:21

““His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’” (CSB)

Here the common image is used to indicate the eternal honor or reputation that elders who serve well will receive from Christ at his return. They may be despised on earth (and indeed rejected by their own neighbors), but they will be honored in heaven. And that is something well worth working and suffering for. (Davids 1990, 182)

With that, Peter shifts from the elders to those who are in the fellowship and happen to be younger than the elders, or not. This could also simply be to those who are not elders. “The two most likely interpretations of this word are (a) younger men, or (b) the rest of the church community (i.e., the non-elders).” (Dubis 2010, 163)

1 Peter 5:5

“You **younger men**, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**” (NASB 2020)



The word translated as younger men is the word νεώτεροι (neōteroi). It means “of time, as existing only recently new, fresh...of what is superior in nature to the former new; figuratively, of persons renewed in nature...new, renewed person...of age young.” (Friberg, Friberg and Miller 2000, 270)

1 Peter 5:5

“Likewise, you who are less experienced, submit to leaders. Further, all of you should clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace.” (CJB)

This translation from the Complete Jewish Bible seems to capture the Greek a bit better.

Peter instructs the neōteroi to submit to the presbyteroi who have been commissioned by the Lord to be the shepherd for them.

I think this is now being addressed to those who are in the fellowship and are those who are newer in the faith.

Like it or not, the teaching of the Bible is clear, “everyone is under authority. There is no president, king, or terrorist who is not under authority. Ultimately, everyone must answer to the Authority of the universe.” (Switzer 2007, 34)

In our current culture, submission to anyone, for some, is tough to do. Gone are the days where it can be assumed, that leaders will be followed. Today, in many cases now, it is something to be earned. We are all rebels after all, Genesis 3 proves it and being instructed to submit to those charged with our care is a way of pointing that out to us.

I have heard, more than once in counseling, “I will never submit to that person.” The person in question has been a boss, pastor, military officer but most of the time, a spouse.

This is not a younger versus older issue here. Not at all. “Rather it is between those who have the seniority and the commensurate standing that qualifies them to be presbyteroi in contrast to those who, for whatever reason, do not.” (Jobes 2005, 307)

Every so often, I would encounter this in the business world. Many of the newer employees tended to believe that they were hired because they would bring something to the table no one else had. That might be true in some cases, but usually, no.

I have heard, more than once, the beginnings of nascent rebellion with “Why should I listen to you on this?” The temptation is to respond, “because if you don’t, you will be a former employee.”

The better answer, “I have been doing this for quit a few years and my experience says we should go this way, but if you have a better solution to the problem, I am all ears. But you must be right.”

Every so often, a great solution was proposed, most of the time though, it wasn’t an issue of solving the problem, just simply doing it their way. And yes, we do see that in the church from time to time.

We are indeed to be accountable to one another. That means listening and talking rather than directing. It means coming together in prayer and seeking His mind on the matter at hand and then relying on the promise of wisdom from James 1:5.



James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." (NKJV)

This is an invitation from God. He promises to give us what we need and more as well. He does not look down at us as we ask and say Ken, what's up. I gave you wisdom yesterday and your back again. Really.

The Lord invites us to ask, meaning He realizes that as we walk in the Spirit, there is the realization that we need His help. And here is the beauty of it all, He gives generously. That means more than we would ever need or want. We ask, He gives and does so abundantly.

And without looking at us and asking why, again. Or what did we do with it last time? Without reproach means exactly that. We realize we need wisdom; we ask, He gives us more than we need, and without questions asked.

Are there conditions to this unending source of wisdom? Yes.

James 1:6–8

"But let him **ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." (NKJV)

He has said He will do this; all we must do is ask and do so in faith believing that what He has promised He will indeed do.

So, yes, in the Spirit, with His wisdom, we can indeed do this and be accountable to each other in the body. Remember, we already know the desired side of how leadership works. Now it is followership.

This is what it means to be sheepy. We are all, the entire flock, all of us in the church, to clothe ourselves with humility and that includes being subject to leadership in the church and also being accountable to one another.

We are told to clothe ourselves with humility. Peter was an eyewitness to that when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. He knows what this really means.

John 13:3–9

"Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" (NLT)

Now, Peter does indeed get it and he is encouraging others by pointing to this event.

In using it to describe the way the Asian Christians should 'gird on humility', the writer seems to be hinting that they should imitate the Lord, who tied a towel about Himself in order to wash His disciples' feet. Though fundamentally an attitude of mind, humility (tapeinophrosunē) should find expression in practical action. (Kelly 1969, 206)

How important is this? Incredibly important. Remember, God hates pride and wants us to reflect Him.



Proverbs 8:13

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.” (NKJV)

Got it! At least I hope and pray I got it since pride is behind the fall. So, Peter continues with instructions for us.

1 Peter 5:6–7

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.” (NASB 2020)

The word that Peter uses here is indeed in the imperative.

Peter is saying decide and then follow through on that. “One humbles oneself under others (5:5) not because one is inferior to them but because, by humbling oneself before others for the Lord’s sake (cf. 2:13), one is humbling oneself before the God who is sovereign (5:6).” (Keener 2021, 378)

As believers, we have been the recipient of magnificent promises based on the grace of God. We have also seen some of those promises as they relate to what our expectations should be of the world as we live in it day to day. How do we respond to those things that happen?

Peter says, “Be humbled (or accept being humbled) so that you may be exalted.” Human action affects the human outcome. The reference to God’s mighty hand probably presupposes the Old Testament idea of God being strong to deliver, or more likely to God’s hand of judgment (cf. LXX: Ex 13:9; Deut 3:24; 4:34; 5:15; 7:19; 9:26; 11:2). Believers are to act in relationship to God while bearing in mind that their present conduct matters and will affect their standing later. (Witherington III 2007, 236)

We humble ourselves. Again, a decision.

From the outside looking in, this may not make sense. We want to remain protective of ourselves and if we rebel against those in authority over us, we are in essence, exalting ourselves above the ones that the Lord has appointed to lead and guide us. This is one reason why He says to humble ourselves.

As we do this, we are then leaving it up to the Lord as to when He will exalt us. When we try to defend ourselves, our opinions, our way of doing things, even if correct, we assert an authority we may not have.

As Peter continues, he tells us that when we do that, we make life for ourselves hard to deal with. We become anxious.

What will be the reaction to my disagreement of their position on this? Well, if it is rebellion centered, you simply want your way, anxiety over the position taken can be understood.

But if, instead of simply disagreeing, we pray first and allow the Holy Spirit to take the lead, meaning we react humbly, we rest in the confidence that whatever the results are, it is in His hands, and He is in control. How big is our God?

Yes, I do get it that there are times those in leadership are not operating in the Spirit and are in the flesh doing exactly what Peter earlier instructed not to do. When leaders are in the wrong, they live for you to respond in the wrong as well. Remember, they are domineering while in the flesh and you may have just affirmed them in that attitude by plainly rebelling against their authority.



They are fully accountable to the Lord for their actions, and we should be praying for them that they repent and do so soon.

Mark 9:42

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.” (ESV)

God takes it very personal when someone who knows better decides to go on the warpath and does things to try and get you and me to sin in our actions.

But what happens when you say, ok. And walk away.

In business, I had a boss who was ready to rip me apart over something that was not my fault, but he wanted to make it my fault.

He expressed his opinion of the failure implying it was all on me and I acknowledged that indeed it was a failure, and I was working through why the situation turned out the way it did. Instead of disagreeing with him and arguing, I agreed partially and answered in a totally unexpected way, and it took the thunder away. Instead, we both began to do a diagnosis to find out the true cause and determined the third party who was behind it. It wound up being a good conversation.

Are there those times where we experience a leader or situation where they are intentionally driving to confrontation? Yes.

They may even believe they have the authority and power over you to force you to comply with their demands. At the end of the day, they don't, not really. Our task is to always remain humble and fully in control, through the Spirit, of the situation.

1 Peter 5:6–7

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.” (NASB 2020)

By casting our anxiety and concerns of the situation on Him, we are allowing Him to deal with the situation. He cares about us.

I really believe that almost daily, God asks us this question, “do we trust Him,” as we go through life and encounter opportunities to trust Him or take action on our own. Allowing ourselves to be humbled is part of that.

All of us encounter this in small things all the time. How do we react? Let me be the first to admit, “not the way I should all the time.” I like asserting “my rights” which God then quickly reminds me are not mine to begin with. We are being taught to trust Him in the little things so when He asks us to trust Him and the next thing is a biggie, we do.

1 Peter 5:8–10

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (NASB 2020)

Two back-to-back commands are here. We all have the tendency to do life on cruise control.



As believers, we are to be intentional about almost everything. It begins with our walk and then flows from there. Maintaining humility is indeed a command, but so is sober up and wake up.

Peter is more than aware of who it is we are really in battle with. Yes, the flesh, and he has outlined some of the problems with it, is indeed a problem. But living in the Spirit helps to seriously mitigate that.

Paul outlined the ongoing battle between the Spirit and the flesh for us in Romans 8.

Romans 8:5–9

“People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things. If our minds are ruled by our desires, we will die. But if our minds are ruled by the Spirit, we will have life and peace. Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God’s laws. If we follow our desires, we cannot please God. You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God’s Spirit, who lives in you. People who don’t have the Spirit of Christ in them don’t belong to him.” (CEV)

Satan is fully aware of this ongoing battle in each of us and he is constantly looking for that crack to sneak in. We wear God’s armor.

Ephesians 6:10–17

“Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil’s tricks. We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm. Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waist, and let God’s justice protect you like armor. Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet. Let your faith be like a shield, and you will be able to stop all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Let God’s saving power be like a helmet, and for a sword use God’s message that comes from the Spirit.” (CEV)

Our only offensive weapon supplied to us by the Lord is His word. We have His sword, His word. Everything else referenced is for our protection. The problem though, we take some of it off every now and then.

Body armor is only effective when worn. Our shield is our faith. And guess where Satan attacks. “Has God really said.”

What do we feed our heads with? The word of God, or the latest news from those who want to lie to you. We want to think the attack and the battle is linear, it isn’t. It is no different than what we see in combat in the world.

“Combat today is fought in nonlinear fashion; the military names the place of modern war a “battlespace.” What most people do not understand about the science and tactics of modern warfare is that it is no longer linear, meaning that your enemy may not be lined up in front of you on a battlefield as in the Civil War and other battles of long ago...the reason so many died in World War I is that soldiers were using Napoleonic tactics from the previous wars in Europe (marching in rank and column), rushing in a frontal assault against new technical marvels like the machine gun and advanced artillery—which simply obliterated them. The truth is, the military must fight in the air, on the land, over and under the water, and even in cyber and outer space to win today’s battles and wars. There is no such thing as a frontline anymore because the battle is raging all around us, even in the invisible realm. There is much biblical teaching regarding the battlefield of the mind and the spiritual warfare that takes place in the space between your ears. (Giammona, Anderson and Jeffress 2022, 180)



Today, as always, we must be fully empowered by the Holy Spirit very day. The propaganda is very real and is hot and heavy via the news media as well as entertainment venues. The battle space is one we should be familiar with.

We must engage along the lines that the Lord has empowered us to do. Remember, we think we are playing checkers, the enemy is playing multi-dimensional chess. We must be Spirit filled and led. The reason for the wake-up call and warning is that the dangerous Adversary is on the prowl. It is clear enough here that Peter is connecting the assault of Satan with physical suffering of some Christians throughout the empire. (Witherington III 2007, 238)

We are in a spiritual war. Peter here is confirming that is what has been the case for thousands of years and some of what he has been writing about are manifestations of that war in the physical universe.

We engage from victory, not defeat.

Per John, there is also a truth that we must remember as we engage the enemy and those who follow them. Those who follow the whims of Satan, will not and cannot listen to or hear us without Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who goes before and preps the battlespace.

The ground is extensive and let me pop an illusion most have.

1 John 4:2–6

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.** By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (NKJV)

This forever shatters the illusion of neutrality, the idea that so-called “good” people who are not Christians are neither for God nor for Satan, are neither in God’s kingdom nor in Satan’s. The fact is, all people, young and old, male and female, belong to one of two kingdoms: the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness. If one is not “in Christ” one is “in the power of the devil,” even if there is no visible, sensible awareness of being in the devil’s grip. Thus, not to serve God is to serve Satan whether one is conscious of it or not. (Storms 2006)

How do we prep for battle? God has it, it isn’t tough.

Combat Prep Operations

Training and commitment –

Colossians 3:5–11

“**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:** sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. **But now you must put them all away:** anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **Do not lie to one another,** seeing that you have **put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.” (ESV)



Mental toughness –

Romans 12:1–2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (ESV)

Situational awareness – The battle is supernatural

Romans 8:38–39

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

2 Kings 6:15–17

“The prophet’s attendant got up early in the morning. When he went outside there was an army surrounding the city, along with horses and chariots. He said to Elisha, “Oh no, my master! What will we do?” He replied, “**Don’t be afraid, for our side outnumbers them.**” **Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he can see.” The LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Colossians 2:8

“**Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

There are a few things to remember too. The only power Satan has is that which we give him. “Don’t make the common mistake of assuming that God and Satan possess the same power—or that the power of Satan is equal to the power of God. Nothing could be further from the truth. Cast out of the heavenly realms to roam the earth, Satan has been given power, but only to the degree that the Lord allows.” (Hunt 2008, 14)

Remember

- Satan cannot be everywhere at once. (Job 1:7)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s possessions. (Job 1:8-11)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s body. (Job 1:12)
- Satan has no absolute power over a believer’s life. (Job 2:3-6)
- Satan must obey Jesus. (Matthew 4:10-11)
- Satan must ask permission to tempt a believer. (Luke 22:31)
- Satan must leave if he is resisted. (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9)
- Satan cannot protect his followers. (Matthew 25:41)
- Satan cannot prevent his own demise. (Revelation 20:10) (Hunt 2008, 14-15)

One angel, Michael, will personally cast Satan and all his fallen followers out of heaven and ban them to earth at the mid-point of the Tribulation. (Revelation 12:7-12)

He and his followers are not impersonal forces, but intelligent evil in rebellion to God.

All of that is in readiness for what it is we must do. Be sober and alert, we are all equally under attack, but the solution is simple. Resist him.



We are given, by God, all the defensive tools we need, resisting is something each of us must do individually through the power of the Holy Spirit. Here we are commanded to resist the devil. Because Satan is a defeated foe, resistance is possible. In James, we are promised even more as we resist.

James 4:7

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**” (NRSVue)

The goal of the enemy is to devour us. To assimilate us back into the world and destroy any witness we may possibly have. He is a thief and a counterfeiter. His goal has been the same since Genesis 3, our destruction.

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (NRSVue)

The flip side of submitting to God is resisting the devil. Insist that you’re not going to fall for his schemes anymore. Turn away from whatever activity or false belief you once practiced or held. (Ingram 2006, 180)

I like what Peter is telling us here when he says to resist the devil. Our resistance will indeed succeed. He is real, don’t ignore him, but don’t go looking for him either.

Resist him! The phrase firm in your faith implies a confidence that God will intervene and give the Christian victory, not defeat. (Grudem 1988, 204)

How do we resist the devil? Peter does not tell us, but Paul tells us the resources we have, to resist. We saw that earlier as we examined Ephesians 6.

In practical terms, all the positive resources of the Christian life are to be used—prayer, the word of God, praise, the help of fellow believers, verbal rebuke of the enemy (Luke 10:17–20; Acts 16:18), renewed holiness of life (note ‘righteousness’ in Eph. 6:14); in short ‘the whole armour of God’ (Eph. 6:11). (Grudem 1988, 204)

Defeat is not inevitable, victory is. We resist and expect that the enemy will flee. Peter learned this the hard way.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, if Peter had been sober, alert and resisted, the outcome might have been very different.

Matthew 26:37–41

“Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. He said to them, “I am deeply grieved to the point of death. **Remain here and stay awake with me.**” Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, “So, couldn’t you stay awake with me one hour? **Stay awake and pray, so that you won’t enter into temptation.** The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”” (CSB)

Jesus invited Peter to be sober, to take seriously the upcoming attack of Satan. Instead, he slept. He should have been alert, on the watch. Jesus told him the need for this, but he slept through the prep period and when push came to shove a few hours later, Peter denied Jesus, three times.



If Peter had taken seriously the warning from Jesus, that Satan wanted to sift him (Luke 22:31), remained soberly on watch for the upcoming attack and had been alert rather than asleep, then he might have been prepared for the attack when it took place. Instead, he fell.

Peter didn't resist, he reacted. Many of us would have done the same. First, he reacted to the soldiers by trying to remove Malchus head and missing only getting his ear. Then he followed from a distance rather and when challenged, denied the Lord. All preventable if he had remained sober, alert and resisted the devil.

Jesus is on our side. He has defeated the devil. He is more than able to enable us to overcome him. His goal is to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish us. Yes, that will involve testing, but He is on the throne.

1 Peter 5:12–14

"Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ." (NASB 2020)

Silvanus is the Latin form of the Greek name, Silas. This may indeed be the same man who was with Paul earlier on the second missionary journey.

Here we see that is in all likelihood, Silvanus is the designated messenger to take this letter to those Peter has written it to.

As he closes out this letter, he repeats his intent for having written it. His concern was for the church to remain firm in Christ. Especially with the rise of persecution, teaching and understanding of what is going on and how the Lord uses this in the life of the believer and the church are important and that is why Peter wrote this letter.

What or who is she who is in Babylon?

We talked a bit about that back when we first started the book. Most likely, this was code for Rome. The she is the church located there; the same church Paul wrote to.

We also discover that Peter is traveling with, or at least staying at the house of John Mark.

We learn from Colossians; Philemon and 2 Timothy that John Mark was with Paul as he was imprisoned in Rome. John Mark is not Peter's physical son, "but that in relation to Peter he took a junior role, just as in that culture an otherwise adult son would defer to his physical father as long as the latter lived." (Davids 1990, 204)

And with that, Peter issues a very simple blessing and concludes his first letter.

1 Peter 5:10–11

"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen." (NASB 2020)



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