



# *Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World*

**Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope**  
**Our Lord Will Return**  
**Soon (4:7 – 5:11)**

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# Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-5. In verse 2, what does it mean for an elder to “shepherd” or to “exercise oversight”?
2. Is this easy or hard to allow as a sheep?
3. Elders aren’t perfect... how should those in the body respond when they conclude “exercising oversight” isn’t being done well?
4. Why might “exercising oversight” well be especially needed in times of suffering and persecution?
5. What does Peter mean when he commands the rest of the body to “clothe yourselves with humility” in verse 5?



# 1 Peter

## *Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World*

- Introduction  
*Peter 's Life & Background Overview*
- Salutation (1:1 – 2)  
*Our Election into Grace*
- Our Past: Remember Our Anchor... (1:3 – 2:10)  
*We Have so Great a Salvation*
- Our Present: Remember Our Testimony... (2:11 – 4:6)  
*How We Navigate Life Really Matters*
- Our Future: Remember Our Living Hope... (4:7 – 5:11)  
*Our Lord Will Return Soon*
- Closing (5:12 – 14)  
*Greetings, Benediction & Review*



# Expectations of Shepherds During Suffering



## Learning Objectives:

*To understand that God expects His shepherds to be examples to the rest of the body of Christ during suffering and to be reminded and encouraged that everything counts for eternity!*

# Expectations of Shepherds During Suffering

## 1 Peter 5:1 - 4

### The Exhortation to Elders

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, <sup>2a</sup> shepherd...

### Who Should be Shepherded

<sup>2b</sup> the flock of God among you...

### How Must Shepherding Take Place

<sup>2c</sup> exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will* of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

### Why Elders Should Shepherd Well

<sup>4</sup> And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

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# The Exhortation to Elders (1 – 2a)

*“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd...”*



- “Therefore” – refers back to 4:12-19 and that Peter’s readers were suffering persecution and being attacked for being Christ-like which he calls “fiery trials”
- God has entrusted the responsibility of spiritual leadership to “elders”... they are to “shepherd” the body of Christ well (Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- “Exhort” – means to “call alongside” or “to encourage or compel someone in a certain direction”; same word we get from the role the Holy Spirit plays in our lives



# The Exhortation to Elders (1 – 2a)

- Understanding the words
  - “*Elder*” – emphasizes the man’s spiritual maturity necessary for this ministry; it is also a designation for the office
  - “*Bishop*” or “*Overseer*” – speaks of the general responsibility to lead, guard or protect
  - “*Pastor*” – this is the word “shepherd” and expresses the priority in duties of feeding, teaching and caring
- Peter uses the plural of “*elders*” to affirm that the office was always designated to be a plurality of men
  - Provides for more ministry care
  - Protects the church against error
  - Preserves the body from an unhealthy imbalance of focus
  - Ensures continuity in the case a dominant leader leaves

**ELDERS**

# The Exhortation to Elders (1 – 2a)

- Peter's credentials

- “*fellow elder*” – I am one like you who intimately understands the challenges and difficulties inherent in shepherding (John 21:15-17)
- “*witness of the sufferings of Christ*” – speaks of Peter's authority in being an “apostle” (Acts 1:12-17; Luke 6:12-16), that he too was and would be a “witness” (martus) and he was a trustworthy source to declare God's redemptive work
- “*partaker of the glory that is to be revealed*” – Peter offered these elders genuine hope of an eternal reward for their faithful service; he had personally seen that coming glory in the Transfiguration; its future timing is guaranteed and will coincide with when Jesus Christ will be “*revealed*”





# Who Should be Shepherded (2b)

*“the flock of God among you...”*

- Elders have been given the most serious, delegated stewardship and mandate by God to shepherd not their own flock, but *“the flock of God”*
- Jesus came to earth to redeem His church... it is HIS flock (John 10:11; Ephesians 5:25b-27)
- He ascended back to heaven and sent his Holy Spirit to empower His church (John 16:5-11; Acts 1:4-9)
- He gifted His church with the necessary spiritual gifts and gifted men to shepherd it to become like Him (John 14:26; 15:15-17; Ephesians 4:11-12)
- The fact that Jesus purchased this flock with His own blood (Acts 20:28) emphasizes the immense value it is to the Lord

# How Must Shepherding Take Place (2b)

*“exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock...”*

- “exercising oversight” (episkopeo) – means to “have scope over” or “to look upon or over”; we get our word “bishop” or “overseer” from this word (1 Timothy 3:1)
- A key role of elders or shepherds is to watch over or care for the sheep to assess their condition, so as to lead, guard and feed them
- Why might this be especially true in times of suffering and persecution?



# How Must Shepherding Take Place (2b)

How Not To	How To	Observations
Not under “compulsion” (1 Cor 9:16)	<p>“Voluntarily” (2 Cor 4:11, 14; Rom 1:14-16)</p> <p>“According to the will of God” (4:19; Heb 13:17)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elders must be <u>diligent</u> rather than lazy</li> <li>Motivated by the <u>heart</u> rather than coerced or forced to be faithful</li> <li>Passionate and privileged rather than <u>indifferent</u></li> <li>Internally motivated by love for Jesus and souls versus external pressure</li> </ul>
Not for “sordid gain” (Isa 56:11; Jer 6:13; 2 Pet 2:3; 1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Tim 5:17-18)	With “eagerness” (Acts 20:33-35; 2 Cor 12:15; 1 Tim 1:12-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sordid gain speaks of the <u>shameful</u> acquisition of it (i.e. – false prophets)</li> <li>“Eagerness” has the character quality of <u>desire</u> or enthusiasm</li> </ul>
Not as “lording” it over (3 John 9-10)	<p>“Prove to be examples to the flock” (Matthew 20:25-28)</p> <p>“to those allotted to your charge” (Matthew 18:5-14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Lording” means to sinfully <u>dominate</u> or domineer over people and circumstances</li> <li>Autocratic, oppressive intimidating leadership, demagoguery (an “example”)</li> <li>“Allotted” – that which is given to another’s care; the Giver here is the Lord Himself</li> <li>These are His precious children</li> </ul>

# Why Elders Should Shepherd Well (4)

*“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory”*

- *“Chief Shepherd”* – one of the most beautiful titles for the Savior in all of Scripture
  - Shepherd imagery for Messiah (Zech 13:7; Psa 23:1)
  - Good Shepherd (John 10:11-12, 16, 26-27)
  - Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20-21)
  - Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (1 Pet 2:25)
- *“Appears”* – means “to make manifest”, “to make clear” or “to reveal”; refers to Christ’s Second Coming



# Why Elders Should Shepherd Well (4)

GLORY

- “*The unfading crown of glory*” – what Shepherds will receive at that time
  - In the Greco-Roman world, crowns were awards for victory at athletic events (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)
  - Temporal crowns would quickly rust, fade or, if made from plants, die quickly
  - Peter says an elder/shepherd’s “*crown*” will be “*unfading*” or never fade and be eternally “*of glory*”; probably better translated as “*the unfading crown that is glory*”
    - Crown that is Life (James 1:12)
    - Crown that is Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)
    - Crown that is rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
  - Eternal glory is enough for any shepherd to desire to serve faithfully; this will be “*in proportion to*” his faithful service

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