

The Chief Shepherd's Shepherds

1 Peter 5:1-5

In a very hostile world how do God's people survive?

How do they thrive in their faith?

As sheep in God's pasture, we have a tendency to stray.

Stray sheep are usually victims of predators.

In the church we encounter predators within and without.

How shall we experience healthy growth and continue to be protected?

God has given us His Spirit within, to lead and strengthen us.

God has given us His Word, providing truth for life and principles to live by.

We can say in times of difficulty, when everything seems to be falling apart, "This I know to be true!"

"God's Word tells me to do this."

He has also given us one another,

...for encouragement, godly counsel, prayer and friendship

Previously... we looked at Four attitudes within the text of 1 Peter 4:7-12:

- 7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.
- 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
- 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- 10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 **Whoever speaks**, *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves** *is to do so* as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The end of all things is near... from 4:7

Attitudes:

1. **Expectancy** – we are to be alert to the soon return of Christ, with a sober and watchful attitude for the purpose of prayer. Expecting Christ to return soon should give us the motive to pray for the difficulties we will face, as we live in preparation to meet Christ.

An attitude of expectance will be demonstrated by a life of prayer, continued dependency on the Lord for all things.

Prayer keeps our mind and heart at rest,

as we keep sober and sound in our minds.

Rudyard Kipling's famous poem *If* begins,
 "If you can keep your head when all about you
 Are losing theirs and blaming it on you..."

What is your present prayer life? How would you evaluate your won prayer life?
 With all the distractions and busyness, do you have a scheduled daily
 'Quiet Time' of at least ten minutes for each day?

2. **Be Loving** – Next we should become loving in all we do. As a child of
 God being more God-like should mean that we are more loving.

keep fervent in your love for one another v 8

This is more important than we might think, for the text states, "**above all.**"

John 13 -Mark of the Christian

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I
 have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will
 know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
 (v 34-35)

1 Cor. 13: -Importance of Love

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels
but do not have love,
 I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy,
 and know all mysteries and all knowledge;
 and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor,
 and if I surrender my body to be burned,
but do not have love, it profits me nothing." (vs. 1-3)

Message:

"So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do,
 I'm bankrupt without love."

(Example: Jonah)

Be hospitable

- **Be Hospitable** – hospitality is practical love, sharing what we have with those in need.

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another

- **Be Faithful** – serving the body of Christ with the gifts of the Spirit.

Give away what God has given you.

To all we have been given as believers – Spirit, Word, and church – one another – Peter now adds a fourth: **Pastors**.

- 1 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,
- 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
- 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

How does the Chief shepherd provide for His church?

--Under-shepherds.

Peter speaks of himself as a fellow elder and witness.

As a fellow elder he identifies with other pastors. He is one of them, pointing to Christ as the real leader of the church.

As a witness of the sufferings of Christ and the glory of Christ (Mt. of transfiguration).

Peter identifies with his readers in their experience of sufferings and points to the glories ahead.

I. The Pastor's Task

In verse 2 Peter exhorts them to *shepherd the flock of God*

- Leading, protecting and providing for the sheep.

They don't shepherd their own flock, but the flock of God.

They don't pastor all Christians; they pastor the flock of God that is "among you."

Shepherd – poimen – word used for 'Pastor'. (natural meaning is shepherd)

This verb-form speaks of the job of the pastor, as the shepherd.

Gk. for **bishop** is episkopos – Episcopalian – basic meaning - "overseer"

Gk. for **elder** is presbuteros – Presbyterian, denoting an 'older person'.

Essentially there is no difference between the three terms – interchangeable use.

Same office referred to by all three. [1 Tim. 3:7; Titus 1:5-7

Here in 1 Peter 5:1-2, all three terms are brought together.

Peter instructs elders to be good bishops as they pastor.

- **Pastor's Oversight - leading**

Acts 20:28 - Paul writes,

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [episkopos], to shepherd [poimaino] the church of God."

A shepherd protects sheep from predators and leads them to pasture in order that they may feed. This picture is what a pastor does as he feeds his church with the word of God.

Juan Sanchez writes,

"The only Christians who would not want this kind of leadership over them are proud ones, who think they don't need anyone's help - the sheep that go it alone tend not to last long, let alone thrive."¹

Pastors must be the kind of leaders that people will want to follow.

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

II. The Pastor's Manner

Pastors are to lead, protect, and provide for their sheep willingly

¹ Juan R. Sanchez, *1 Peter For You*, (The Good Book Company, 2016), p. 156.

- Voluntary – some are not willing and are invited to become elders (grudgingly)
-Encouraging one another in loving, caring discipleship.
- Eagerly - Unselfishly, with enthusiasm
- Be a Proven Example - live out truth so others can follow.

Jesus said that leaders were to be servants, vs. those who exercise authority over others "... whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all." (Mark 10:42-44).

Elders are those who are "*follow-able*"

The Pastor's Reward

Verse 4 emphasizes the accountability to the Lord Jesus for every pastor.

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

Pastors are under-shepherds – overseeing the Lord's flock.

The reward comes when Christ returns.

The reward serves as motivation for shepherding the flock of God when it is hard, when it is inconvenient and when it brings suffering or persecution. If you are an elder who is shepherding faithfully and at great cost and who is feeling burdened or burned out, and who is doing so with little recognition and less thanks, then look up and look ahead – what a joy it will be for you when you receive your unfading crown from your Lord. That is what you are laboring for, and who you are laboring for.²

Parallel to parents – pattern to follow as a father and mother shepherds their children. Goal: responsible, godly, mature, and faithful. Pastor is the pattern. Reward is the children's heritage so that they will leave the same to their children.

² Sanchez, p. 160