

1 Peter 5:1-4 – Bishop: Pastors Shepherd The Flock Well

Introduction:

1. Concern: This text is not just for elders (**verse 1a**)
2. This text is what you should expect from your pastor

The Main Idea of 1Peter 5:1-4

Christians should expect their pastors to shepherd God's people today with oversight, willingly, eagerly, and as an example, anticipating the day when they will receive a reward from the Chief Shepherd.

Peter's Humble Self-Description With The Pastors (v 1)

1. The "So" or "Therefore" of verse 1 points back to 4:12-19 = Suffering in the Church through Persecution
2. History shows that leaders are persecuted first
3. Elders = Pastors = Overseers (Bishops) = Teachers
 - a. **See Eph 4** – only time pastors is used in NT
 - b. *Episcopos* – Epi – over, Scopos – See (scope)
 - c. *Presbuteros* – Elder (most in NT)
4. The Fiery Trial is Coming – the Leadership needs to be Encouraged and Strengthened
5. Peter could have referred to himself by an impressive resume, an Apostle of Christ with Apostolic Authority
 - a. He is a Fellow Elder – "I am with you..."
 - b. He is an Eye-Witness to the Sufferings of Jesus; He added to the sufferings of Jesus
 - c. He is a Partaker in the Glory to be Revealed
 - i. Suffering Comes Before Glory!
 - ii. **See 1 Peter 1:11, 4:13, 5:10**
 - iii. All the suffering you go through will culminate in eternal glory

Peter's Plea To Elders: Their Duty & Delight (vv 2-3)

1. Peter denied Jesus three times; After the resurrection, Jesus restored Peter – Do you love me (3x)
2. Duty: Shepherd The Flock of God in Oversight
 - a. Lead (**1 Tim 5:17, Titus 1:7**)
 - b. Preach the Word (**1 Tim 3:2, 2 Tim 4:2, Titus 1:9**)
 - c. Protect the Church from False Teachers (**Acts 20**)
 - d. Exhort & Admonish the Saints in Sound Doctrine
 - e. Visit the Sick and Pray (**James 5:14, Acts 6:4**)
 - f. Judge Doctrinal Issues (**Acts 15:6**)

3. The Flock does not belong to the Pastor, it belongs to God – How?
 - a. The blood of Christ bought the flock (**1 Pet 1:18-19**)
 - b. You Come into the flock when you hear the Chief Shepherd's voice and follow Him at Conversion
4. Delight: Exercise Oversight With Joy
 - a. NOT Under Compulsion, BUT Willingly
 - i. Reluctant to Serve, Sin of Sloth, Fear
 - ii. Willingly out of Love – not a command, but an exhortation (**5:1, Philemon 8-10, 14**)
 - iii. Gladness and Joy: Benefits You (**Heb 13:17**)
 - iv. *As God would have you* – joyful leaders promote healthy churches
 - b. NOT for Shameful Gain, BUT Eagerly
 - i. Sin of Greed: money, power, prestige, title
 - ii. Using the Church as a "Stepping Stone"
 - iii. Eagerly: With Energy and Enthusiasm
 - iv. Jesus had Zeal for His Father's House, so should the Pastor
 - c. NOT Domineering, BUT as an Example
 - i. Sin of Pride, Lording it over, Ego, Insecure, Need for Admiration, Spiritual Tyranny
 - ii. Humility and Service – Like Christ
 - iii. Flawed and Weak, but Real and Genuine
 - iv. The pastor is your shepherd, but not your Savior

God's Reward To Elders: An Unfading Crown of Glory (v 4)

1. Thankless Ministry Positions which Go Unnoticed
2. The Chief Shepherd – Eternal Shepherd of the Sheep will Assess Your Pastor – Did you feed my sheep, did you tend to my lambs, did you protect them against wolves and false teachers?
3. Encouragement: No matter the hostility of the present, great reward awaits in the eternal Kingdom
4. The Good Shepherd Rewards Faithfulness
 - a. The Reward will be great
 - b. The One Who Rewards is Greater – this is striking
5. Elders are Needy Sheep
 - a. How will it be possible for a flawed, sinful elder-pastor to receive an unfading crown of glory?
 - b. Answer: The Sinless King Also Wore a Crown of Thorns as the Lamb of God