

1 Peter 5:1-4

Verse 1

This chapter begins with the word “therefore” which is looking back to the preceding verses to launch into the upcoming verses. Peter is looking back to the fact that we are called to share in the sufferings of Christ. In the middle of the sufferings and trials of this world, the Word of God is what brings understanding, peace, guidance, faith, and trust. Peter turns the direct focus at this time to the elders or overseers of the Church as the primary means for the Word of God to be presented and shared with the people. The elders were those who were appointed to be spiritual overseers and leaders of the local churches. *The primary focus of the elders is to teach and preach the Word of God and to be devoted to prayer* (Acts 6:4).

We see the instruction to appoint elders in the churches, with specific qualifications for the elders.

- **Titus 1:5-9** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷For the ^[a]overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
- **James 5:14** Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

*Peter states that he is a fellow elder. Peter does not say he is the head elder or an elevated status, but rather in a humble statement declares he is an elder as well. Peter is also referred to as an Apostle as well as a disciple. The term disciple means “student.” We are called to be disciples(students) for Christ and go make disciples (students) for Him (Matthew 28:18-20).

*Peter was also an Apostle. An Apostle is one sent by God for His purpose. The qualifications for an Apostle are found in Acts 1:21-26. The qualifications were that they had to be witnesses of Jesus and present from His baptism until the day Christ was taken up. An Apostle must have been an eyewitness to the resurrection of Christ. These were the true Apostles who were given apostolic authority and power by God to perform signs, wonders, and declare the truths of God. The exception to this was Paul as he was called and appointed to be an Apostle (1 Corinthians 15:6-10). These were the true Apostles sent by God to whom along with the prophets were the foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). There are no more Apostles today in this sense as clearly seen in the fact that no one alive today is an eyewitness of the resurrection of Christ. There are no Apostles in the sense of having apostolic authority and power as in the Bible. We are all in a sense an apostle in that we are all sent to witness for His name and be ambassadors, but not with the same apostolic authority as His Apostles in the Bible.

*Peter was an eyewitness to the sufferings of Christ and to the glory of His resurrection. We have not been an eyewitness to the suffering of Christ but have read of them in the Bible. The glory that we are to partake of will be revealed in its totality when we are in Heaven. However, we even now have the glory of God resting on us (1 Peter 4:14). We have also shared in His sufferings, so that we can rejoice with exultation at the revelation of His glory on the Last Day(1 Peter 4:13). Although we have not been an eyewitness to His suffering, we like Peter will be partakers of the glory that is to come in our new home.

- **1 Peter 4:13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.
- **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Verse 2

The elders of the church are to shepherd the flock of God. We see Christ refer to Himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10. His believers are the sheep, and He is their Shepherd. He does appoint men (women are forbidden by scripture to be preachers in God’s church) to shepherd His sheep while on this earth. The pastor or elder has no sheep of their own, as all believers are God’s sheep. Those whom God has appointed as pastors, elders, or overseers are to care for and shepherd God’s sheep.

The most important role and duty of the pastor/elder serving in shepherding the flock of God's sheep to which He has been entrusted is to feed them! The diet of the sheep is the Word of the Chief Shepherd, the Word of God! We see this is **John 21:15-17**.

The elders are not to shepherd, teach, and preach with an attitude of unwillingness or with the attitude they are being forced to do so, but rather are to delight in the fact that they are called to this honor by the will of God.

The pastor or elder is not to preach and shepherd God's sheep for financial gain or with a greedy heart. They are to have an eagerness in their hearts to proclaim the words and oracles of God.

Verse 3

Elders are not to think of himself as dictators or lords over the people, but are to lead by example to those whom God has **entrusted** to them. The pastor/elder is to be a good steward of the congregation that God has given them.

- **1 Timothy 4:12-16** Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example ^[a]of those who believe. ¹³Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the ^[b]presbytery. ¹⁵Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ^[c]ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

Verse 4

The Good Shepherd- **Psalm 22- John 10:11**- The Good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (**Cross**)

The Great Shepherd- **Psalm 23- Heb 13:20-21**-The resurrected Shepherd who leads His sheep(**Crook**)

The Chief Shepherd- **Psalm 24:7-10- 1 Peter 5:4**-The Chief Shepherd in glory who will come for His flock(**Crown**)

Although the Bible refers to the elders as those who are called by God to shepherd the flock of God, we must remember that all the sheep are God's sheep. Christ is referred to as the Chief Shepherd. He is addressing the elders who are called to shepherd His sheep and ensuring them that those who are faithful to their position and calling as shepherds of His sheep on earth, will receive an unfading crown of glory when the Chief Shepherd appears!

- **James 3:1** Let not many of *you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a ^[a]stricter judgment.
- **Psalm 95:7a** For He is our God, And we are the people of His ^[a]pasture and the sheep of His hand.
- **Acts 20:28-31** Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you ^[a]overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He ^[c]purchased ^[s]with His own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.
- **2 Timothy 4:1-5** I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²**preach the word**; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with ^[a]great patience and instruction. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.