

The Hope That is in You – 1 Peter 5

Lesson 7

Shepherding the Flock

Peter's conclusion in chapter 5 of his first letter is an address to two groups within the church---elders and younger men under their care. These mature leaders (elders) are to lead, teach, and admonish the younger, less knowledgeable, and less experienced Christians. This follows Peter's pattern of exhortation concerning interaction with unbelieving outsiders in 1 Peter 4:12-19 followed by advice about life within the church. We find then that we have two relationships as both edifiers of the church, and evangelists to those outside the church.

Read 1 Peter 5

1. Who does Peter address his exhortation to in 1 Peter 5:1? What were the qualifications for the office of elder (1 Timothy 3:1-7)?
2. What were Peter's additional qualifications as a "fellow elder" (1 Peter 5:1; 2 Peter 1:16)?
3. What was Peter's hope that motivated both him and his fellow elders to "shepherd the flock" in the last phrase of verse 1 (Titus 2:13, 1 Peter 1:3-5)?
4. Another title for elders was overseers which described their work in the church. Did they take on this task out of forced obligation, or voluntarily out of love (1 Peter 5:2)?
5. Were they in it for the money, and did they get to boss people around (1 Peter 5:2-3)? Were leaders actually servants (Matt 23:11, John 13:14-16)? Were elders expected to have the gift of teaching in Titus 1:9?

6. What image did Peter use in 5:4 to express the rewards for service that will be given when Jesus, the “Chief Shepherd” comes back?

7. To whom in the church did Peter address verses 5-7? Why is it so hard to submit to authority (Matt 23:5-7, James 3:16, 1 John 2:16)?

8. What is the New Testament teaching on humility (Romans 12:16, Phil 2:3-9, 1 Cor 1:28-31, James 4:6, 10)?

9. Does current humiliation lead to eternal exaltation (1 Peter 5:6)? In the meantime, who do we “cast all our anxiety” upon (v 7)?

10. What does Peter warn the church about concerning the dangers of living in this fallen world (verse 8-9)? Who is the adversary, and what does he desire to do? What is our great hope that will see us through all suffering (v 10)?