

“Shepherd the Flock”

Intro: Having focused our attention on such issues: our _____ with God and with the non-believing, at chapter 5 Peter turns our attention toward our relationships _____ with _____.

A. If fiery trials are going to come upon us (4:12), and the judgement of God is going to begin in the household of God (17), and it is going to be through difficulty that we are saved (18), then we must have our _____.

1 Peter 5:1-4

I. Peter _____ the _____.

A. Zodhiates defines the word “elders” as employed in our text this way: “The elders of Christian churches, presbyters, to whom was _____ the direction and government of individual churches, equal to ... _____, bishop ...” (Cf. Acts 20:17-30; 1 Tim. 3:1-7 & 5:17, & Titus 1:5-9)

1. Peter exhorts the elders among us: those whose service is to oversee the _____ as a shepherd / _____.

B. Peter who is a direct disciple and “capital ‘A’” Apostle of Jesus Christ, who walked with Christ, who spoke with Christ, who was there to witness Christ’s suffering and watched as Christ rose into the heavens has the _____ to command the Elders of the church, but he does not, rather he _____ to them as a fellow elder.

II. Elders are to _____ the _____ of God.

A. Shepherd is the word from which we get the term “pastor.” It means to: to, care for, and provide for.” It is the spiritual obligation of the elders / overseers / pastors to spiritually tend to, _____ for, and provide for “the flock.”

1. The elders are _____ with the spiritual guardianship of the flock of God. The flock is not theirs, but _____! (Cf. Acts 20:28-31)

III. The elders are to shepherd the flock by:

A. “... exercising _____ ...”

1. These two words are translated from one word that is often translated as “overseer” and “bishop.” It literally means “to have _____.”

2. The elders are exhorted to “_____ oversight.”

B. “... not under _____, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; ...”

1. Spiros Zodhiates writes, “The only place where the adv. (*form of compulsion*) is used is 1_Pet. 5:2, standing in contrast to ... voluntarily or willfully. Both words occur in this verse referring to the _____ of the

service as a spiritual shepherd. One should exercise the task of pastor not because of any outward or inward constraint but voluntarily. No one should be a pastor because he is hired to be one, but because he has been _____ to be one whether he is paid or not.”

C. “... not for _____ gain, but with eagerness; ...”

1. Eldership is _____ a position where the power of the position is to be grudgingly employed for personal _____, _____ eagerly employed for powerful _____.

D. “... _____ yet as _____ it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be _____ to the flock.”

1. “Lording it over” literally means “to dominate while _____.” “Any kind of autocratic, oppressive, and intimidating leadership, with elements of demagoguery - traits that typically characterize the leadership style and methodology of unregenerate men - is a perversion of the overseer’s office.” (MacArthur)

2. The word from which “examples” is translated is interesting. It means to “smite with repeated blows!” Not meant to be taken literally it refers to “laying down a _____.” ... The Elders are to be able to say as did Paul, “Be _____ of me, just as I also am of _____” (1 Cor 11:1).

IV. Peter gives the elders comfort and encouragement writing, verse 4, “And when the _____ Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of .”

A. “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the _____? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an _____” (1 Cor 9:24-26).

B. Elders, let us _____ for we will receive the imperishable crown “when the He appears.” And this is to be the reason and root cause for the Elder’s faithful service - that _____ will appear and _____ them according to their service.

Closing: “Christ’s under-shepherds face a daunting task, but _____ brings eternal reward ... His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave, you were faithful over a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the _____ of _____’” (Matt. 25:23).

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 - maxwell_timothy@hotmail.com