

1 Peter 5 - Feed the Flock of God

5:1-4 ELDERS PROVIDING AN EXAMPLE

v1 Elders I exhort: Not just older brethren but those mature in the word and in experience. Timothy was an elder though relatively young. The apostles appointed elders: **Acts 14:23**. Seven brethren were appointed by ecclesias in **Acts 6:3**. Peter is appealing to them rather than commanding. **Am also an elder:** A fellow elder. Not the chief elder as Catholics claim. **A witness:** Gk. *martus*, from where we get the word *martyr*, as it is translated in **Rev 2:13; 17:6**. A witness is one who testifies in the dock, often in a court of law. A common theme in John's gospel and Revelation, eg. **Jn 1:7,8; 5:31-39; 18:23; Rev 1:2,5,9; 3:14; 6:9; 12:17; 20:4; 22:16,20**. **Key verse:** **Jn 18:37** "Jesus answered... To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." He is the **greatest** witness. The Apostle Paul was also a witness: **Acts 23:11; 26:21-22**. Stephen also: **Acts 6:5 - 7:60**. **Sufferings of Christ:** Peter was there in the last hours of Christ's life: **Mt 26:69-75**. See notes on **4:13**. **A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:** He was an eyewitness of his majesty: **2 Pet 1:16**. Peter saw Christ in glory at the transfiguration: **Mt 17:1-9**. He was with Christ 40 days after he had raised from the dead: **Acts 1:3-4**.

v2 Feed the flock of God: Means shepherd the flock. Christ exhorted Peter to do this: **Jn 21:16**. It is a principle that Jesus lived in his life: **Isa 40:11**. Jesus was unique in that he was the lamb and also the shepherd. In **Ezek 34:1-3** we read of the responsibilities of a true shepherd: Feed the flock, strengthen the diseased, heal the sick, bind up broken limbs and bring back sheep which have been driven away. Also diligently look for sheep which are lost: **34:11**.

The role of a shepherd is not always gentle. In establishing the Kingdom Christ brings judgment on the nations with shepherd's rod: **Rev 2:27; 19:15**. For faithful saints, the shepherd will be refreshing and healing: **Rev 7:17**.

Christ is the good shepherd: **Jn 10:4**. We must follow in Christ's footsteps to bring home the lost sheep: **Mt 18:10-14; Lk 12:42; 15:3-7**. Yahweh is described as our shepherd also: **Psa 23:1-3; Isa 63:11-14**. Leaders in the ecclesia must remember that the flock is God's not theirs. **Willingly:** NIV "not because you must, but because you are willing." God loves a cheerful giver: **2 Cor 9:7**. A serious responsibility: **Jas 3:1**.

THE elders which are among you I exhort, who am ^aalso an elder, and ^aa witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; ^anot for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

³ Neither as ^abeing lords over ^aGod's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

⁴ And when ^athe chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory ^athat fadeth not away.

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, ^aall of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with ^ahumility: for ^aGod resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary ^athe devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

⁹ Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that ^athe same afflictions are accomplished in your ^abrethren that are in the world.

¹⁰ But ^athe God of all grace,



v2 Not for filthy lucre: NIV "not greedy for money" **Prov 15:27; 1 Pet 5:2; 1 Tim 6:10**. Elders should never be out for personal gain but to serve: **1 Tim 3:3,8; Tit 1:7,11**. **Ready mind:** NIV "eager to serve."

v3 Neither as being lords: RSV "not as domineering over those in your charge." **Ensamples to the flock:** Shepherds lead by example and inspire. Jesus came to minister to others: **Mt 20:25-28; Mk 10:42-45**. Shepherds are watchmen who look for danger and protect the flock from wolves: **Mic 2:12; 4:8; Ezek 33:3-9; 1 Cor 14:8**. David and Moses learned by experience as shepherds to care for Israel: **Psa 77:20; 78:70-72**. Paul tells Titus that he is to appoint elders in each city: **Tit 1:5**. Elders were appointed in every ecclesia: **Acts 14:23; 1 Thess 5:12**. Elders are to be servants as Christ: **2 Tim 2:24-26; Lk 22:26-27**. **Further reading:** Highly recommended booklet entitled, *Taking heed to the Ecclesia of God (The Christadelphian)*.

v4 Chief Shepherd: As in **2:25**. See notes on **5:2**. Those in positions of responsibility must always remember they are serving Christ. The principle is the same for young people, of which Timothy was a wonderful example: **1 Tim 4:12**. **Appear:** Gk. *phaneroo*, meaning to lighten or to shine, from where we get the title of John Thomas' book *Phanerosis*. **Crown of glory:** Gk. *Stephanos*, a wreath of victory given at the Olympic Games: **2 Tim 4:8; Jas 1:12**. Also promised to Philadelphia in **Rev 3:11**. This crown does not fade: **1 Pet 5:4**. To obtain the crown requires personal discipline: **1 Cor 9:25**. In **Rev 14:14-16** there is a vision of One like the Son of Man wearing this golden crown as Christ and the Saints judge the nations. The saints also wear this crown in **Rev 4:4,10**. A different crown in Scripture is the *diadem*, symbolising government rule: **Rev 12:3; 13:1; 19:12**.

5:5-11 SUBMISSION AND HUMILITY

v5 Younger, submit yourselves to the elder. Even when Timothy, spirit guided but young, had to rebuke an elder, he was to "intreat him as a father" **1 Tim 5:1**. One characteristic of evil in Judah prior to their captivity was that the youth despised those who were older: **Isa 3:4-5**.

All of you be subject one to another: Christ is our example. He washed the feet of his disciples: **Jn 13:3-10**. **Clothed with humility:** As Christ was: **Mt 11:29**. See also **Isa 57:15; 66:2; Mt 5:3-5; Mk 10:15; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 3:4**. **God resisteth the proud:** Another allusion to a significant theme in Daniel: **Dan 4:37; 5:20-22**, cp **Isa 14:12-14; 2 Thess 2:4**. God hates pride: **Psa 10:3; 12:2-4**. Pride is the cause of boasting: **Prov 8:13; 15:25; 16:5,19; 21:4; Jer 9:23-24**.

v5 Grace to the humble: Even though Jesus was perfect, he was the most humble of men. He never boasted in his own greatness: **Ezek 21:25-27; Mt 11:29; 1 Cor 1:26-30; Phil 2:5-8**.

v6 Humble yourselves: Principle from **Prov 18:12**. Meditate on **Psalms 73** in the context of **Jas 4:1-10** and consider our position before God. Once humbled, we are in a state where God can work with us: **Psa 18:24-27; 119:67,71; Dan 4:33-37; Joel 2:13**. **Under the mighty hand of God:** A common description of God's deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt: **Ex 13:9; Deut 9:26,29; 26:8**. **Exalt you in due time:** He who humbles himself will be exalted: **Prov 15:33; t 23:12; Lk 14:11; 18:14**. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." **Jas 4:10**. **v7 Casting all your care upon Him:** "The whole of your anxiety" (Weymouth). Quoted from **Psa 55:22**. If we are anxious we should take our concerns to God: **Phil 4:6-7**. Christ spoke of this in **Mt 6:25-34; 10:19; Lk 12:15-40**. Daniel's friends: **Dan 3:28**.

v8 Be sober: See notes on **1:13; 4:7**. **Vigilant:** Watch, wakeful. Peter knew this from experience! Jesus' exhortation to him in the garden of Gethsemane: **Mt 26:40-41**. Many aspects to watchfulness: (1) In preparation for Christ's coming: **Mt 24:41; 25:13; Mk 13:35,37**; (2) to guard against temptation: **Mt 26:40-41; Mk 14:38**; (3) to recognise error: **Acts 20:31**; (4) in prayer: **Col 4:2**; (5) in view of prophetic signs: **1 Thess 5:6**; (6) to be blessed: **Rev 16:15**; (7) to receive the reward: **Lk 12:37-38**. **Adversary the devil, as a roaring lion:** Roman authorities. Paul uses this: **Tim 4:17**. Jesus too: **Psa 22:13,21**. A clear allusion to **Daniel 6**.

v9 Resist steadfast: With determination: **2 Tim 2:3**. **In the faith:** Wins the victory: **1 Jn 5:4**. **In your brethren:** Strength knowing we are not alone. **v10 God of all grace:** Also **1:2,10,13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5,12**. **Suffered:** **Mt 16:21-28**. **Unto his eternal glory:** Affliction now is nothing compared to coming glory: **2 Cor 4:15-18**.

^a who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, ^amake you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

¹¹ To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² By ⁱSilvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as ⁱI suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true ^bgrace of God ^ewherein ye stand.

¹³ The church that is at ^aBabylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth ²Marcus my son.

¹⁴ Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. ^kPeace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin / devil / the world / judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for **Study Week 2016** to the theme "I am not ashamed"

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v11 Glory and dominion: The proclamation of angels at Jesus' birth: **Lk 2:14**. Lord's prayer: **Mt 6:13**. The Kingdom of God on earth: **Dan 4:3,22,34**.

5:12-14 FROM BABYLON

v12 Silvanus: Also known as Silas: **Acts 15:22,27,32,40**. See also **Acts 1:19,25,29**. **Grace of God:** See note on **1:2; 5:10**.

v13 Babylon: See notes on the **Background and Overview**. A key allusion to **Daniel!**

v14 In Christ: Baptised, now one with Christ. **Brethren in Christ**, ie. *Christadelphians*: **Col 1:2; Rom 8:1; 12:5; Eph 3:6**.