

## Book of 1 Peter—1 Peter 5

### Christian Living

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 5:1...** “In this verse, ‘There is neither self-exaltation nor disparagement, nor any hint of primacy, such as some have claimed for Peter.’ The storm of persecution coming upon the church naturally focused Peter’s mind upon the need for adequate leadership” [*James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries*].
- 5:2...** “The verb ‘tend’ (*poimaino*, to shepherd; to care for sheep) points to the similarity which obtains between the work of a shepherd and the duty of elders in the church. The word includes more than simply preaching or teaching; in it are all the varied duties which we sometimes, and properly so, style the ‘pastoral’ office. The noun form of the verb ‘tend’ is translated ‘pastors’ in Eph 4:11. A shepherd and his sheep have long served as a figure of teachers and those committed to their care. When David was taken from the sheepfolds of his father it was that he might feed Israel, ‘the flock of Jehovah.’ ‘So he was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands’ (Ps 78:70-72). One of the many charges leveled against the disobedient kings and rulers of Judah was that they did not tend the flock but scattered and destroyed it (Jer 23:1-4)” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 123]. ...**taking the oversight**—“...translate the Greek participle *episkopountes*, derived from *episkopos*, the usual word for ‘bishop’ or ‘overseer’ (Acts 20:28). An *episkopos* is a superintendent, or overseer; and in exercising oversight of the flock of God, bishops or elders are obligated to superintend and direct the affairs of the congregation committed to their care (Heb 13:17). To fail to do so is to be remiss in duty and recreant to the trust imposed; and for the congregation to refuse to recognize this oversight when properly exercised and by duly qualified and appointed elders, is to be in rebellion against God himself” [Ibid, p. 124]. ||||| “How can a man oversee if he has no authority for such responsibilities? If a man were appointed an overseer of a manufacturing plant but was given no authority, he would be totally ineffective. No plant owner has that little judgment” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 293]. ...**not for filthy lucre...** “The word describes gain that is base and dishonorable. This statement is significant beyond the instruction which it contains in revealing that in the apostolic age elders were supported financially by the congregation in the work in which they were engaged” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 124]. ||||| “Since elders generally are not paid for their service, why would Peter speak of money in this context? In our day—and true to some extent in Peter’s day—churches can handle large sums of money. If a man is greedy, he may be tempted to use some of the money for his own benefit. It has happened... There have been cases where church leaders—not necessarily elders—have misused large sums of money—sometimes into the millions of dollars” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 290].
- 5:3... Neither as being lords over God’s heritage**—“The Englishman’s Greek New Testament renders it: ‘Not as exercising lordship over your possessions.’ ... If a man considers the church as his own, then he is indeed likely to rule in an improper manner” [*James Burton Coffman’s Commentaries*].
- 5:4... the Chief Shepherd**—“The chief Shepherd’ (1 Pet. 5:4) is a beautiful reference to our Savior who called himself the ‘good shepherd’ (John 10:11). The symbolism of Christ as the

'good shepherd' and 'chief shepherd' reveals so much about the love and care he has for his people. Earlier Peter had exhorted the elders to tend the flock of God as a shepherd would care for his sheep; now he reminds them that they have Christ as their 'chief Shepherd.' The term 'chief Shepherd' shows the relationship of elders to Christ. Since Christ is the 'chief Shepherd' all other shepherds are under his authority and have the responsibility to tend the flock entrusted to them. For such watchful care they will 'receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away' (1 Pet. 5:4). Elders are promised that for faithful service in shepherding those under their care they will be rewarded" [Paul Stidham, "Exhortation to Faithfulness," in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, Edited by Rod Rutherford].

**5:5... Yea, all of you be subject one to another**—"The meaning of being subject one to another is very simple. There is no one who does not have to submit to someone: members to elders, wives to husbands, children to parents, citizens to government. We must submit as God has ordained—whatever the relationship" [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 300].

**5:6... mighty hand of God**—Cf., Ex 3:19; 32:11; Deut 3:24; 4:34; 5:15; 6:21; 7:8, 19; 9:26; 11:2; 26:8; 34:12; 2 Chr 6:32; Ezk 20:33-34; Dan 9:15.

**5:7... he careth for you**—"The thought here contrasts the living and true God with the dumb idol gods of paganism who had no feeling, concern, or interest of any kind whatever in their worshipers. Even those pagan gods and goddesses which were supposed to be more glorious were always represented as being far off from their devotees, and as having no care whatever for them. It is one of the most glorious teachings of the Bible that God, yes, even the Almighty God, loves his children, is concerned and interested in their welfare; and his eyes are always upon his beloved" [*James Burton Coffman's Commentaries*].

**5:8... your adversary the devil**—"The Saviour himself warned Peter of Satan's 'sifting him'; and from this it is clear that Peter got the message" [*James Burton Coffman's Commentaries*]. Cf., Job 1:6-9.

**5:10... make your perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you**—"Peter prays that God will make his readers 'perfect.' The word 'perfect' does not mean sinlessness. It means mending that which is broken. The word was used of the nets (Mt 4:21). Paul pled with the Corinthians to be 'perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment' (1 Cor 1:10). In Galatians 6:1, the word is used of restoring a brother who has been overtaken by a fault. The perfection Peter had in mind involved establishing every child of God in the faith. ... Peter probably uses these synonymous words to build a strong case for the members being faithful and steadfast unto the end" [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 320].

**5:14... kiss of charity**—"It should be noted that the apostle did not enjoin kissing as a method of greeting; the custom already prevailed. His words were designed to insure that the custom would be observed in keeping with the morality and chastity characteristic of the high calling of Christianity" [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 136-37].

## II. ADVANCED STUDY (extra study posts)—Links to the WWW...

5:1-4... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0789.htm>

5:1-4... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0831.htm>

5:7... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0811.htm>

5:5-14... <http://LemmonsAid.net/bsg/esp197-02.pdf>

5:14... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0675.htm>

**III. Chronology.**

**BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.**

AS A ROARING LION (5:8)... “In the time at which Peter wrote, Satan was indeed, not a sly and stealthy serpent, nor disguised as an angel of light; but he was a roaring lion elevated in the person of Nero upon the throne of the Caesars and thundering his decrees of death and destruction, like a roaring lion! Many of the Christians would be terrified and intimidated, and some under threat of death would renounce their faith. Satan's true nature is more visible in this than in the other Scriptural likenesses; because he adopts other methods only when circumstances make it impossible for him openly and wantonly to destroy, as was the case in the Neronian persecution” [*James Burton Coffman's Commentaries*].

**IV. Summary.**

Peter was an Apostle of Jesus Christ, but he was also an Elder in the Lord's church. In the first four verses of this text he speaks to his fellow-elders. He exhorts that elders in the church should tend or feed the flock; that they take the oversight willingly and with the right attitudes of heart. He urges elders to be examples before the flock and to think about the reward that is to come. Next Peter gives five instructions regarding how to live properly under the mighty hand of God. In his closing remarks he urges Christians to stand fast.

**V. Outline.**

1. Elder to Elder (1 Peter 5:1-4).
2. Humble submission enjoined (5-7).
3. Resist the devil (8-9).
4. Strength will come after suffering (10).
5. Closing remarks (11-14).

**VI. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter was the Chief Shepherd.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter considered his epistle a brief writing.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ It is the responsibility of elders to feed the flock of God.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Humility before God eventually leads to exaltation.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul refers to God as “the God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3), and Peter calls Him “the God of all grace.”

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ The kind of kiss mentioned in 1 Peter 5 was a kiss of: (a) death; (b) distinction; (c) charity or love.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ The EXALTATION Peter spoke of was to come: (a) to all saints; (b) in due time; (c) soon.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Instead of being lords over God's heritage, elders in the Lord's church need to be this to the flock: (a) servants; (b) teachers; (c) examples.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ The special “clothing” mentioned in this chapter is: (a) humility; (b) righteousness; (c) wisdom.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ For ever and ever, to God be glory and: (a) praiseworthiness; (b) reverence; (c) dominion.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that fadeth \_\_\_\_\_ away.”

12. Peter wrote this epistle to Christians and made the direct statement that God \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
13. The only place name mentioned in this chapter is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The devil is like a roaring lion and we must remember he is our \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Peter was a \_\_\_\_\_ of the sufferings of Christ.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to 1 Peter 4 Questions...** [(1) True, 1 Pet 4:19; (2) True, 1 Pet 4:10; (3) True, 1 Pet 4:4; (4) True, 1 Pet 4:5; (5) False, 1 Pet 4:12; (6) b, 1 Pet 4:7; (7) f, 1 Pet 4:15; (8) a, 1 Pet 4:8; (9) a, 1 Pet 4:5-6; (10) b, 1 Pet 4:14; (11) righteous, ungodly, 1 Pet 4:17; (12) exceeding, 1 Pet 4:13; (13) for, us, 1 Pet 4:1; (14) manifold, God; (15) Christian, ashamed, 1 Pet 4:16.]

## VII. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof...** (1 Pet 5:1). What an awesome responsibility elders in the church of Christ have. We must cooperate with our elders in order for them to accomplish the task of feeding us! We need to be present in the assemblies when the feeding is done. We cannot be fed by our elders if we refuse to be present at feeding times.
2. **Neither as being lords over God's heritage...** (1 Pet 5:3). An elder who is scripturally qualified (1 Tim 3:7; Titus 1:6-11) will have no difficulty at all with this instruction from Peter! Those of us who are the "heritage" have nothing to fear from godly and scripturally-qualified elders. They will be well aware of their responsibilities and will be seeking to relate to the flock in a good way that will be productive of accomplishing the work of the Lord on earth. The goal of godly elders is to tend their flock in such as way as to lead them to the eternal home of the soul, the LONG home of Ecclesiastes 12:5.
3. **be clothed with humility** (1 Pet 5:5). What person other than the humble person is going to be willing to yield his/her will to that of the Lord Jesus Christ? Humility is the quality which is essential to having a spirit of obedience. When we begin to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think is the time when we begin to be a problem to the smooth functioning of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:21). A proud look is HATED by the Lord (Prov 6:17).
4. **for he careth for you** (1 Pet 5:7). One of the reasons that God must be obeyed is that He is a benevolent God and He commands what He commands for our own good. He is omniscient, thus we do not have to worry that He will make a mistake in any of His commandments to us. He is our Creator, thus knows us and what we need. He loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son (Jn 3:16). Whenever we get discouraged, surely this knowledge that the God of the Universe cares for me should be a great source of strength to move out of the discouragement.
5. **your adversary the devil... Satan's Purposes** (1 Pet 5:8).
  - 1) To keep us out of the church.
  - 2) To get us into the wrong church.
  - 3) To get the church member back into the world.
  - 4) To kill our influence for good.
  - 5) To make Christians inactive in the work of saving souls.
  - 6) To have us serve with the wrong attitude.

**VIII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.**

N G B G O D O F A L L G R A C E V F R E  
 E E L D E R S A Z X S L W E D C C V F R  
 T G I L D E R S B G T O Y H N M H U I O  
 M J U T Y D N B G T R R F V C D I S Z A  
 Q W S X H E D E R F V Y B G T G E Y U M  
 K L P I Y E H N B G T R F V N C F X S W  
 Q A A Z X F R E D S W E D I C V S F R T  
 Y H D V F R T A N H Y U T M J U H K M U  
 X S Q V A Z X S S E R S F V B G E N N H  
 Y U I O E R F V C B A D E W S X P Q A Z  
 C D E R V R B G T C E H Y U M D H B R Z  
 N C X S W E S C D E R I B B N C E D E Q  
 O A L Z X S W A E D C V N A B G R B S Z  
 L V F O R T G B R N H J H G T M D B I X  
 Y Z A Q T W S X C Y V Y Y E L E D C S V  
 B B G T Y H U J M P T L E Y T O E V T V  
 A C X Z A Q E W S H V R B G T Y R X K I  
 B U J M N H Y D G R G F V C D E W D X Z  
 X S W E D C V I B Y S T A N D N H Y S Z  
 C C D E R V M B G T Y V F R Q A Z D R L

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

| <b>1 Peter 5</b>                |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| ELDERS, verse 1                 | GLORY, verse 11   |
| FEED, verse 2                   | STAND, verse 12   |
| NEITHER AS BEING LORDS, verse 3 | BABYLON, verse 13 |
| CHIEF SHEPHERD, verse 4         | GREET, verse 14   |
| CLOTHED, verse 5                |                   |
| MIGHTY HAND, verse 6            |                   |
| CASTING, verse 7                |                   |
| ADVERSARY, verse 8              |                   |
| RESIST, verse 9                 |                   |
| GOD OF ALL GRACE, verse 10      |                   |

I have composed a Crossword Puzzle on the content of 1 Peter 5, to see it, click [H-E-R-E](#).