

1 Peter 5

(ESV) So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: (2) shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; (3) not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Discussion

Who are the “elders” whom Peter addresses in these verses? (Cf. 1 Tim. 5:17) _____

As a “fellow elder” what had Peter witnessed that is pertinent to the subject matter of this epistle? _____

What direction does Peter give to the elders? _____

Whose flock is any group of Christians in reality? _____

How will this shepherding take place? _____

What temptation always confronts those called to be elders? _____

How do some so easily obtain “shameful gain” from God’s flock? _____

What example should faithful elders give to God’s flock? _____

When will the true gain of shepherding God’s flock come to faithful elders? _____

What form will that gain take? _____

(5) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, (7) casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

By contrast, then, who are the "younger" whom Peter addresses here?

What does Peter encourage of them (cf. Heb. 13:17)?

How should believers live in regards to one another?

What special warning and promise does Peter give in connection with this encouragement?

What is significant about "the mighty hand of God" when it comes to humility (cf. Psalm 124:8)?

How does verse 7 emphasize this fact?

When is the proper time for God to exalt us?

(8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (9) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (10) And

What does it mean to be "sober-minded" and "watchful?"

Why should we be so spiritually alert?

after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (11) To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

What is significant about Peter's description of Satan as a "roaring lion"? _____

What is Satan always seeking, and what does that mean? _____

Rather than instructing us to flee, what does Peter tell us to do with this roaring lion (cf. James 4:7)? _____

What gives us the ability to resist the devil? _____

Who else experiences these attempts of the devil to devour them? _____

What is one of the ways he seeks to devour us according to verse 9? _____

By contrast, what does "the God of all grace" do through the sufferings? _____

Why is it significant that He has "the dominion forever and ever"? _____

(12) By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. (13) She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. (14) Greet one

What is this "true grace of God" to which Peter refers? _____

How do we stand firm in this grace of God? _____

Who is the "she" that is at Babylon _____

another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

To what might “Babylon” refer? _____

What is significant about “the kiss of love”? _____

Discussion: Universal command or societal tradition

What final prayer/promise does Peter offer that is central to the Christian faith? _____

What is that peace? _____
