

Class 5 - Introduction & Comments

Elder Experience

v. 1-5 is Peter's exhortation to his fellow elders. His words draw from his own experience as a leader and overseer of the church in Jerusalem, an assignment from Jesus that Peter took to heart (cf. Mt 16:17-19, Jn 21:15-19). He would also keep in mind that he had once fled from danger and denied his Lord [after insisting, as a fearless disciple, he would die first - Lk 22:31-34]. Peter also had the transfiguration experience, but he waited until his Second Letter to talk about it.

The responsibilities of elders (v.2) are a marked contrast to the worthless shepherds of Israel (Ezek 34: 1-60). In that prophecy, the LORD fired all those shepherds and became the Shepherd of the nation (Ezek 34:7-31). Those OT assurances carry over to *the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls* in 2:25.

Jesus is the chief Shepherd (v.4, cf. Rev 7:15). Jesus is the servant in the servant-master relationship with God. He is the master (Lord) of the disciples.

Note the teaching of submission of the younger [inexperienced; not referring to young people as such] to the elders [experienced; not talking about age]. Humility and obedience were featured characteristics of Jesus (Phil 2:5-8), the servant of God who became the shepherd of the church. Those same characteristics are expected in all members of the church, both Brothers and Sisters (Phil 2:1-5).

Peter would conclude that this expectation of submission and humility is applicable to all who want to be part of the *royal priesthood* (2:9)

Suffering Experience

v. 6-11 continues Peter's exhortation, this time to all the brethren. The need to *humble yourselves* remains a high priority. That mindset is coupled with *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you*. What a privilege!

v. 8-9 could easily allude to the reality of Nero's persecution of the Christians in Rome. However, the resistance to those who attack you because you are identified with Jesus, remains the same as earlier (e.g., 4:16, 3:15). The goal is to honor God, not to avoid being killed. Amazingly, believers were instructed to still *Honor the emperor!* (2:17). That is because the believer first feared God (2:17) and like Jesus, *trusted to Him who judges justly*. (2:23).

v. 9-10 Suffering for Christ is *required*. Every disciple must undergo this happening. If not, their faith will not be proven and the flesh will triumph. Peter assures his readers that the suffering is for *a little while*. Then a great action kicks in: *God himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you*. **Wow!**

v. 12 why write? *to exhort and declare the true grace of God*. Stand firm in it.

Bible Text - Chapter 5

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings 4:13 of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory 4:14, v.4 that is going to be revealed: **2** shepherd 2:25, v.4 the flock v.3 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 v.1

4 And when the chief Shepherd v.4 appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory v.1, v.10.

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.*" (Jas 4:6, Prov 3:34 cf. Job 22:29)

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.

8 Be sober-minded 4:7; be watchful. Your adversary *antidikos*, the devil *diabolos*, 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 after you have suffered 4:1 v, a little while 1:6, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory v.4 in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

Your Study and Action Notes

1. What do the following words, terms or phrases mean? Write in your answers:

- fellow elder (v. 1) —
- partaker (v. 1) —
- exercising oversight (v. 2) —
- unfading crown of glory (v. 4) —
- casting (v. 7) —
- be watchful (v. 8) —
- your adversary the devil (v. 8) —
- prowls around like a roaring lion (v. 8) —
- the same kinds of suffering are being experienced (v. 9) —
- suffered a little while (v.10) —
- she who is at Babylon (v.13) —
- likes chosen (v.13) —

2. What *encouraging* verse or passage would you like to discuss? _____
Points you would like to make:

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3. What *confusing* verse or passage would you like to discuss? _____
Questions you would like to ask:

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4. What *new information* did you encounter and *what might you do* about its teaching?