

Thursday, April 13, 2023 • Read 1Peter 5:6–11

Questions from the Scripture text: What are all Christ's sheep to do (v6)? Under Whose hand are they to humble themselves? What sort of hand is it? And what will God do for them? When? What is an essential part of humbling ourselves (v7)? How much of our care are we to cast upon Him? How much of it is to be cast upon something else? What, in addition to the mightiness of His hand, prods us to cast upon Him every one of our cares? With what two commands does v8 begin? Watching against whom? Who is he to us? Where does he go? Like what does he go around? What is he seeking as he goes around? What does this imply about the identity of the ones who will be devoured? What else are the sheep to do to him (v9)? How can they do this—steadfast in what? What do they know; about whom; where? Who is the answer to all of this—both to what we need to do and what the devil is trying to do (v10)? What is God called here? How did each sheep end up in this situation? To what did God call them? Whose glory? What sort of glory? By Whom did God call them to His own, eternal glory? Through what will we go, for how long, before we come to that glory? What four things is God doing for us in and through this suffering? What is the outcome of this being the way that we were called, that we walk, and that we will arrive (v11)?

What is the key to pairing proper humility with proper confidence? 2Timothy 1:13–14 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **proper humility comes from an awareness of the mightiness of God's hands, under which we humble ourselves, and proper confidence comes from awareness of the infinite care of Him upon Whom we cast our cares.**

The "mighty hand of God" in v6 is the key to humility in the church. Lest elders be tempted to think too highly of themselves, let them remember that their lowliness is not first with respect to other sheep, but with respect to the Chief Shepherd. Thus, an elder may remember that he too is a sheep; for, it is none other than the mighty hand of God under which he is humbling himself!

And let the rest of the flock, if they are in a true church, not be hindered from humility by the unworthiness of their elders. A true church preaches Christ as God the Son crucified and risen for sinners, and administers the sacraments as instructed under Christ, and employs discipline to guard against the denial of the gospel whether by false teaching or "Christians" who live unrepentantly and scandalously.

So, though the undershepherds in true churches will be sinners, they are still appointed by the Chief Shepherd, and it is under His mighty hand that the flock humbles itself as it submits to the elders. Since it is God's hand under which they humble themselves, and not the elders' hands, the elders must require only what God requires and forbid only what God forbids. For, the submission that the flock gives to his oversight is not a humbling under the elder's hand but God's. And let the elder show this not only by the limited scope of his authority but also by the gentle manner in which he oversees a flock that belongs to God, not to himself.

The Spirit then reminds us of the love that moves this mighty hand of God: "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." This reminder is especially needful for those who have a fearful and mistrusting tendency in their own hearts, and who may even have been wounded by elders in the past. The remedy for such reluctance and timidity is a clear view of the immeasurable love of God in which He cares for us. The apostle had seen the extent of this care as he personally witnessed "the sufferings of Christ" (v1). He could never doubt that this One Who died in that way, under that wrath, cared for him.

And you and I cannot doubt it either, dear reader. Did He love us so much then, only to have that love wane in our troubles? Did He go to the cross with all His heart, then heartlessly assign you the particular elders that you have in a true congregation of His church? How great is the care of the Lord Jesus Christ!

And let the reminder of His love protect us from yet another danger: casting our cares upon the undershepherds themselves. We will be able to see love of the Savior in faithful elders, but we must be sure to have our comfort in His love, rather than theirs. The better they love us, the more we will be tempted to cast our cares in some measure upon them. But v7 will not permit this. They are not the Chief Shepherd. They did not die for our sins. There is an infinitely greater Care moving the mighty hand of God. Humbling yourself under the mighty hand of God includes "casting ALL your care upon Him." For thousands of years, He has been carrying brothers through the sufferings of this world, from both within and without the church (v9).

As we considered on Monday, this structure for the protection of the flock was His plan. And that which He has planned in His wisdom, He makes effectual by His power. He is "the God of all grace" (v10). The suffering is only for a little while (v10). His perfecting, establishing, strengthening, and settling of believers is forever and ever, and will bring Him glory for unending ages (v11). In His great kindness, He devised this plan for glorifying His mighty hand. You can trust Him. Humble yourself under that hand; cast all your cares upon Him.

By what regular actions and mental habits do you keep yourself mindful of God's mighty hand? Do you seem to have more difficulty humbling yourself under that hand's power or casting your cares upon that hand's love? Upon whom are you tempted to cast your cares instead of the Lord?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for loving us and revealing that love in Christ, so that we may know not only the power of Your mighty hand but the care of Your mighty hand. Forgive us for when we shrink from submitting to those whom You set over us, because we forget that it's under Your mighty hand that we are humbling ourselves. Forgive us for when we cast our cares upon anything or anyone other than You. Even these requests, these cares, we cast upon Your Spirit in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!

ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH517 "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

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1st Peter chapter 5 verses 6 through 11. These are good towards. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of god. That he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him. For, he cares for you. Be sober the vigilant. Because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion.

Seeking whom he may devour. Resist him. Steadfast in the faith, knowing But the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the god of all grace. Who called us to his eternal glory by christ jesus. After you have suffered a while. Perfect, establish. Strengthen and settle you.

To him, be the glory and dominion. Forever. And ever. Amen. So far, the reading of god's. Inspired. And In there and twerked.

Verse 6 follows up on the instruction, That not only are. The youngers, the newbies. In the church to submit themselves to elders, but elders are to submit as well. Because we're submitting. Not merely under men. But we are submitting ourselves to and humbling ourselves under The mighty hand of god.

This is what enables us to. Have happy, humility. Because it is before. The site the consideration of the power and glory of god. That we are, humbled. And so, if you have, In front of you. Someone who is sinful. Uh, someone who is Weak. Someone who is creaturely and If we are tempted to, Uh, reject their authority and to have a resistant spirit towards them on account of those things then we must remember.

That we do not just have The person who is in front of us. We have all around us everywhere, always in. And we are always in his immediate presence. Almighty God. The infinite and eternal and unchangeable one. And let those who are Uh, in authority, remember that? That is the one before him others are humbling

themselves.

They're not humbling. They are not to humble themselves before us. You can imagine. If there was, if there were two Common people, low, low people, and one was standing and the one in front of him. Uh, suddenly bowed very low. How ridiculous it would be for the common person.

To think suddenly about himself. Ah, I must really be something. That this person would bow to me like this. And he doesn't realize. That the great king has just come. Um, come up behind them, standing a head taller and in his royal robes, and with his regal demeanor, And that the person from it was not bowing to him, the commoner.

His bowing to the king. And yet those in authority in marriages and families and churches. Uh, can vary foolishly be like that other commoner. And not realize that it's under the mighty hand of God. That we are all humbling ourselves. And so it's a great help to us when we have someone difficult to submit to and it's a great help to us.

And when we are in the position, Of others, submitting. To our authority. It's under God's mighty hand. That we humble ourselves to. Um, Participate in the church. According to his design, it's under God's mighty hand that we humble ourselves. To patiently endure. Suffering. Uh, knowing that he is using the suffering to bring us to glory.

And it's under God's mighty hand. That we therefore endure. His providence. Providence. Sometimes of having difficult people and authority. Providence, sometimes of having difficult people under our authority, Uh, providence, sometimes. Um, Of the attacks of the world from outside on the church, even the providence of The devil in his great wickedness.

Seeking by. All of. All of his craft to employ our remaining fleshliness. To. Um, To separate us from the flock to separate us from the chief shepherds. Shepherding means On earth. And so, here's like, A lion roar. Uh, prowling about roaring about seeking. If he can. Uh, to separate.

One of the lambs, one of the years, maybe even a ram. Which would be no match for the lion. If it were. If it were by itself and we have all of these These wicked ways of reasoning within ourselves. Y an hour particular case. Uh, God's way of shepherding us, doesn't quite apply.

So the so that we will, Uh, make ourselves Um, Pray. Onto the devil but that comes in God's providence. And once we see that God rules, Over all of these things. And that he is the one who has called us from the world, from before the world began to his eternal glory.

Uh, we not only say, aha. This is the way to go because The God, who. Called me has given me this way to go, but we remember, he is the one who's going to help us. And the way. And that takes us, then from the second part. Uh, from the first part of verse 6 and to the second part, Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you into your time.

We humble ourselves and all of these ways, knowing what he is aiming at for us. Sorry, not second. Part of verse 6, from verse 6, into verse 7, This is what takes us. From verse 6. Into verse 7. And therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you, and do time, we do the humbling knowing where he has taken us.

Um, But then in verse 7, casting all your care upon him. For, he cares for you. He is the one. Who will carry us through all of these things. He is always. Caring. For us. And so as we humble ourselves, it's not that we are not looking out for our interests and we are made vulnerable.

Because, what if? The one who. Is my elder in the church, or my husband, or my father, in the family is not looking out for my interests, like he should, but the Lord is looking at my interests. The one under whose almighty hand, I am humbling. Myself is the one who is caring for me.

And so I can trust him. I can trust him. Uh, when it's hard in. Uh, my own soul. Resisting. The suggestions of the devil. And committing myself. Uh, to the Lord's. Glory the Lord's in the Lord's way. I can trust. Got when it's hard in the home. And when it's hard in the church, he cares for me.

And notice that we are to cast all our care, all our caring, Upon him. For, he cares for us. In other words, you don't put your trust in your elders, you don't put your trust in your husband, you know, put your trust even in your father. You put your trust in God.

Who uses them? And then if they are not what they should be, And none of them are entirely what they should be. God is still what he should be. The hands that uphold the world are the ones that carry you. Underneath you or the everlasting arms. The blessing comes.

To Asher. And, To all of us in Jesus Christ. Those are his blessings and Our inheritance in him underneath, are they everlasting arms? And so, we We mustn't, put our trust. Uh, in or Upon anyone else. We trust in. Was something else that I was going to say.

And when he does care for us, then, The those times in which our carers have been great become times of even greater fellowship with our God, Um, they bring us as it were Closer to glory even on earth. Because when we lose, Everything else? We still have him. And then that asap.

Experience way of psalm 73. We realize. That we may not have heaven yet but we have, it's heavenliness. Because we have him. And the increase of our cares. So that we are thrown more entirely upon him. Is often away by which he brings us. Into that sweetness. And that's important, because Not only.

May the one we have not be what he ought to be on earth. The The one whom he sets over. So the congregation around us or even the ones who are under us, But the Lord may take them. And if you have cast your cares upon your Father, or upon your husband or upon your elders.

And then the Lord in his wisdom takes them. Uh, you will. Find yourself entirely, destabilized. Whereas, if you had received them as good gifts, from the Lord, you'll still grieve if the Lord takes them. What your careers were never cast upon them to begin with. Your cares were upon him.

Cast upon him was using. And so let us be careful of our hearts. That we That we cast our cares upon the Lord. And not upon the means. That the Lord is using. Uh, lest the means be removed from us. And we find ourselves without help. Uh, in a way that we have done, To ourselves.

He is bringing us. To his glory. If we are, Believers in him. So let's humble ourselves under his mighty hand. And cast our cares. Upon him. Let's pray. Her father in heaven. We thank you for your word. We thank you for your warnings. We thank you for your encouragements.

Help us to cast our cares entirely. Upon you. Help us o lord, to have that sense that awareness. That. That help us to remember. That you are always with us, always around us, always almighty. That we may have a spirit of humility in everything that we do and with everyone.

Uh, whether we are In authority or under it, or among equals. Always humbling ourselves. Under your mighty hand. Grant to us to know. That it is in your providence. That everything occurs? So that we may take comfort. That it is occurring as part of your bringing us to glory.

So, we asked us in jesus name, Amen.