

Peter's Exhortation to the Elders (1 Peter 5:1-5) part I

- Peter addresses elders in 5 Roman churches: eldership established practice
- Peter singles out elders in the congregation for direct exhortation
- “therefore” links Peter’s exhortation to the fiery trials the saints are suffering
- Possibly, Peter is saying: persecution might focus on the elders (Ezek 9:1-6)
- When persecution comes, the role of the elder is vital to the “flock of God”
- Elders must rise to the unique challenge & be faithful in the shepherding role

I. Peter's Example and Passion for the Elders (v 1)

- Peter’s desire to encourage & help his fellow elders: seen in his self description
- 1) *‘Your fellow elder’*
 - Peter calling himself elder: placing himself on same level as fellow elders
 - He is also stressing the importance of their commission & their role
 - 2) *‘A witness of Christ’s sufferings’*
 - Peter heard Christ’s words & was an eye witness to most of his sufferings
 - He shares the same task they do: testifying to what others have witnessed.
 - 3) *‘a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed’*
 - Peter stands beside the church elders not above them
 - He bears witness to Christ’s sufferings, will suffer as they will for Christ
 - In the same way like them, he too, will share in Christ’s glory when he appears

II. Be Shepherds To God's Flock (v 2)

- Peter’s exhortation: “Shepherd the flock of God that is among you”
- **‘Shepherd’**: tend to, do everything that must be done for God’s dear flock
- The commission Christ gave to Peter (Jn 21:15-17) he passes on to the elders
- Sheep need to be watched over (Prov. 27:23) they often stray (1 Pet 2:25)
- Sheep need continuous encouragement, comfort, guidance, prayer, protection
- Thus the elder’s life is one of devoted work for the welfare of God’s flock
- Why they are special: “God’s flock” bought with “His blood” (Acts 20:28)
- Peter continues to exhort the elders that they are to **exercise oversight**
- There is delegated authority given by God for overall supervision of the flock
- Shepherd and oversight are similar and share the root idea of hands on care
- Shepherding – specifies tender care – oversight: emphasizes rule/ guarding