

Introduction: I spoke on this passage back in January, but this is a different message. It was the message in January that stimulated me to go through the entire book, because I think there may be tribulations and trials ahead for the people of God, and I want to fortify you against them.

- I. Examples to the Flock: The Elder to the elders and all the people vs. 1-7
  - A. Peter refers to the two most glorious things of his life.
    1. The Sufferings of Christ he did not at that time appreciate.
    2. The Mount of Transfiguration, which he did not a that time appreciate.
    3. The most important experiences that you may have in your Christian walk may not seem significant to you at the time.
  - B. He writes to those who have office in the church, for what he says to elders he says to all—yes to all the people of God in their duty to minister to each other.
    1. Calvin warn about those things that beset those in office and could be a snare them These are things of the heart:
      - a. Laziness: Do it willingly, not by constraint. The slothful man is wiser in his own conceits that seven men that render a reason.  
Desire for an easy time
      - b. Greed: filthy lucre. Desire for personal gain
      - c. Desire for power: Not as Lords. Disguises itself as zeal very often
      - d. These last two motives may work very hard, but God sees the heart.
    2. What they do is for the purpose of being examples to the flock. You must be an example for them to follow. If you do not love the people of God, you will not be successful in your work, but some temptation will pull you away. Vs. 3
    3. The people are the Lord's heritage:
      - a. You are called to make them a very high priority in your life, even though you serve in a menial way. If judgment begins in the house of the Lord, [4:17-19] those who bear offices will be the first upon whom it falls. How often the prophets spoke of the negligent and wicked priests and Levites. Thus also did Jesus

- b. His heritage is very precious to Him, for he bought the church with His precious Blood.
  - (1). Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
  - (2). Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
  - (3). FEED the flock of God.
- c. We have our inheritance because Jesus has an inheritance:
  - (1). Ephesians 1: 10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.
  - (2). Continuing in Ephesians 1: 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory
  - (3). Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
  - (4). Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
- d. Therefore we have faith, hope, and charity. The three pillars of the New Testament.

II. Exaltation is Later: Glory shall be revealed later. Vs.1,4 "Crown of Glory"  
You will share in the team's glory.

- A. What wonderful glory awaits the faithful servants of the Lord: Peter had already had a taste of the glory that was to come that was to be revealed.

- B. This will take place at the coming of the Lord: See 1Thessalonians 4:13-5:5
- C. Many Parables of the Lord: Just One: Luke 19
1. This is similar to the Talents but there are some important differences.
  2. All receive the same amount
  3. In this parable: Jesus is the nobleman; far country is Heaven; kingdom is the world; evil citizens are those who hate Christ; servants are his people, especially his officers; We do not know the reward given to the other seven who received a pound—it is not important.
  4. The master goes away to receive a kingdom, and does not return until he had received the kingdom.
  5. All the servants were to do business "be engaged" until his return, though they had to live in a hostile world.
  6. Punishment was to the rebellious subjects; and also to the negligent servant.
- D. Jesus Explicit command in Acts 1:7,8 and many other places.
- E. Now is the time to take the low seat and serve one another. Jesus words: Matthew 20: 25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. They got this lesson eventually.
- F. Hence the exhortation to humility that Peter gives. 5-7. Humble yourselves. Take the low seat. Exaltation comes later. You do not wear the crown until you have run the race. You do not share the spoils until the battle is over.
- III. Today is Conflict. 8, 9. Three Imperatives. This is from the sermon I preached in January:
- A. Be sober. The sober person does not lose control.
1. Doesn't throw tizzy fits. Is not a drama queen, or king, for there are drama kings as well as drama queens. Temperance is the result of knowledge, but is perfected by patience, for it does no good to be temperate for a moment.

2. Soberness is also the fruit of humility, doesn't take itself too seriously; it will not be the end of the world if you do not get your own way. We are to submit one to another in the fear of God.
  3. The well disciplined army does not lose control, each warrior running around like a chicken with his head cut off. Each athlete on the football field or basketball court, or volleyball court, must do their own job and stay in their own area, if the team is to be successful; so it is in the church.
  4. The very great coaches know this, and coach to ability.
- B. Be vigilant. Watchful.
1. Do not allow yourself to drift. Be aware of what is going on. Walk circumspectly, is the way Paul puts it: "14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Eph. 5.
  2. He will trap you by your desires, the things you want more than anything in the world; just as he offered them to Jesus Himself on the mount of temptation.
  3. Pr 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Keep means guard. Set a watch about your heart.
  4. Ps 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.
- C. Resist in the faith. It is the truth that sets you free.
1. The truth of faith. There must be sound doctrine: the oracles of God.
  2. The truth of hope. This world is not our home: What does it profit, if I gain the whole world and lose my soul.
  3. The truth of love. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. Jesus prayed for his enemies and so must we.

Conclusion and Application. I have made the applications as I have gone along.