

1st Peter Ch. 5

V.1-3

-Although he is talking about elders, many churches today are set up with the pastor being the final authority or at least being on the elder board

-Elders of a church have an awesome responsibility

-they are to be like shepherds for their flock

-the shepherd's main jobs are simple:

-to protect the flock from wolves and danger

-to lead them to good food and water

-to rescue the fallen and provide remedies for the sick

-to keep the flock together

-one thing that is also very interesting and is often overlooked is that the shepherds spent an enormous amount of their time with the sheep

-they didn't spend most of their time in a room reading books about sheep or preparing for shepherd conferences

This is unlike many elders/pastors today who think their main job is to study all week and prepare a message that will last about last about 30 minutes

-a recent Lifeway survey found that most pastors spend the majority of their time in sermon preparation, electronic correspondence and meetings

-this leaves very little time to spend with the flock

-Elders/pastors are also to lead the people with a humble heart and not taking advantage of your authority position

-a good shepherd walks ahead and the sheep follow because they trust that he will lead them in the right direction

-He also includes the fact that they should not be fond of sordid gain

-church is big business today

-in many cases, evangelists and pastors are very high paying positions

-unfortunately, many ministries have sprung up solely for financial gain

And many church leaders and organizations have been investigated for financial fraud

Believe it or not the average income for pastors in the US according to salary.com is **\$85,494**

-the average US salary is about \$45,000.

V.4

-There are actually five crowns mentioned in the bible that are given to believers as rewards

1. The incorruptible crown: 1 Cor. 9:24,25. This is also called the imperishable crown. This crown is given to believers who faithfully run the race, who crucify every selfish desire in the flesh and point men to Jesus.

2. The crown of rejoicing: 1 Thess. 2:19, 20. & Dan 12:3 To those who faithfully are witnesses to the saving grace of God and leads souls to Jesus. This crown has also been named the soul winner's crown. It seems to indicate here that God will be giving a crown to those who have been witnessing to others and leading people to Christ.

3. The crown of life: James 1:12. For those believers who endure trials, tribulations, and severe suffering, even unto death **Rev. 2:8-11.** This crown is also referred to as the martyr's crown.

4. The crown of righteousness: 2 Tim. 4:8. To those who love the appearing of Christ, who anxiously wait and look forward to the day when He will return for His saints. This crown is given to those who have lived a good and righteous life for God while living down here on earth.

5. The crown of glory: 1 Pet. 5:1~4. This is the pastor's crown and will be given to the ministers who faithfully feed the flock of God. . This probably could also include preachers, teachers, Sunday School teachers, missionaries and all those who teach the Word of God

V.5

-Verses like this don't go over well with the culture today

-the word "submit" is rarely used anymore because everyone wants to do their own thing and be their own person

-but society would be in chaos if there was no order

-God has established lines of authority for good reason

-since we are to submit to the authority of the elders, it is crucial that the right elders are in place

-the way many churches work today is that elders are either voted in or are appointed by a senior pastor or elder group

-as long as they are submitted to the Lord and to His authority, this can work well

-but this process does leave room for the possibility of the wrong person becoming an elder

-having elders with major character flaws, such as dishonesty, can be disastrous for a group of believers

-Paul tells Timothy:

1Ti 5:17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

-just because someone has the title of an elder doesn't mean they are naturally going to rule the flock well.

-as the saying goes..."follow the pastor if the pastor follows the Master"

V.6

-We usually want to be recognized immediately for what we do

-if we teach a class, preach a sermon or help someone in need, we want someone to tell us that we did a good job

-It's human nature to want to be noticed when we do something good

-that's not necessarily a bad thing but we need to make sure that it doesn't become the reason that we do good deeds

-Jesus said:

Mat 6:2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

V.7

-the idea of having divided cares or concerns

-if you've never struggled with anxiety, count yourself lucky

The world defines it as "excessive, exaggerated anxiety and worry about everyday life events with no obvious reasons for worry"

-I haven't struggled with it much but my wife was plagued with this for a couple of years

-I believe the thoughts that go along with this type of anxiety come directly from demonic forces

-it's amazing how much someone can struggle with and worry about things that are just in your mind

-and we can speak from experience, this is something that can only be overcome with the power of Jesus Christ

-there is so much peace hearing Jesus say:

Mat 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

V.8

-there is a lot to learn from a verse like this

- first: we have an adversary, an enemy
 - no matter who you are, rich or poor, Christian or Atheist, you have an enemy and it is the devil
 - you may think that the devil is only an enemy of Christians but that is not true
 - if you are a non-believer, the devil is still your enemy. The only difference is that he has already won
- second: the devil is actively trying to destroy you
 - don't be deceived: the enemy is not stupid
 - although he isn't all knowing like God, he has had thousands of years to study people and their weaknesses
 - he has three basic plays in his book that work on almost everyone
 - 1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
 - virtually all sin can be traced back to these three things
 - these are the same plays he used on Eve and he still uses them

today

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

V.9

- we are to resist the devil, not challenge him
 - some Christians today don't understand this
 - they believe that they have the freedom to taunt the devil and say things like "bring it on!" or "give me your best shot!"
 - although Satan has been defeated, he still has a lot of power and influence
 - he may not be able to touch believers directly, but there are many things that he can do to make your life miserable
 - Even Michael the archangel understood his power
 - Jud 1:9** But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"
 - if Michael who stands in the presence of God won't do it, who do we think we are?

- believers all over the world are experiencing suffering for the cause of Christ
 - we know this is happening but for whatever reason, we think that we as believers in a modern society are exempt from this

-I'm pretty sure that the time will come when we will have to be persecuted for our faith too

-we may not be physically persecuted but the obstacles that the devil puts in our lives as distractions to living a Christian life probably hinder us from living a fruitful Christian life as much as persecutions do in other parts of the world

-the devil knows that as a whole, believers in Americans have freedom and don't struggle with poverty like other countries

-so he uses our freedom and wealth against us

-now we get so wrapped up in our own lives and careers

-we spend all our spare time either working longer hours to achieve more wealth or spending our wealth entertaining ourselves as a reward for working so hard

-our lives become so busy that we tend to take our focus off of God

-we have become so self-sufficient that in the back of our minds, we think we can do it all on our own without His help

V.10-11

-whether you have to suffer for an hour for Christ or for 50 years, compared to eternity, it is just a little while

-Following Jesus may not always be easy, but it will definitely be worth it

[Heb 11:6](#) And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

[1Co 2:9](#) but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

V. 12-14

-Peter delivers this message to the encourage the believers for the hard times to come

-shortly after this, sever persecution begins under Emperor Nero

-during this persecution, Peter is executed for his faith in Christ

-what a remarkable change has taken place in Peter's life from the time he denied Christ to now when he is willing to lay down his life for his faith