

I Peter 5:1-4

Exhortation To The Elders While Looking Forward To The Return Our Chief Shepherd

I. Introduction:

A. As we talk about elders, it is good to remember that those men who serve in this office have to meet specific qualifications (**I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**).

1. I have a whole series of lessons detailing each qualification: <https://www.wordsoftruth.net/qualifiedelders.html>

B. Elders were appointed in every congregation (**Acts 14:23**).

1. Aside from the spiritual oversight of the saints we will talk about in this lesson, they also were entrusted with overseeing matters such as funds for needy saints (**Acts 11:27-30**).

2. Aside from the spiritual oversight of local saints, they were also involved in the usage of spiritual gifts such as healing (**James 5:13-15**; cf. **Mark 6:13**).

II. Body: *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (I Peter 5:1-4).*

A. The elders among the local saints are overseers (**Hebrews 13:17**).

1. They are exhorted [besought; implored] to feed and protect (**Acts 20:28-31**).

2. Though elders are overseers in the local church, they are not the head of the church (**Ephesians 5:23-25**, **Colossians 1:12-18**, and **Hebrews 3:1-6**).

B. Peter, the Apostle and now elder, was a witness of the sufferings of Christ (**Acts 3:12-14** and **Acts 10:34-39**).

1. Not just a witness of the sufferings of Christ (**II Peter 1:12-18**).

2. The greater context of all we are studying is about the saints suffering. So, think about this point as Peter is also a partaker in the glory to be revealed (**Romans 8:17-18**).

C. Elders need to be willing in oversight (**I Timothy 3:1**).

1. Elders can be financially supported in their role in ruling over the local church (**I Timothy 5:17-19**).

2. However, if they are seeking the office for financial gain that tells you everything you need to know (**Isaiah 56:10-12**, **Micah 3:11**, and **II Peter 2:1-3**).

3. Like we see with the Apostle Paul in his office, for this to be a rewarding work it has to be done with a willing mind (**I Corinthians 9:16-17**).

D. Elders are to be examples to the flock (**Hebrews 13:7**).

1. Any leader should be able to say, follow me (**Philippians 3:17**; cf. **I Corinthians 11:1**).
 2. All who teach need to be examples (**I Timothy 4:13-16**).
- E. When the chief Shepherd (**John 10:11** and **Hebrews 13:20**) shall appear as we await (**II Thessalonians 2:1**).
1. Christ is the decider on the Judgment Day (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
 2. Bringing the crown of glory (**James 1:12**, **II Timothy 4:6-8**, and **Revelation 2:8-11**) that will not fade away (**I Peter 1:3-4**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study; *“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:5-7).*