

WHAT IS THE PASTOR SUPPOSED TO DO

I PETER 5:1-4

Introduction:

- A. I must remind you again of the all-sufficiency of God's Word.
 - 1. II Tim. 3:16-17. (Congregation read in unison).
 - 2. These verses before us are "scripture."

- B. Peter decided it was necessary to send a message to the pastors.
 - 1. "the elders which are among you, I exhort."
 - a. These are not advanced in age only.
 - b. Peter includes himself. "who am also an elder."
 - c. Were "overseers", an office holder.

- C. Two designations of the same office.
 - 1. Elder = presbuteros = dignity of office, easily accepted by the Jews.
 - 2. Bishop = episkopos = watching over, taking care of, work of the office.
 - a. I Tim. 3:2 A Bishop, then must be blameless
 - 3. They are used synonymously in Titus 1:5-9.
 - a. v 5,7.

- D. What are Peter's instructions?
 - 1. They are not all the things we are supposed to do.
 - 2. Other instructions in other scriptures.

I. PETER AFFIRMS HIMSELF AS AN ELDER.

- A. He mentions three reasons he is qualified to give advise
 - 1. "who am also an Elder."
 - 2. "a witness of the sufferings of Christ."
 - 3. "a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed."

- B. Let only those who have stood the test give advise.
 - 1. Veterans of battles should be battle advisors.
 - 2. Only those who teach, know what it's all about.
 - 3. Think of the criticisms you receive, and ask yourself from whom they are best accepted.

II. THE WORK OF AN ELDER. V2

- A. We need to understand the setting.
 - 1. These are "strangers scattered."
 - 2. This is not a large congregation housed in a modern facility.
 - 3. Not a church with "multi-ministers."
- B. "Feed the flock of God, which is among you."
 - 1. feed = to exercise the whole office of a shepherd, which involves not merely the feeding on grass, but the entire leading, guiding, guarding, and folding of the flock.
 - 2. flock = a little flock.
- C. "taking the oversight thereof"
 - 1. oversight = to look upon, observe, to examine how it is with anything. Of the sick, to visit and look after them: in a military sense, to review or muster, to inspect.
 - 2. Acts 20:28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers.
 - a. oversight = same.
 - b. flock = same.

III. MOTIVES FOR BEING AN ELDER. DOING THE WORK.

- A. "not by constraint."
 - 1. constraint = to be compelled, forced.
 - 2. "and look after them willingly."
 - 3. I Cor. 9:16-17. "for if I do this thing (preach the gospel) willingly, I have a reward."

- B. "not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind"
 - 1. lucre = gain, profit, advantage; desire of gain, love of gain.
 - 2. Don't enter the ministry for money!
 - 3. I do not have this worry.
 - 4. Why did I accept this pastorate in 1969?
 - a. Had a fine parsonage.
 - b. Pastor of largest church in county.
 - c. Taught in High School.
 - d. Came for \$110 per week, old house, took a \$6,000 per year cut. (same as \$12,000).
 - e. First years of teaching in Seminary, \$60 a month
 - 5. Whatever you say, don't say I preach for gain.

IV. THE MANNER OF THE ELDERS SERVICE. U3

- A. "neither as being Lord's over God's heritage."
 - 1. "not as lords of your charges."
 - 2. Lord = a reigning potentate.
- b. How shall the work of God be governed?
 - 1. Matt. 20:25-28.
 - 2. The church should have no government.
 - 3. There can be no higher and lower seats.
 - 4. There is no hierachal system.
 - a. teacher, supt. committee chairman, deacon, chairman of deacons.
 - 5. Every person is a servant. Servant of God and servant of others.
- C. God has put us where we should serve.
 - 1. I Cor. 12:12-
 - 2. Most unhappiness in a church comes from being dissatisfied with one's place.
 - a. "I'm not of the body."

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- D. "but being ensamples to the flock."
 - 1. ensamples = tupos = that which forms the pattern or model after which a thing is made.
 - 2. "proving yourselves patterns for the flock."
 - 3. "be models for them to copy."

V. THE REWARD FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE AS AN ELDER.

- A. Rewards will be given by one greater. v4
 - 1. "And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear."
 - 2. Chief Shepherd = beginning, first.

- B. "ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."
 - 1. This is for under-shepherds.
 - 2. A special reward.
 - 3. Crown of Glory.
 - 4. "the glorious wreath that will never fade."