

I PETER – GRACE, HOPE, AND LIVING WHOLE PART VI
I PETER 5
SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we talked about keeping your eye on the long term goal of eternity.
- The struggle is a test meant to grow us.

I. EAGER TO LEAD OTHERS

- I Peter 5:1-3, “I beg you to ² shepherd God’s flock, for whom you are responsible. Watch over them because you want to, not because you are forced. That is how God wants it. Do it because you are happy to serve ...be good examples to them.”
- Shepherd the flock - picture Jesus used with them.
- He warns them they will suffer if they lead.
- The New Testament assemblies were organized under the leadership of elders and deacons – 1 Timothy 3.
- In fact the New Testament uses bishop, elder and pastor interchangeably.
- Two key words:
- Oversee = I Peter 5:2 - “watch over them”
- This passage simply outlines the qualifications.
- We are responsible to maintain biblical integrity in our body and to care for those who are caring for others.
- “Manage” - This word helps to define the role or the duties as one that helps keep things in order.

II. LOVING AND LEADING

- Peter learned this lesson from Jesus in John 21:15.
- Ezekiel 34:2 – shepherd = to feed, care for
- It is not an easy thing to be a faithful shepherd.

- It demands the supernatural power of God.
- This is a dual relationship for the pastor. He is over the sheep, but is also one of them, among them.
- I Peter 5:2 NLT, “Do it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.”
- Not with compulsion but voluntarily – not forced to, but called from the heart.
- Vs. 3 - The Church needs leaders who serve and servants who lead.
- You cannot drive sheep; you must go before them and lead them.

III. EVER HAVE THAT WORN OUT FEELING?

- I Peter 5:8-10 - Warfare and suffering are tied together.
- We often think of spiritual warfare as demonization.
- But it is often the constant barrage of stuff that just wears you out.
- Daniel 7:25, “He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One...”
- Wearing down the saints.
- James 4:7, “...resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
- Resisting takes time.
- It is a purposeful engagement of darkness.
- What gains victory isn’t your prayer or your voice tone or your words but His power.

CLOSE

- Vss. 10-11 - After the battle comes the blessing!