

# Instructions for the Flock

I Peter 5:5-14

Introduction: Tonight we conclude our study in I Peter and will begin II Peter next week Lord willing.

## I. A PROMISE FOR THE HUMBLE- V. 5-6

- a. Peter began this word of humility to the younger people- Young people especially have to overcome the temptation to resist and rebel against authority
- b. Illustr- A young man grew up thinking how ignorant and foolish his father was. After going away for college, and working for a few years he finally returned home and was surprised at how wise his father had become after just a few short years!
- c. Peter realized that this is of application to all within the church. This word to be submissive to one another applies to everyone, but perhaps especially to the young. Eph 5:21
- d. Humility is demonstrated by submission. It is the ability to cheerfully put away our own agenda for God's, even if God's agenda is expressed through another person.
- e. Be clothed with humility: The phrase "be clothed" translates a rare word that referred to a slave putting on an apron before serving, even as Jesus did before washing the disciple's feet (John 13:4). The badge of a servant!
- f. It's not enough to just keep it hanging in the closet- it must be put on daily!
- g. Some marks of humility:
  - i. The willingness to perform the lowest and littlest services for Jesus' sake.
  - ii. Consciousness of our own inability to do anything apart from God.
  - iii. The willingness to be ignored of men.
  - iv. Being truly others-centered instead of self-centered.

- h. God has established this distinct principle, and everything must operate by this principle to function properly- the principle of authority and submission
- i. Resists: "The verb vividly pictures God as one who places Himself in battle array against such individuals." (Hiebert)
- j. If there were no other reason for being humble this would be enough!
- k. Grace and pride are eternal enemies. We need grace, therefore we cannot have pride! Spurgeon said, "If you are willing to be nothing God will make something of you."

## II. **DECIDE TO TRUST GOD- V. 7**

- a. Casting all your care upon Him: True humility is shown by our ability to cast our care upon God. (Matthew 6:31-34).
- b. Anxious care vs. affectionate care
- c. We have many "cares" (the responsibilities we have in life): jobs, families, etc.
- d. The Bible shows worry is unnecessary- God wants to carry burdens for us, worry is futile- hasn't solved a problem yet; worry is sin! (Phil 4:6)
- e. Spurgeon used the illustration of a man who came to move your furniture, but he carried a huge and heavy backpack of his own. He complains that he finds it difficult to do the job of moving your furniture; would you not suggest that he would find it easier if he laid his own burden aside so that he could carry yours? In the same way, we cannot do God's work when we are weighed down by our own burdens and worries. Cast them upon Him, and then take up the Lord's burden – which is light, and a yoke that fits us perfectly.
- f. Casting is a pretty energetic word. He didn't say, "Lay all your care upon him." The idea is, "throw it away from you."
- g. Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."
- h. Casting calls for decisive action, a decision to trust God!

- i. This work of casting can be so difficult that we need to use two hands to do it: the hand of prayer and the hand of faith. “Prayer tells God what the care is, and asks God to help, while faith believes that God can and will do it!”
- j. We serve a God who cares! Frank Graeff, who went through some very difficult trials. During a period of great despondency, and doubt and physical pain, he turned to I Peter 5:7 and was wonderfully comforted.
- k. After meditating on the truth of God's Word, Graeff wrote this beautiful song:

*Does Jesus care when my heart is pained  
 Too deeply for mirth or song,  
 As the burdens press, and the cares distress  
 And the way grows weary and long?  
 Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares,  
 His heart is touched with my grief;  
 When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,  
 I know my Savior cares.*

### **III. BE ON GUARD- V. 8-9**

- a. Peter exhorts us to remain clear-headed (sober) and watchful (vigilant)! Why? because Satan has not yet been bound and restrained for 1,000 years as Revelation 20:1-2 says he will be. At the present time, the devil walks about.
- b. Satan is a finite being and can only be in one place at one time, yet he and his “associates” extend his influence all over the world and in every arena of life.
- c. The roar of Satan is to intimidate, and alarm us. Distress, terrorized, etc.
- d. For Christians, Satan is a lion who may roar but who has been de-fanged at the cross (Colossians 2:15). Yet the sound of his roar – his deceptive lies – are still potent and he has the power to devour and rob Christians of effectiveness. He devours our testimony, influence, faithfulness, etc.
  - i. Deceives us through a loud roar full of intimidation
  - ii. Deceives us in a secretive and quiet manner as an angel of light

- iii. Devour- sometimes this is not just to make us miserable, but to make us happy and distracted from our race as Christians. Satan often uses sweets and not biters to poison Christians
- e. The secret to spiritual warfare- resist! Resist comes from two ancient Greek words: stand against. Peter tells us to stand against the devil. Satan can be set running by the resistance of the lowliest believer who comes in the authority of what Jesus did on the cross.
- f. Be sober- gird up the loins of your mind 1:13
- g. We must comprehend and be cognizant of Satan's strategies!

#### Conclusion:

- V. 10-14- Peter's closing thoughts
- Recognize He is the God of **all** grace
- These closing verses in the epistle of I Peter emphasize the sufficiency of God's grace (cf. I Peter 5:10). It is more than enough- See James 4
- Suffering is just for a while- contrast with eternal glory!
- V. 10- Suffering trains us and forms our character
  - Perfect- fit, fully supplied, not lacking, mature- i.e. going on a trip. Can also refer to something that is mended/repared
  - Establish- on stable ground, certain, assured
  - Strengthen- strong enough to endure
  - Settle- firmly planted, secure- not easily blown off course (emotional stability)
- Letter was dictated and written most likely by the man called Silas
- Marcus- John Mark the writer of the Gospel of Mark
- Church at Babylon- some say Rome, say recognize that the city of Babylon was still in existence at that time; others note there was a military stronghold by the same name.
- It is never taught in Scripture that the bishop of Rome, or any other bishop, was to have primacy over the church. Scripture does not even explicitly record Peter even being in

Rome. Rather there is only one reference in Scripture of Peter writing from "Babylon," a name sometimes applied to Rome (1 Peter 5:13).