

1Peter 5:1–2

Knowing and Showing the Worthy Glory of the Chief Shepherd

Monday, April 10, 2023 • Read 1Peter 5:1–4

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom is the apostle addressing (v1)? What type of address is it? What does he call himself? To what two things is he a witness? Whose sufferings, and Whose glory are they? What is the primary (one-word) command of v2? What does he call the congregation? Whose flock are they? Where is this flock? What are the elders to do as overseers? What sort of service are elders to provide? What three characteristics must NOT mark this overseeing (v2–3)? What three characteristics MUST mark it instead? If the shepherds are examples to the sheep, what does this remind us that the shepherds themselves are? So, what is Christ called in v4? What will the undershepherds receive when he appears? What will not happen to this glory?

How does Christ bring Christians to glory? 1Peter 5:1–4 follows up upon the morning sermon from this past Lord’s Day and helps prepare for the next one. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christ, the Chief Shepherd who suffered and was glorified, is bringing His sheep through suffering into glory, in part by oversight from other sheep who count both the suffering and the glory worthwhile in Christ.**

Going to glory. The apostle does not lord it over the elders to whom he writes. He calls himself a “fellow elder” in v1. He is “also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed.” His instructions to the elders are the path by which they “will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” And then, having widened his audience in v5 to include the rest of the church, he reminds them that “the God of all grace [has] called us to His eternal glory” (v10). It is unto this God that “the glory” is due and will be forever and ever (v11).

Here is great incentive for us to pay attention and put into practice what the apostle describes in this passage. When he says, “humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (v6), He is not just telling us that if we humble ourselves for a time, the Lord will raise us out of it. Rather, He is telling us that this humbling of ourselves is the path by which He has determined to raise us all the way up to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus!

Shepherding and shepherded along the path. Jesus is the “Chief Shepherd;” it’s His appearing to which v4 refers. His people are referred to as “the flock” in v4. The devil, who seeks to devour them, is described as “a roaring lion” in v8. But the Chief Shepherd has a plan by which the church “resists” this lion (v9). Not only does the flock stick together along the path, but He has given them elders whose task to is to “shepherd the flock of God” by “overseeing.”

If you are a Christian, where will your life end up? Who is taking you there? Who are the specific men, at this point in your life, that the Chief Shepherd is using to do so? What roles do you have in the church and in your home? How do the instructions to your elders here apply to your own roles?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for the glory to which You are bringing us, and for the suffering that it cost You. Thank You also for shepherding us through our own sufferings along the way. Grant unto us to fulfill our roles in Your church in a way that reflects Your own love for Your flock, which we ask in Jesus’s Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH433 “Amazing Grace”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First peter chapter 5 verses 1 through 11. These are God’s words. The elders who are among you i exhort. I who am a fellow elder and a witness. Of the sufferings of christ. And also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed. Shepherd, the flock of god, which is among you.

Serving as overseers. Not by compulsion. But willingly. Not for dishonest gain. But eagerly. Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you. But being examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, You will receive the crown of glory. That does not fade away. Likewise you younger? People submit yourselves to your elders.

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another. And be clothed with humility. For god, resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of god, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him. For, he cares for you.

Be sober, be vigilant. Because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion. Seeking whom he may devour. Resist him. Steadfast in the faith. Knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood. In the world. But may the god of all grace. Who called us to his eternal glory by christ jesus.

After you have suffered a while. Perfect. Establish. Strengthen. And settle you. To him, be. The glory.

To him, be. The glory. And the dominion. Forever. And ever. Amen.

Why did the chief Shepherd? Who is the lord of glory? Have to lay down his life for his sheep. The grievous and horrible answer is. Because the sheep had despised his glory. And chosen the creature instead of the creator. Who is blessed forever? Amen. The creator became a shepherd.

And he became a shepherd, who suffers That he might show us his glory even by his suffering And call us back to his glory. By that suffering. And so, He who is the chief shepherd? Suffered. Because we were like sheep who had gone astray. And he suffered in order that we might return.

To the shepherd and overseer. Of our souls. And now he has called us. To suffer a little while in this life. For it. Cannot be. But that. Someone who loves his glory. In a world. Where there is sin and misery and the enemy who pros about like roaring lion Someone who loves his glory in a world like that.

Will suffer. And so we have a chief shepherd. Who suffered? In order that we might come. And know his glory and he glorify himself by that. And we have, Sheep, who suffer. That they May know his glory. And so he has given also. Under shepherds within the flock. On earth.

Who are examples? Of suffering of being lowly. Not lift it up. So that we may be Lift it up. And enjoy his glory. Rather than be. Forever. Given over to. The

created thing. Devoured by the devil. To be like the devil. And misery forever. And so, this is the This is the story really of the whole bible.

But this is the story of of the book of first peter and since we have not been moving, Sequentially through the book of first peter. I thought it useful to. To tell you that for this is really the conclusion of the book. These 11 verses are. A climax and they follow the same pattern.

The elders who are among you are exhort. I who am a fellow elder and a witness. Of the sufferings of christ. And also a partaker. Of the glory. That will be revealed. So he can testify, peter can testify, not just that the apostles have suffered but that christ himself suffered And that christ who is glorified.

Has invited us not only to suffer for him and in him and with him. But to be glorified. With him. And in him, he says that in verse 4. When the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory. That does not fade away. Earlier in the book, he had said that All men are Uh, like grass.

All flashes of grass, the older glory of, man. As the flower of the grass. And grass wither. So it's flower falls away. The glory to which we have been called will never Fall away, we'll never fade. He began the book by saying that. That we are. According to god's abundant mercy in christ begotten again to a living hope.

Through the resurrection of jesus christ from the dead to An inheritance incorruptible. And then defiled. That does not. Fed. Away. And so he says at the end of our Passage. But may the god of all grace who called us. To his eternal glory. By christ jesus. After you have suffered a while.

You hear the same theme, don't you as paul wrote to the Corinthians and also to the Romans, Our light momentary afflictions are not worth comparing. To the eternal weight of glory. That is to be revealed in us and to us to which verse 10 here says To which we have been called.

And it is his glory. Of course, verse 11. To, which we are called. So, the christian life is one where we suffer for a little while, but even the suffering, Is with jesus and in jesus. He takes the the sting out of it, it is painful but there's a joy of comfort.

That is deeper than the pain, even in the moment of the pain. And even that much. There's only for a little while. And then that which is deep will saturate. All And we will enjoy. His glory. Forever. Well, we will just consider then. Um, Verse one and two. That we've already considered much of verse 1.

The only thing really left. To see here. Is that peter did not see himself as above these unnamed elders. In the church's. Everywhere. Says the elders who are among you i exhort. I who am a fellow elder. There is no such thing as the vicar of christ on earth.

There is no such thing as a bishop, who is above the other bishops? No, jesus is the shepherd and overseer of our souls. And peter even during his earthly apostolic ministry. Referred to himself as a fellow elder. And he did not see his sufferings as worth any more. Or of any other of a different nature.

Then the sufferings of the other elders, He doesn't say an example of how to suffer. He says a witness of the sufferings of christ. It's christ's sufferings. That give meaning to the fellowship of our sufferings. That guarantee us that glory has been secured and because His sufferings the lord jesus is sufferings have secured glory.

We may be sure that all of our sufferings are bringing us to the glory. That christ's suffering has secured. And so, peter does not have an independent glory, But he is a partaker of that glory that will be revealed verse 1, just as they are called All of the other elders and even all of the other sheep in the flock.

Are called to his eternal, glory verse. 10. It's already we have. Humility being modeled by the apostle in verse 1 and he gives the other shepherds, the other elders. And of course, peter would think that this way wouldn't he? Because when he was being restored from his great sin of denying of christ, Three times the lord jesus told him to tend or feed his sheep or lambs.

And so when we hear him saying to these elders, to shepherd, the flock of god, as we're hearing in acts 20, these next many weeks about shepherding, the flock of god. We're not hearing. Um, Uh, something that is Uh, lightly given This was peter's, highest privilege. This was his, the the the glorious good calling to, which he was restored, when the lord jesus forgave him, and brought him back into the the full sense and knowledge, of christ's love for him and and stirred up his love for christ.

And now he's sharing it. Says, it's not unique to me. Every elder every overseer. In every church from then till the return of the lord jesus christ. Gets to share. And this marvelous ministry. And so, we humble, Ourselves to be amazed. That we get to do this and that, of course, marks the three things.

That they are to. Um, That they are to models. And the last one of course is Um, is as an example but it's set over against another thing and so we'll see that Humility means not lording over others. But showing that Every single one of us is the same sinner needing atonement for guilt, and needing cleansing from sin.

And jesus is the same lord. There's one lord. In the church. That there are other overseers, there's one lord. And god. Forbid, that any overseer in the church or in the home. Should lord it over others. The husband should not lord it over the way. He has authority but lording it over her.

That was from the fall, wasn't it? The parents should not lord it over the children. But it should be. Uh, gentle. Firm in their authority but not lording, it over them. And god forbid, that elders. Overseers. Would lord it over. In the church. So that's the third first. Not as being lords over those instructed to you, but being examples to the flock.

Why? Because if Even without mom and dad doing it. You guys know that each of you have the propensity in your own heart to lord it over your brothers and sisters even when you're seeking their good, Therefore how important it is. A husband for a father. To set a different example.

And we know that that's true in churches, too. As different members in the church. Look at one another and and everyone having Still growing indoctrine but treating others as if their imperfections are are Uh, Are to be addressed. But my my doctoral and perfections if they exist Are not so big a deal.

The lording, it over one. Another doctrinary lording it over one, another morally. We're called to speak the truth and love to one another. It's not. Okay, just to have bad doctrine. We're called to help one another, our sin to help your brother get the spec out of his eye.

And yet. If the elders set, an example of lording it over others. How much more will that propensity that tendency? That is still in every member of the church to lord it over others? And the church be reinforced? Yet if we want them to interact with one another, In.

The way that. The lord calls them to in humility of mind. And in a spirit of gentleness, Uh, in Galatians six verse one, for instance, Then the elders, the overseers, the shepherds. Must be examples of those who do not lord it over those. Who are entrusted to them. Well, that's the third first.

Then the other two are. Not by compulsion, but willingly. Not. Oh, because i have to And because it's such a weighty duty and i hope that god sees it. So you'll see how miserable i was in the shepherding of these sheep. And finally give me the reward for all that it cost me.

That's the most unchristian thing. It's like the jews in the first part of isaiah 58, doesn't it? Why do we fast? Do you see not? And peter comes and he says, Don't you dare elders of the church. Say, why do we shepherd? And you see not or sorry? It's oversee here?

No, it's both. Actually. Why do you we shepherd and oversee and you see it not? Says no. It's not. Look at what it cost me, god. Now, look at what it cost me god to shepherd them now, reward me Let's look at what it costs. You lord, jesus. I shepherd and oversee in response to you.

I desire that you would get the full reward. That you purchased at your cross. A redeemed flock. A sanctified flock, a glorified flock. And, Not only is the lord jesus worthy of it but he's using it. This is true, not just a shepherding in the church, but but every right and good thing that you do all day every day, the lord jesus is worthy of it.

He who is the creator and the glorious god, he who is the redeemer and has given And has given himself. He is worthy of it.

But not only is he worthy of it, he's called you to what you're doing. It is the part. That is assigned to this day, this moment in your life for from the From the resurrection of the lord jesus to the return of the lord jesus. And even before that, he was applying it to others, but certainly now we can see it.

That he is applying his mission to rescue and bring those shepherd gone astray. Bring them to his glory. Even. Your school or dealing with your little sister or growing in honoring your mom or treating your older sister respectfully or living as someone who actually exists to serve others and not just Survive or whatever it is that that each of us is working on.

Jesus is worthy of it. And we can be sure that he is using it. Because, He already died and purchased it. And we are going to be brought into his glory. And every single part of it along the way has been planned by him. It's not useless, it's not wasted.

It may be boring to you because you forget him. But he's worthy of it. That's what the elders are supposed to model even in how we shepherd the church. As you can pray for me because You guys know more than anyone else. How easily? I forget that. He's worthy of it and that he's using it.

But he says not by compulsion. But willingly. And then not for dishonest gain. And the, the emphasis in the word there is on the shamefulness. Of the gain and it's usually financial. But it it's not just that And peter in, in this letter and in this passage all attempt at gain by ministry is shameful.

Is dishonest. How am i going to say christ? Is all glorious. While i hope to To earn or obtain a comfortable, or pleasant life or influence, or your admiration. If i say jesus is all glorious but you can see that i would really like for you to give me a little bit of your glory.

A little bit of your honor. Jesus is worthy of all suffering. Uh, but he's certainly worthy of me making a good living, and being comfortable, and being thought, well, of, by everybody. Not having any. Problems. And so, There must be that counting him worthy. Of all that glory. In the way that the elders shepherd.

Because this is how the flock is supposed to live. And if the model that they see in the one who says christ is all glorious, Doesn't say by his life that christ his own glorious. They'll know that it's a lie. And a number of things can happen. Yeah. Praise god.

His spirit does not depend upon the minister. They may tolerate the flaw in the minister knowing that christ is glorious. And this is his way teaching me in shepherding me. And the patiently maturely more maturely than their pastor. Continue that that's not normal, is it? No, they'll they'll usually say, well, He says christ is all glorious, but It's obvious that he would like some glory and some comfort and some pleasure along the way and you know, they'll do things like Put in there.

Their hour of playtime in first thing in the morning and the lord's day and then go home to the stuff they really enjoy. The grilling, or the camping, or the Football or, you know, whatever it is. And can such a minister blame them. Because he said christ was all glorious.

But if you want a little earthly glory, so what's wrong with them? Having a little earthly glory afterward? Be careful. I know it's hard for you because there are so many who still Don't keep the day. The way, the bible says to, And you get your love for god's glory and your love for them all mixed up with your remaining sin.

But the thing that you can do, that will be helpful to them is to be helpful to your own soul. And to spend the day better. You're not much of an example to them. If you're throwing sticks at them, are you? Just as a pharisees were not an example of delighting of the lord, as they actually despised to the lord whose day it was.

And so, there's this. Treasuring him. Here. And the third, the third one, we already dealt with Than not, not just being lords. But examples. Uh, examples of servants. Who are willing to suffer? Well, we'll lord willing spend. A lot more time in the passage. Let's pray.

Father, thank you. Thank you for giving us this passage for this day and this week. This time in our life. We can already see lord, some of the ways. In which you meet us. Where we are in our home life. And our church life. And each of our Personal walk with you.

But you o, lord. See so much more of what you are going to do. And so we asked that you would continue to attend us by your spirit. And then he would help us. To count you all glorious. To rejoice that. Although you did reveal your Wrath. Against all our ungodliness and unrighteousness, and Pushing down.

On the truth of your glory. That you gave your son that in him. You will god. Would purchase a church. By your blood. That we would be turned from the false and fading glory of the earthly thing. To that eternal weighty glory that makes All afflictions liked and momentary by comparison.

And since you are the shepherd and overseer of our souls and since You have given us. To be shepherd and overseen by Partially sanctified sheep. Here we pray. O lord for our elders. Please help me, please help charlie and date. And, That we would grasp the glory of christ.

That we would be self-forgetful. Instead of self-reliant and self-righteous. And that laying hold of his glory. We would be examples of those. Who are? Eager. And willing and cheerful. And humble. And our christian life lord. Grant, then the whole flock would be conformed to christ. In this way that you have designed it to happen.

And thus, especially lord in this house. If it comes nowhere else, oh lord, at least give it here. We ask it in jesus name. Amen.