

“Portrait of a Pastor”

1 Peter 5:1-4

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

* “Shepherd the flock of God” (v. 2)

- A. Peter paints a picture of the people of God (the church) as a flock, and we, as God’s people, are sheep.
 - 1. Sheep need a Shepherd
 - a) They need to be fed
 - b) They need to be led
 - c) They need to be protected
 - 2. The church is God’s flock and needs faithful pastors or shepherds who will care for God’s flock (the church)
- B. Peter is speaking to the pastors of God’s flock (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - 1. Why? Times of suffering and persecution call for strong spiritual leadership
- C. What are the qualities that make for a strong pastor or shepherd?

II. A Personal Experience with Christ (1 Peter 5:1)

- A. The recipients of this charge
 - 1. “The elders which are among you” (v. 1)
 - a) “Elder” and their spiritual maturity
 - b) “Pastor” (v. 2)
 - 1) “feed” or “shepherd”
 - c) “Bishop” (v. 2)
 - 1) Oversight
 - 2) 1 Timothy
 - 3) Titus
- B. Peter identifies himself
 - 1. “...who am also an elder...” (v. 1)
 - a) Not “apostle” or “pope”
 - 2. “A witness” (v.1)
 - a) Of what?
 - 1) “The sufferings of Christ” (v. 1)
 - 2) “A partaker of the glory that shall be revealed” (v. 1)

III. A Pastor's Heart for Christ's Sheep (1 Peter 5:2-3)

A. A pastor's duty

1. "Feed the flock of God" (v. 2)
2. How does a man know he is called to be a pastor?
 - a) It is a call from God or a gift from God
 - b) The call is to "feed" or "shepherd"
 - c) How?
 - 1) By teaching and preaching God's Word
 - 2) Paul- "Protect the sheep" (Acts 20)
 - 3) "Feed the sheep" (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - 4) "Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep" (John 21).

B. The pastor's motives (vv. 2b-3)

1. "Not by constraint" or "compulsion" (v. 2)
 - a) "Willingly" (v. 2)
 - 1) Love for God and His people
 - b) It's doing God's will from the heart
2. "Not for filthy lucre" or "dishonest gain" (v. 2)
 - a) It is okay for a pastor to get paid
 - 1) (Luke 10:7)
 - 2) (1 Timothy 5:18)
 - b) This warning also includes the temptation to gain popularity or social influence
 - c) The danger is that it leads to being a "man-pleaser."
 - d) "But of a ready mind" (v. 2)
 - 1) "Eagerly" or "zealously"
 - 2) Doing it with delight from the heart
3. "Don't lord over God's people" (v. 3)
 - a) Leaders, not Lords
 - b) Shepherds lead the sheep
 - 1) "God's heritage" or "God's people" (v.3)
 - c) "But being examples to the flock" (v.3)
 - 1) Jesus washed feet (John 13)

IV. A Passion to Please Christ (1 Peter 5:4)

A. Jesus is the "Chief Shepherd" (v. 4)

1. Pastors are under-shepherds."
 - a) "Feed my sheep" (John 21)

2. Jesus is coming again (v. 4)
 - a) It's His Second Coming
 - b) He's the "Good Shepherd" who gave His life for the sheep (the cross)
3. Jesus is coming to reward His faithful servants (v. 4)
 - a) "You will receive a crown of glory that does not fade away" (v. 4)
 - i. "Crown" is Greek *Stephanos* (victor's crown)
 - ii. Contrast with oak or olive leaves
 - b) "Well done, good and faithful servant."

V. Conclusion

A. What are you living for?