

NHBC BIBLE INSTITUTE

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I PETER 5 VS 1-4

“HOW TO BE A GOOD SHEPHERD”

INTO: TIMES OF PERSECUTION DEMAND THAT GOD’S PEOPLE HAVE ADEQUATE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP. IF JUDGEMENT IS TO BEGIN AT GODS HOUSE (I PETER 4 VS 17), THAN THAT HOUSE HAD BETTER BE IN ORDER, OR IT WILL FALL APART! THIS EXPLAINS WHY PETER WROTE THIS SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH, TO ENCOURGE THEM TO DO THEIR WORK FAITHFULLY. LEADERS THAT RUN AWAY IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY ARE ONLY PROVING THAT THEY ARE HIRELINGS AND NOT TRUE SHEPHERDS (JOHN 10 VS 12-14). THE NEW TESTAMENT ASSEMBLIES WERE ORGANIZED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF:

1. **ELDERS, PASTORS / BISHOPS** – REFER TO THE SAME OFFICE
2. **DEACON**

TITLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ELDER/PASTOR/BISHOP- REFER TO THE SAME

1. **ELDER**- REFERS TO THE MATURITY OF THE OFFICER
2. **BISHOP**- REFERS TO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE
3. **PASTOR**- (SHEPHERD) ANOTHER TITLE FOR THE SAME OFFICE

NOTE: THE ELDERS WERE APPOINTED TO OFFICE (ACTS 14 VS 23, WHERE THE VERB ORDAIN MEANS- TO APPOINT BY THE RAISING OF HANDS) EACH CONGREGATION HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO VOTING ON QUALIFIED MEN. PETER WAS CONCERNED THAT THE LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH BE AT ITS BEST. WHEN THE FIERY TRIAL WOULD COME, THE BELIEVERS IN THE ASSEMBLIES WOULD LOOK TO THEIR ELDERS FOR ENCOURGEMENT FOR DIRECTION. **PETER LIST THE PERSONAL QUALITIES THAT MAKE FOR A SUCCESSFUL PASTOR:**

1. **A VITAL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHRIST** 1. PETER DID NOT INTRODUCE HIMSELF IN THIS LETTER AS AN APOSTLE OR A GREAT SPIRITUAL LEADER, BUT SIMPLY AS AN ELDER. HOWEVER HE DID MENTION THAT FACT THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY WITNESSED CHRIST’S SUFFERING (SEE MATT 26 VS 36). WHEN WE

LOOK AT I PETER 5 VS 1 WE SEE THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES THAT PETER HAD WITH THE CHRIST:

A. **MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION** – (MATT 17 VS 1-5; 2 PETER 1 VS 15-18)

B. **LORDS ABMONITION OF PETER** – (JOHN 21 VS 15-17)

C. **THE WASHING OF PETERS FEET** – (JOHN 13 VS 1-17)

D. **THE WARNIGN TO PETER** – (LUKE 22 VS 31)

IN OTHER WORDS PETER WROTE THESE WORDS, INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, OUT OF HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH JESUS CHRIST. HE HAD A **VITAL AND GROWING** RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, AND THIS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MINISTER EFFECTIVELY TO GOD’S PEOPLE. (**RATHER GOOD OR BAD**)

THE PASTOR OF THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY MUST BE A MAN WHO WALKS WITH GOD AND WHO IS GROWING IN HIS SPIRITUAL LIFE. WHEN WE LOOK AT PETER WE FIND THAT HE WAS NOT PERFECT- PAUL HAD TO REBUKE HIM ONCE FOR INCONSISTENCY (GAL 2 VS 11-21) BUT PETER WAS YEILDED TO CHRIST AND WILLING TO LEARN ALL THAT GOD HAD FOR HIM. EVERY PASTO SHOULD CULTIVATE A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST, AND SHARE WHAT HE GIVES YOU WITH YOU PEOPLE. THAT WAY YOU WILL GROW AND THEY WILL GROW WITH YOU.

II. A LOVING CONCERN FOR GODS SHEEP (2-3) THE IMAGE OF THE FLOCKS IS OFTEN USES IN THE BIBLE, AND IT IS A VERY INSTRUCTIVE ONE (PSALMS 23; 100; ISA 40 VS 11; LUKE15 VS4-6; JOHN 10; ACTS 20 VS28; HEB 13 VS20-21; I PETER 2VS25; REV 7 VS 17) WE WERE ONCE STRAY SHEEP, WANDERING TOWARD RUIN, BUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOUND US AND RESTORED US TO THE FOLD.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SHEEP

CLEAN ANIMALS – UNLIKE DOGS AND PIGS (2 PETER 2VS 20-22)

LEADS TO FLOCK TOGETHER – GOD’S PEOPLE NEED TO BE TOGETHER

NOT OBIOUSLY IGNORANT – PRONE TO WANDER AWAY IF THEY DO NOT FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

DEFENSLESS – NEED THE SHEPHERD TO PROTECT THEM (PS 23 VS 4)

USEFUL ANIMALS – JEWISH SHEPHERDS TENDED THEIR SHEEP FOR: WOOL, MILK, AND LAMBS- GOD’S PEOPLE OUGHT TO BE USEFUL TO HIM AND CERTAINLY OUGHT TO “REPRODUCE” THEMSELEVS BY BRINGING OTHERS TO CHRIST.

USED FOR SACRIFICIAL SERVICE – AND WE OUGHT TO BE A LIVING SACRIFICE
(ROM 12 VS 1-2)

PETER REMINDS THE SHEPHERDS OF THEIR GOD GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES

A. **FEED THE FLOCK** – (2) THE WORD FEED MEANS TO “CARE FOR”

1. **PROTECT**– FROM THIEVES AND MARAUDERS (PASTOR MUST PROTECT THE GOD’S PEOPLE FROM THOSE WHO WANT TO SPOIL THE FLOCK (ACTS 20 VS 28-36) SOMETIMES THE SHEEP DO NOT LIKE IT WHEN THEIR SHEPHERD REBUKES OR WARNS THEM, BUT THIS MINISTRY IS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.

2. **LEAD**– FROM PASTURE TO PASTURE SO THEY MIGHT BE ADEQUATELY FED, HE WOULD GO BEFORE THEM AND CHECK FOR SNAKES, PITS, POISONOUS PLANTS AND DANGEROUS ANIMALS (PASTOR MUST LEAD INTO GREEN PASTURES OF THE WORD SO THAT GOD’S SHEEP GROW)

3. **SEEK OUT WAYWARD** – OUT WAYWARD SHEEP AND GIVE PERSONAL ATTENTION- SOME PASTORS TODAY ARE INTERESTED ONLY IN THE CROWDS, THEY HAVE NO TIME FOR INDIVIDUALS JESUS PREACHED TO GREAT MULTITUDES, BUT HE TOOK TIME TO CHAT WITH NICODEMUS (JOHN 3), THE WOMEN AT THE WELL (JOHN 4), AND OTHERS WHO HAS SPIRITUAL NEEDS. PAUL MINISTERED TO PEOPLE PERSONALLY IN THESSALONICA (I THESS 2 VS 11) AND LOVED THEM DEARLY.

4. **DISCIPLINE** – IF THE SHEEP GET OUT OF HAND AND ARE REBELLIOUS. IF A SHEEP HAS A SPECIAL NEED, THE SHEPHERD MIGHT CARRY IT IN HIS ARMS, NEXT TO HIS HEART. AT THE CLOSE OF EACH DAY, THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD WOULD EXAMINE EACH SHEEP TO SEE IF IT NEEDED SPECIAL ATTENTION. HE WOULD ANOINT THE BRUISES WITH HEALING OIL AND REMOVE THE BRIARS FROM THE WOOL. THE GOOD SHEEP WOULD KNOW HIS SHEEP BY NAME AND WOULD UNDERSTAND THE SPECIAL TRAITS OF EACH ONE.

NOTE: IT IS NOT AN EASY THING TO BE FAITHFUL SHEPHERD OF GOD’S SHEEP! IT IS A TASK THAT NEVER ENDS AND THAT DEMANDS THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF GOD IF IT IS TO BE DONE CORRECTLY. WHAT MAKE IT MORE CHALLENGING IS THE FACT THAT THE FLOCK IS NOT THE SHEPHERD; IT IS GOD’S. SOME PASTOR SAY... WELL “AT MY CHURCH” BUT STRICTLY SPEAKING, IT IS GOD’S FLOCK, PURCHASED BY THE BLOOD OF HIS SON (ACTS 20 VS 28)

WE PASTORS MUST BE CAREFUL HOW WE MINISTER TO GODS SHEEP, BECAUSE ONE DAY WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF OUR MINISTRY, BUT THE SHEEP WILL ALSO ONE DAY GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HOW THEY HAVE OBEYED

THEIR SPIRITUAL LEADERS (HEB 13 VS 17). SO BOTH SHEPHERD AND SHEEP HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO EACH OTHERS.