

I Peter 5:1-4

REVIEW...

- Grace for SUFFERING...
 - It is the WILL of God to SUFFER – for going GOOD – **I Peter 3:13-22**
 - And we must have the right MIND to SUFFER – **I Peter 4:1-11**
 - We were also told HOW we are to SUFFER – **I Peter 4:12-19**
- FIRST – do NOT be surprised by SUFFERING...
 - Instead of being surprised by TRIALS – we are to REJOICE in SUFFERING...
 - Knowing it is through FIRE we are FORGED into the person God desires us to be
 - AND when we are HATED for the name of Christ – it proves we have His Spirit in us!
- SECOND - do NOT to SUFFER for living a sinful life...
 - Instead SUFFER for being a CHRISTIAN – NOT to be ashamed of Jesus...
 - SUFFERING is not an option – believers and unbelievers SUFFER in this life...
 - But unbelievers will also SUFFER eternal separation from Christ...
 - Therefore let us SUFFER for doing GOOD - and commit our souls to our faithful creator!

HELP IN SUFFERING...

- 1ST – SHEPHERD THE FLOCK... vs. 1-2
 - 1st – Coming along side... vs. 1
 - The elders who are among you I exhort!
 - EXHORT [παρακαλέω] – to come along side [often used as a title for the Holy Spirit]
 - ELDER [πρεσβύτερος] – speaking of someone who is OLDER – spiritually WISE...
 - There are THREE words used to describe a LEADER in the church...
 - These terms are used interchangeably in the New Testament...
 - BISHOP – describes their RESPONSIBILITY – to PROTECT the people – **I Timothy 3:1-7**
 - PASTOR [ποιμήν] – describes their PURPOSE – to TEACH the people – **Ephesians 4:11**
 - ELDER – describes their EXPERIENCE - so they can LEAD the people – **Acts 14:23**
 - 2nd - A unique perspective... vs. 1
 - I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ...
 - And also a partaker [κοινωνός] of the glory that will be revealed [ἀποκαλύπτω]!
 - Peter had witnessed the SUFFERINGS of Christ – His crucifixion on the cross...
 - As well as the GLORY of Christ – His resurrection and ascension...
 - Peter had been there throughout the ministry of Jesus – and had learned a few lessons...
 - And he wanted to pass on those lessons to other ELDERS in the church!
 - The FAILURE...
 - Peter had denied Jesus on three different occasions – **Luke 22:61**
 - He assumed he was finished – he had FAILED as a disciple of Jesus...
 - He went back to his old ways – fisherman – to the life he had before Christ...
 - Jesus met Peter there – asked him TWO questions – **John 21:15-16**
 - Peter do you LOVE [ἀγαπάω] - me more than these [the world]
 - Peter had failed – he could not say he [ἀγαπάω] the Lord...
 - Peter honestly answers BOTH times – Lord You know I LIKE [φιλέω] You!
 - The RESTORATION...
 - A THIRD time Jesus asked the question – Peter do you LOVE me...
 - RATHER than using the word [ἀγαπάω] – He used the word LIKE [φιλέω]

- Jesus did NOT expect Peter to come to His level [ἀγαπάω] - Jesus came to Peter's level!
- Jesus does not choose perfect people to SHEPHERD His sheep – there are NONE...
- He takes ordinary people – fishermen – businessmen...
- Men tend to look for the DIPLOMA – a degree that shows they are qualified...
- But the PROOF of the calling of God is not in the recognition of men...
- I know a lot of men who have a pastoral DEGREE - who are NOT pastors...
- And I know a lot of men who have NO diploma - who are pastors...
- The calling of God - is SEEN through the WORK of God through a person's life!
- o 3rd – Teach the Word... vs. 2
 - Shepherd the flock of God which is among you!
 - The ONE command Jesus had given to Peter – he passed onto other ELDERS – **John 21:17**
 - SHEPHERD [ποιμαίνω] – 11x in the NT – means to feed...
 - PASTORS must [imperative] FEED the flock [people of God] – the Word!
 - Yet many PASTORS today do NOT teach the Bible – **Amos 8:11**
 - They are AFRAID to talk about hard subjects - sin - hell...
 - They do NOT want to OFFEND people – so they only talk about HAPPY subjects...
 - They are more interested in ENTERTAINING people - than TEACHING them!
 - **II Timothy 4:3** - “A time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will... look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.”
 - Faith comes by HEARING...
 - The church is not a theatre or a show - it is a place to HEAR the Word of God...
 - Being ENTERTAINED does not change lives - jokes CANNOT take away sin...
 - The power of salvation is in the Word of God – PASTORS must TEACH the Word!
 - **Romans 10:17** – “Faith comes by hearing... the Word of God.”
- o 4th - THREE ways...
 - The only COMMAND given by Peter to the ELDERS - is to SHEPHERD...
 - But we are given THREE descriptions [particles] – on HOW they are to SHEPHERD...
 - They are to OVERSEE – they are NOT to LORD – and they are to be EXAMPLES!
- 2ND – SERVING AS OVERSEERS... vs. 2
 - o 1st – Protect the Sheep...
 - Serving as overseers - not by compulsion but willingly - not for dishonest gain but eagerly!
 - OVERSEER [ἐπισκοπέω] – 2x in NT – the root word for BISHOP...
 - BISHOP – describes their RESPONSIBILITY – to PROTECT the people – **I Timothy 3:1-7**
 - Someone who ALWAYS [present] watches out for the people – keeps the church safe...
 - One way to KNOW a PASTOR – is to see how he PROTECTS the SHEEP!
 - The HIRELING...
 - **John 10:12** – “A hireling - who is not the PASTOR [ποιμήν]... sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees...”
 - When Satan attacks - things get tough - the HIRED pastor is quick to run away...
 - When times get tough - when people do not show - when there is no money...
 - Because the HIRED pastor does NOT love the sheep - or care what happens to them!
 - The PASTOR...
 - **I Samuel 17:34** - “When a lion comes to steal a lamb from the flock - I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth...”
 - Satan is a LION who wants to devour us - he wants to HARM the sheep - **I Peter 5:8**
 - The job of the PASTOR is to go after the SHEEP - take them out of the jaws of Satan...
 - Because God has given him a LOVE for the SHEEP!
 - **John 10:11** – “The good PASTOR [ποιμήν] gives His life for the sheep.”

- o 2nd – Volunteer...
 - Not out of COMPULSION – no one should be FORCED to serve...
 - WILLINGLY - someone must VOLUNTEER for the role serving as a PASTOR!
 - If a man can do ANYTHING else other than be a PASTOR he should...
 - Not because he lacks the qualifications – but because of what ministry demands...
 - But if there is NOTHING else that a man can do – if he MUST serve – then be a PASTOR!
 - **Jeremiah 20:9** – “If I say I will never mention the LORD or speak in His name - His word burns in my heart like a fire... I am worn out trying to hold it in! I cannot do it!” [NLT]
 - There is more NEED than there will ever be PASTORS to go and do the work...
 - A PASTOR could work every moment of his life - and still never put a dent in the NEED...
 - Jesus said PRAY - the Lord of the Harvest will send out more laborers - **Luke 10:2**
 - Who will go – ONLY those who CHOOSE to obey the call – those who VOLUNTEER...
 - Because anyone else would quickly burn out – get frustrated – and give up!
 - **Isaiah 6:8** - “Whom shall I send - and who will go for Us. Then I said - Here am I! Send me.”
- o 3rd – Not for Money...
 - DISHONEST gain – to be GREEDY for MONEY...
 - The same QUALIFICATION is given by Paul – **I Timothy 3:3 – Titus 1:7**
 - That is NOT to say it is wrong for a PASTOR to be supported by the ministry...
 - It is a BIBLICAL principle - we are provided for by our work - **I Corinthians 9:7**
 - God provided for the priests with the offerings in the Temple - **Leviticus 7:36-38**
 - Those who minister to the SPIRITUAL needs of the church – PASTORS...
 - As much as possible – should be provided for PRACTICALLY by those within the church...
 - If a pastor has to work to support himself PRACTICALLY – limited time for the church...
 - It is a BLESSING to the people to provide for the pastor to free him up to minister!
 - **I Timothy 5:18 / Matthew 10:10** - “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”
 - NEVER ask...
 - **I Corinthians 9:18** – “What is my reward then. That... I may present the gospel of Christ without charge - that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.”
 - PAUL did not CHOOSE to preach the Gospel - he was CALLED by God to PASTOR...
 - If he had CHOSEN it as his profession - then he would have expected PAYMENT...
 - But since it was God who CHOSE Him - it was God who would PAY his salary!
 - If you asked me to build you a bench - I would expect you pay me for the work...
 - But if someone else asked me to build it for you - they would be the one to pay!
 - If a pastor is truly CALLED by God - then God will PROVIDE for all his needs!
 - The DANGER....
 - A great danger for men who serve God – is to start to look for the BLESSINGS...
 - And forget the calling of a PASTOR is to be a BLESSING to the people of God!
 - When being a PASTOR becomes a job - a way to make MONEY...
 - When a PASTOR is no longer there to FEED and PROTECT the people...
 - When they use the PULPIT as a means for personal gain - taking advantage of people...
 - The result is people are WARY of the CHURCH - the Gospel message become tainted...
 - And they fall under the JUDGMENT of God – because they abuse HIS sheep!
 - **Ezekiel 34:2** - “Destruction is certain for you PASTORS who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Should PASTORS not feed their sheep!”
- o 4th - Serve eagerly...
 - EAGERLY [προθύμως] – only here NT - BEFORE [προ] and WRATH [θύμως]
 - It carries the idea of being READY for the BATTLE – prepared for the FIGHT!

- **Romans 1:15** – “As much as is in me - I am ready [πρόθυμος] to preach the gospel to you...”
- A PASTOR needs to be prepared for ministry – like a soldier prepares for battle...
- People are hurting – people are SUFFERING – there is a battle for their mind and souls...
- And the call is to run out to the front line of the battle and fight for them...
- There is no time CLOCK for a PASTOR – when a someone goes to the hospital at 3am...
- When a marriage is struggling on a Saturday – when the OFFICE is closed...
- The heart of the PASTOR is to run to the aid of a hurting sheep – ANYTIME!
- **3RD – NOT LORDS... vs. 3**
 - 1st – How to lead...
 - Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you!
 - LORD over [κατακυριεύω] – 4x in the NT - means to be a MASTER...
 - A PASTOR is NOT [present] to LORD over the people God has trusted to them!
 - **Mark 10:42-43** – “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles LORD [κατακυριεύω] it over them - and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you - but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.”
 - In the WORLD – those who are GREAT have all the authority – and often abuse it...
 - But to be GREAT in Gods Kingdom – we must be a SERVANT [διάκονος]
 - The person who empties the trash - cleans – and helps others...
 - We would call that person a SERVANT – but God calls them GREAT...
 - So if we want to be GREAT - pick up the trash - clean a table – play with a child!
 - 2nd – The FIRST...
 - **Mark 10:44** – “And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.”
 - SLAVE [δοῦλος] - the Apostle Paul referred to himself as a SLAVE - **Romans 1:1**
 - To desire to be a PASTOR – to be the FIRST – is to be the SLAVE of all!
 - Leadership in the CHURCH - should NOT look like the leadership in the WORLD...
 - It should be the OPPOSITE - a PASTOR does not TELL others what to do...
 - A PASTOR is the one who lives his life to SERVE [δοῦλος] everyone else...
 - The GREATER we become in the Kingdom of God - the more of a SERVANT we become!
 - 3rd - The GREATEST...
 - **Mark 10:45** – “[Jesus] did not come to be served - but to serve – and to give His life a ransom...”
 - Jesus had every right to be SERVED – He was God almighty...
 - But instead He came to SERVE – and to give His life as a ransom for many..
 - RANSOM [λύτρον] – price paid to purchase a slave - we were all slaves to sin - **Romans 6:18**
 - The price Jesus PAID to save us - was to GIVE His life on the CROSS!
 - Jesus gave us the example of Godly GREATNESS – to give our life for others!
- **4th – Be EXAMPLES... vs. 3**
 - 1st - Power of EXAMPLE...
 - But being examples to the flock!
 - EXAMPLE [τύπος] – a PATTERN for others to FOLLOW or IMITATE...
 - Why do we think one style of clothing is better than another...
 - Why were bell bottom jeans in style – out of style – perhaps in style again...
 - There is GREAT power in EXAMPLE – it molds and shapes how we view the world!
 - The EXAMPLE of the people we choose to surround ourselves with influence us...
 - They will by their EXAMPLE either stir us up to live for the Lord...

- Or they will be a distraction - keep us from following after the Lord!
- **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
- o 2nd - PASTORS are an EXAMPLE...
 - **I Corinthians 11:1** - "FOLLOW me - just as I also FOLLOW Christ."
 - If the PASTOR is following Christ - and we follow them - we are also following Jesus!
 - I know a pastor who every Sunday after teaching - cleans the church...
 - He is in the bathrooms wiping down the toilets - or checking to be sure they are snacks...
 - Not because he has to - he could TELL others to do it - but as an EXMAPLE!
 - A good PASTOR does NOT just INSTRUCT others - he also show them...
 - A good PASTOR does not tell us to SERVE - he SERVES as an EXAMPLE!
 - **Philippians 3:17** - "Brethren - join in following my example [τύπος] - and note those who so walk - as you have us for a pattern..."
- 5TH - THE REWARD... vs. 4
 - o 1st - The Chief Shepherd...
 - When the Chief Shepherd appears - you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade!
 - FINALLY - having given the ONE command - and THREE descriptions of a PASTOR...
 - Peter finishes by telling us the REWARD a PASTOR will receive...
 - Chief SHEPHERD [ἀρχιποίμην] - only here NT - the FIRST [ἀρχι] PASTOR...
 - **John 10:14** - "I am the good shepherd - and I know My sheep..."
 - The ACCOUNT...
 - When Jesus APPEARS - SECOND coming - there will be an ACCOUNTING - **Mathew 12:36**
 - We will ALL be accountable - JUDGED for every idle WORD...
 - YET pastors will receive a STRICTER judgment - **James 3:1**
 - You never hear a pastor say - I need your money - they say - God needs your money!
 - If a pastor is robbing the people of God - people assume God is taking from them!
 - People may not HEAR the Lord - but they do listen to PASTORS...
 - So PASTORS will receive greater judgment because of their influence on others...
 - Therefore we pray for our leaders - pray they will be righteous God fearing men...
 - Pray because if they are not - they will be held accountable!
 - o 2nd - Crown of glory...
 - What is the CROWN - TWO thoughts...
 - Our work for the Lord on earth will be TESTED by FIRE - **I Corinthians 3:12-14**
 - Any selfish motive will be wood - hay - and stubble [burns up in the FIRE]
 - Any pure motive will be gold - silver - and jewels [does NOT burn]
 - Then at Bema seat of Christ - **II Corinthians 5:10**
 - We will receive rewards - CROWNS - for the good things done for the Lord...
 - We can then throw the Crowns at the feet of Jesus - **Revelation 4:10**
 - One CROWN...
 - The reward of a CROWN is only mentioned FIVE times in the Bible...
 - **I Corinthians 9:25 - II Timothy 4:8 - James 1:12 - I Peter 5:4 - Revelation 2:10**
 - CROWN is always singular [there is only ONE] - always followed a description...
 - Eternal CROWN - CROWN of righteousness - CROWN of life - CROWN of Glory
 - The CROWN [singular] we given is ETERNAL life!
 - PASTORS receive the same CROWN as everyone else - they are SAVED...
 - From the greatest APOSTLE - to the new believer- the CROWN is Heaven...
 - Because it is not about how much we do for the Lord...
 - It is about what Jesus did for us - we are saved by GRACE - **Ephesians 2:8-9**

o 3rd - Never fades...

- Never FADES [ἀμαράντινος] – only here in NT...
- A FLOWER that always BLOOMS – even when cut it will REVIVE if it is given water...
- The picture is of EVERLASTING life - the blessing we are given as our CROWN!
- The point for us is simple – yet powerful – HELP others...
- We may not be CALLED to be a PASTOR– but that does not mean we are not CALLED...
- When the Lord brings people into our lives who are SUFFERING...
- We can be there to SHEPHERD them – give them the Word of God...
- We can SERVE them – because they are no doubt in need...
- We can be an EXAMPLE to them – pointing them back to Jesus...
- Not because of what we get from them – or what the Lord might give to us...
- But simply because we know Jesus – and the hope that He brings to our lives...
- Everlasting life and blessing that will NEVER fade away!