

The Letters of **Peter**



Lesson 5-God's Leaders and God's Faithful

Focus: 1 Peter 5:1-14

➤ Leadership in God's Church (v.1-4)

- Peter wrote here especially to the various leaders of God's church to make an appeal to them to follow God's model for leadership and to do a faithful work in guiding the church in God's way!
- (v.1) Peter was an elder and an apostle in God's church! He had also witnessed the sufferings of Christ Jesus first hand! He'd seen it all! Then he also saw the resurrected Christ Jesus and lived his life to share the gospel with others and to seal his testimony in the blood of martyrdom. Peter finally died by the hands of others for the sake of serving Jesus Christ! Peter had experienced the true grace of God in his life and was looking forward to that time when Jesus would come to serve rewards to all the faithful ones of every age in history!
- **The elders or leaders of the churches were instructed to "feed the flock of God" (v.2)** which God had made them overseers of! *Peter had been instructed by God in these very same things by direct counsel from Jesus Christ! (See John 21:15-17).* He was instructed by Jesus that **the motive of this service should be love!** *Therefore, Peter wrote that this service to God of feeding the flock should be done by a "ready mind" of love! It was never to be for the sake of compulsion or for the sake of filthy money! God's ministers should have the pure motive of love to guide them in the work of Christ!* Any who are serving merely for money are IN THE WRONG PLACE!! (See also Micah 3:10,11). Brother Paul and the other apostles also instructed overseers to "feed the flock of God" with the pure truth that comes from the word of God (Matthew 4:4; Acts 20:28-30). **It is ESSENTIAL that we FEED God's people strongly with the sacred truths of Heaven! Necessity and love demand it!** God's pure word is the only thing (in conjunction with the Holy Spirit and Christ) which can cleanse, develop, mold, and sanctify our characters, thus making us fit for Heaven! Therefore, God instructs us to be saturated with it (John 17:17; Isaiah 55:10,11; Psalm 119:97-105, 11).
- (v.3,4) **God's leadership:** God's leadership style is quite different from that of the world around us! **God wants his leaders to lead by example** (v.3; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 2:21,22). *The world's leadership is often for some person to take a position of authority and then to "play God" and command everyone under them to follow exactly like they say. They often let the power go to their heads and simply enjoy making others bend to their every desire! This is NOT God's style or what He has taught us to be! Christian leaders are not to be dictators! Rather, instead, they are to lead by a humble, loving, and righteous example to others. See Jesus' teachings on this (Mark 10:42-45; Matthew 11:28-30; contrast Luke 14:8-11; 20:46).* Jesus taught us to follow a pattern of servant

*leadership, to be humble, and to look out for the good of others. A leader should exist to humble serve the other people who are put under their care. There are not to be merely his servants or extensions of his own personal right arm. They are not to be a doormat under his feet! He must serve them and they can give service for him as well. **Honor and exalt Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd and then He will bless and honor you.***

➤ **Following Christ and resisting the Devil (v.5-9)**

- (v.5-7) We should humbly serve God and do His will in all things! We should cast our cares upon Him in prayer for He cares greatly for us! Let us be of a humble mind to love and to serve one another. For the younger respect their elders is right, and the elder should be humble and be minded to serve others. God will give His grace to such humble minded people! Let it be so with us! Let us follow God's way and not the sinful way of mankind!
- (v.8-9) Satan is seeking to destroy us! We are to flee from the Devil and to **resist him!** We should be aware because his evil is all around us! He is every seeking as a vicious lion to stalk and capture his prey! The devil wants to pounce on us and to destroy us! Therefore, we must be very alert and aware, not sleeping spiritually or failing to keep guard against the approach of sin! Let us seek the Lord and flee from the Devil! We must **"resist steadfastly in the faith" (v.9)!** This is God's call for us! The world is suffering in sin. Our brothers and sisters who are lost out in the world are struggling with sins and temptations. But, Jesus gives us the power to overcome! Therefore, let us overcome through Jesus Christ! (See also John 15:4,5; Philippians 4:13).

➤ **Grace that saves and Final Greetings (v.10-14)**

- (v.10,11) God who gave us His grace will be our strength! He can help us to be strong and settled in Him!
- (v.12) Evidently Peter used Silvanus as a scribe to help him to pen or write this letter.
- (v.13, 14) Greetings were shared from the church at "Babylon," which is believed to be figuratively referring to Rome. Those receiving this letter were being greeted warmly. They were to also greet each other with a "kiss of love" (that is a "holy kiss" as Paul describes it, a common and friendly greeting of that day, place, and time); then to abide in Christ's peace! And so may we also do the same—to abide in Christ's peace forever!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to live by the grace of God, to obey Him, and to experience His eternal salvation? ___