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By Dan Maines

1 Peter 5

1 Peter 5:1

Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed.

† Peter addresses the elders, identifying with them as a fellow elder, not elevating himself above them.

† His authority rests on being a witness of Christ's sufferings and a sharer in the coming glory.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 42) records the early role of elders as central leaders in the churches, continuing Peter's pattern.

1 Peter 5:2-3

Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.

† Elders are to shepherd God's people willingly, eagerly, and by example, not for gain or through domineering.

† Jesus gave the same charge to Peter in **John 21:15-17**, "Shepherd My sheep," showing continuity.

† Josephus (Antiquities 4.8.14) condemned leaders who exploited their people, contrasting the biblical model of servant leadership.

1 Peter 5:4

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

† Christ, the Chief Shepherd, would soon appear to reward faithful elders.

† This crown is unfading, unlike earthly rewards that perish.

† Philo (On the Virtues 32) contrasted fading human glory with imperishable virtue, paralleling Peter's teaching.

1 Peter 5:5

You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.

† Submission and humility are the marks of God's people.

† Proverbs 3:34 is quoted again, showing that humility brings

grace while pride brings opposition.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 30) exhorted believers to humility and submission in the church, echoing Peter's counsel.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.

† Humility is shown in trusting God and casting burdens on Him.

† Psalm 55:22 declares, "Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you."

† Josephus (Wars 3.8.5) records how many Jews trusted in men or wealth during the war, but Peter points to God alone as the true sustainer.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters throughout the world.

† The devil is pictured as a roaring lion, bringing persecution and seeking to destroy faith.

† Resistance comes through firm faith, knowing all believers share in suffering.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) records the global scope of persecution under Nero, fulfilling Peter's description of suffering "throughout the world."

1 Peter 5:10-11

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

† Their suffering was temporary, but God's glory eternal.

† The promise of being perfected, strengthened, and established reflects covenant faithfulness.

† Origen wrote that trials are the means by which God strengthens and establishes His people, echoing Peter.

1 Peter 5:12

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, to exhort you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

† Silvanus likely carried the letter, showing the close cooperation of leaders in the early church.

† Paul also worked with Silvanus (Silas), showing unity between apostolic missions (2 Corinthians 1:19).

† Clement of Rome also mentions leaders who carried letters to exhort the churches, continuing this apostolic practice.

1 Peter 5:13

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

† "Babylon" is a symbolic reference to Rome, where Peter wrote during persecution.

† Mark is identified as Peter's close companion, also tied to Paul's ministry.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QpHab) also used "Babylon" symbolically to describe oppressive powers, supporting Peter's symbolic use.

1 Peter 5:14

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

† The kiss of love was a sign of fellowship and unity in the early church.

† Paul gives similar commands in **Romans 16:16** and **1**

Corinthians 16:20.

† Tacitus (Histories 5.5) criticized Christians for their closeness, but what he despised, Peter called holy love.

How it applies to us today

† 1 Peter 5 calls leaders and believers alike to humility, endurance, and vigilance in the face of trials.

† Christ, the Chief Shepherd, cares for His flock and rewards faithfulness with an unfading crown.

† The church today must follow the same path of humility, resisting evil, and casting every care on God.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 4.8.14 – corrupt leaders exploiting people

† Josephus, Wars 3.8.5 – misplaced trust during the war

† Philo, On the Virtues 32 – contrast between fading and unfading glory

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – Nero's persecution of Christians

† Tacitus, Histories 5.5 – Christians criticized for close fellowship

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QpHab – Babylon as symbol of oppressive powers

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 30 – call to humility

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 42 – role of elders

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 49 – Christ's sacrifice bringing nearness

† Origen, On First Principles 3.1 – trials strengthening believers

† Proverbs 3:34 – God resists the proud

† Psalm 55:22 – cast your burden on the Lord

† Isaiah 8:13 – fear the Lord alone

† John 21:15-17 – Christ charges Peter to shepherd His sheep

† Romans 16:16 – kiss of love in the church

† 2 Corinthians 1:19 – Silvanus as Paul's co-worker

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