

Men's Equipping Course/First Peter Bible Study

Week Ten Assignment: 5:1-14

From Pastor Scott

1. Before you read the passage, pray that God will open its truths to your understanding. Now read the passage slowly and carefully using several different translations. Take careful note of the differences in translation.
2. "Therefore" in verse 1 introduces the final section of Peter's letter and shows a connection to the previous section. Verses 1-4 specifically address the elders of the churches. Since "judgment" needs "to begin with the household of God" (4:17), the first ones who should be addressed are the leaders and shepherds of the church. Purity must begin with them. Furthermore, suffering in the appropriate Christ-like manner (see 4:13, 19) must be exemplified by the elders. With that in mind, what is the job of elders in verses 2-3? How are they to function in the life of the church? What sort of men are they to be?
3. According to verses 1 and 4, how does Peter view himself in relation to the elders of the churches and to Christ? Why didn't Peter assert his authority as an Apostle in these verses? What implications does Peter's example have for elders in the local church?
4. Does the term "elders" in verse 5 refer to older people in the church or to the office of "elders" mentioned in verses 1-4? Give support for your answer. NOTE: the same Greek term is for used "elders" used throughout verses 1-5 (*presbuteros* from which we get "Presbyterian"). In the NT, it can refer to the office of elder or to older people. What is Peter's concern with the command given to "younger men" in verse 5? Why does he single them out?
5. Peter uses the word "humility/ humble" three times in verses 5-6. Why is humility such an important Christian virtue in regard to our relationship with God and with others?
6. Compare verse 8 to Job 1:7 and Job 2:2. What connection is Peter making between the devil (Satan) and our suffering (see verses 8-10)? Read the rest of Job 1 and 2. What lessons can we learn from this relationship (between the devil and our suffering) in those chapters?
7. According to verse 10 what are 4 things God will do for the believer after suffering "for a little while"? When will these things occur? NOTE: Read 2 Cor. 4:17 and compare it to this verse.
8. What is "the true grace of God" Peter is referring to in verse 12? Why do you think he says, "Stand firm in it!"?