

1 PETER 5:1-11

October 6, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: 1 PETER 5:1-11

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Below are some depictions of the devil in popular culture. What inaccuracies about the devil do you think they portray? How do these pictures affect our beliefs and thoughts about the devil?



EXPLORE THE TEXT

RESPONSIBLE SHEPHERDS

> Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

- Peter writes to the leaders of the church in these first verses. The word "pastor" is derived from the word "shepherd". How is a pastor to be like a shepherd?
- Peter gave explicit instructions to elders, or pastors. What cautions did he give pastors?
- How does the character of the shepherd affect the flock?
- How can we help our pastors fulfill these commands?

TRUSTING SHEEP

> Read 1 Peter 5:5-7

- After instructing pastors, what command does Peter give to the rest of the church? What does this practically look like in our relationships to one another?
- In v. 7, Peter gives advice about handling anxiety. What does "casting our anxiety on Him" look like? How do we do it? What is our basis for doing it?

THE ENEMY OF THE FLOCK

> Read 1 Peter 5:8-11

- Peter affirms that we have a real enemy, Satan, who seeks to destroy us. How is the devil like a “roaring lion looking for someone to devour”?
- Is your tendency to ignore the reality of the devil or to worry about him too much? How are both extremes dangerous? How does this passage tell us to deal with our enemy?
- Why would humility be so important when countering the Enemy?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Humility suggests a willingness to submit yourself to the needs of others. What can you do to encourage your pastor and fellow believers this week to stand firm against the attacks of our Enemy?

Personal Challenge: Because pride is a sin common to us all at times, how do you know when you have crossed the line and it has become all about you and less about Him? Make a list of the blessings in your life that you recognize as unmerited or unearned, beginning with salvation. Write out a prayer thanking God for these fruits and dedicating them to Him.

Pray: Close in prayer for believers to be alert and depend on God’s strength to overcome Satan’s influence.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Go back and spend some time re-reading 1 Peter. What does God want to teach you from this book? How have you applied the lessons about dealing with suffering and persecution in your life?
- Next week we begin a study of Galatians. Read Galatians 1:1-10.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

6th – Esther 9-10; Luke 19 | **7th** – Ezra 7- 8; Luke 20 | **8th** – Ezra 9-10; Psalm 131; Luke 21 | **9th** - Nehemiah 1-2; Psalm 133; Luke 22 | **10th** – Nehemiah 3-4; Luke 23 | **11th** – Nehemiah 5-6; Psalm 146; Luke 24 | **12th** - Nehemiah 7-8; Acts 1

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.