

Elders: The Task

1 Peter 5:1-11; Acts 20:17-38

INTRODUCTION:

I. The Task of the Elders (vv.1-4)

A. To shepherd

1. With the apostolic example (Peter / Paul in Acts 20)
2. The local church
3. With oversight

B. To shepherd willingly

1. Not under compulsion (constraint)
2. Voluntarily (according to God's will)

C. To shepherd eagerly

1. Not for financial gain
2. With alacrity (a cheerful readiness)

D. To shepherd as examples

1. Not domineering or dictatorial
2. Leading by living

II. The Task of the Congregation (vv.5-11)

A. Submit to leadership (v.5)

1. The youth
2. The rest
 - a) In humility
 - b) For God's pleasure (**Prov.3:34**)

B. Humble ourselves (vv.6-11)...in large part, what the elders should exhort in the fellowship of saints

1. Under God's mighty hand
 - a) Sovereign rule
 - b) Providential timing
2. Cast anxiety (**v.7**)
 - a) Being anxious is arrogance
 - b) Acknowledge the need for deliverance
3. In suffering (**vv.8-9**)
 - a) Be awake - **v.8** (humility is not reclusive)
 - b) Be vigilant - **v.9** (humility is not lazy)
 - c) Be encouraged
4. In joyful expectation (**vv.10-11**)
 - a) Suffering is temporal
 - b) Perseverance brings joy-filled assurance
 - c) The Coming King of Glory
 - (1) The realization of His rule
 - (2) The restoration of His people

III. The Task Illustrated (Acts 20:17-38)

A. Elders are to care for their own souls

B. Elders are to care for the flock

- C. Elders are called by the Holy Spirit to care for God's church (purchased & redeemed)
- D. Elders are to protect against false teachers (including any in their own midst)
- E. Elders are to major on the Word of God and keep it central in all dealings
- F. Elders are to be content and good stewards of finances (defaulting as givers, not receivers)
- G. Elders pray & weep

IV. Conclusion

- A. So, what does all this mean for us today?
- B. What about UBC?