



Shepherding the Flock of God

1 Peter 5:1-4

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1116.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text. Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com.

LEADERSHIP "OFFICES" WITHIN THE CHURCH

Greek Word	Role	Emphasis
Episkopos (Gk: ἐπίσκοπος)	Bishop (cf., KJV) or Elder (Overseer)	Authority
Prebruterious (Gk: πρεσβύτερος)	Elder (Older/Wiser)	Maturity
Poimēn (Gk: ποιμήν)	Shepherd or Pastor	Responsibility
<p>Most scholars believe, as do I, that these terms are used interchangeably in most passages of scriptures. - Dr. John MacArthur</p> <p>Most scholars believe, as do I, that these terms can relate interchangeably to the roles of leadership within the church body. - Dr. Alistair Begg</p>		

STUDY SECTION

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 5:1-4, NASB95 - ¹ Therefore, I [Paul] exhort [lit., come along side to encourage] the elders [historically, were older and wiser men skilled in judging cases, ruled in most Israelite towns in the OT/NT times; in the New Testament period, "elders" held a respected place in the synagogues, from which the churches took over this form of leadership] among you, as your fellow elder and witness [lit., martyr—it speaks of experience] of the sufferings of Christ [cf., 1 Peter 1-4], and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed [cf., the soon coming return of Christ], ² shepherd [Gk: ποιμήν means "to feed"] the flock

[a term of endearment] of God among you, exercising oversight [Gk: ἐπίσκοποι, lit., oversee, (lead, guard, feed, heal)] not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain [ie., shameful accusation of wealth], but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd [one of the most beautiful titles for the Savior in all of Scripture] appears [lit., revealed], you will receive the unfading [Gk: amaranth, a flower that never loses its scent] crown [in that day, the "crown" was the trophy] of glory.

1. The Call of the Shepherd.

1 Peter 5:1-2, NLT - ¹ And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you....

2. The Heart of the Shepherd.

1 Peter 5:2-3, NLT - ² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³ Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.

The obvious point is that the shepherd must be diligent rather than lazy, heart motivated rather than forced to be faithful, and passionate about his privileged duty rather than indifferent. When the heart is fully Christ's and driven by love for Him and for souls, there is much internal compulsion that precludes any need for external motivational pressure.

- Dr. John MacArthur

3. The Reward of the Shepherd.

1 Peter 5:4, NLT - ⁴ And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

- If you are considering a call to ministry, hear me: "Make sure God has called you to ministry because there will be times, only the call of God will keep you in ministry." (Dr. Ronnie Armstrong, FBC Bowie, TX)
- The church needs strong leaders who aren't made of "sugar candy" (ie., weak).
- If you are going to be a "leader" at SRBC (or any other church), let these phrases characterize your relationship with the sheep:

Love them • Lead them • Feed them • Protect Them