

10 - RESPONSIBILITIES & THE NEW BIRTH (1 PETER 5:1-14)

I. The Responsibility of Leaders (1 Peter 5:1-4)

A. The Exhorter (1 Peter 5:1)

- Peter writes as a fellow leader who has witnessed the suffering and glory of Jesus.

Biblical Note: Elders

The word "elder" means "older." Both the Jews and the Greeks gave positions of honor to wise older men. Christianity continued this pattern of leadership within the church. They carried great responsibility and were expected to be good examples. Elders were appointed for each of the local churches (Acts 14:23). The terms elder and bishop or overseer were used interchangeably in the New Testament. Their duties involved the spiritual oversight of the congregation and the teaching of the Word of God.

See: Acts 14:23; 15:2,4,6,22,23; 16:4; 20:17,18; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 11:2; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1,5

B. The Exhortation (1 Peter 5:2-3)

1. Shepherd the Church (1 Peter 5:2a)

- Peter instructs the leaders to guide and care for the church.

2. Serve Willingly (1 Peter 5:2b)

- A leader must serve willingly and not by compulsion.

3. Not for Personal Gain (1 Peter 5:2c)

- A leader must not serve for his personal monetary gain.

4. Not for Nomination (1 Peter 5:3a)

- A leader must not serve in order to dominate the church.

5. As Examples (1 Peter 5:3b)

- A leader must serve in such a way that their life is an example to others.

C. The Reward (1 Peter 5:4)

- The leader will be rewarded by Christ himself when He returns.

II. The Responsibility of the Church (1 Peter 5:5-7)

Facing The Coming Storm: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

A. Submission (1 Peter 5:5a-b)

1. To Leadership (1 Peter 5:5a)

- The church in general is to submit to the leadership of the church.

Peter uses the terms "young people" and "elders" because the leadership of the churches tended to be older mature believers.
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2. To Each Other (1 Peter 5:5b)

- The church as a whole is to submit to each other.

B. Humility (1 Peter 5:5c-7)

1. Live in Humility (1 Peter 5:5c)

- Believers are to live in such a way that they are marked by humility.

2. God's Attitude (1 Peter 5:5d)

- God is opposed to the proud and lifts up the humble.

3. A Call to Commitment (1 Peter 5:6)

- Believers are to humbly submit themselves to the God who is sovereign.

4. The Proper Attitude (1 Peter 5:7)

- Believers are to place their lives in the hands of the God who cares for them.

III. The Responsibility to Stand Firm (1 Peter 5:8-11)

A. The Exhortation (1 Peter 5:8a)

- Believers must be self-controlled and alert.

B. The Reason (1 Peter 5:8b)

- Our enemy, the devil, is searching for opportunities to destroy believers.

C. The Exhortation Continued (1 Peter 5:9)

- Believers are to resist the enemy as they remain steadfast in their faith.

D. The Benediction (1 Peter 5:10-11)

- Peter asks God to bless and mature those who are suffering for their faith.

Facing The Coming Storm: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

IV. Conclusion (1 Peter 5:12-14)

A. Peter's Personal Closing (1 Peter 5:12)

- Peter personally closes this letter to his readers.

Historical Note: Silas (Silvanus)

Silas was a prominent member of the Jerusalem church and a Roman citizen. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch to deliver a message from the Jerusalem church. After spending some time in Antioch, he returned to Jerusalem. Paul sought Silas' help after having a dispute with Barnabas. He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. Silas is traditionally assumed to be the Silvanus mentioned in four epistles (see 2 Corinthians 1:19; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:12). Nothing more is known of Silas.

B. Greetings from the church in Rome (1 Peter 5:13-14)

- Peter brings greetings from those who are with him in Rome.

Theological Note: Babylon

In 1 Peter 5:13, Peter writes, "She who is in Babylon." The meaning of the word "she" signifies a church. So Peter was stating that the church in Babylon greets you. The question emerges as to the identity of Babylon. Was Peter writing from the historic city of Babylon or was he referring to another city? In the New Testament, the term "Babylon" is used in two ways. First it is used to describe the empire of King Nebuchadnezzar (see Matthew 1:11,17; Acts 7:43). Second, the term "Babylon" is used to describe an immoral city that is the center of an evil world empire. In Peter's letter Babylon is referring to Rome. In the Book of Revelation, it is used to refer to the future world empire of the Antichrist (see Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2,10,21)