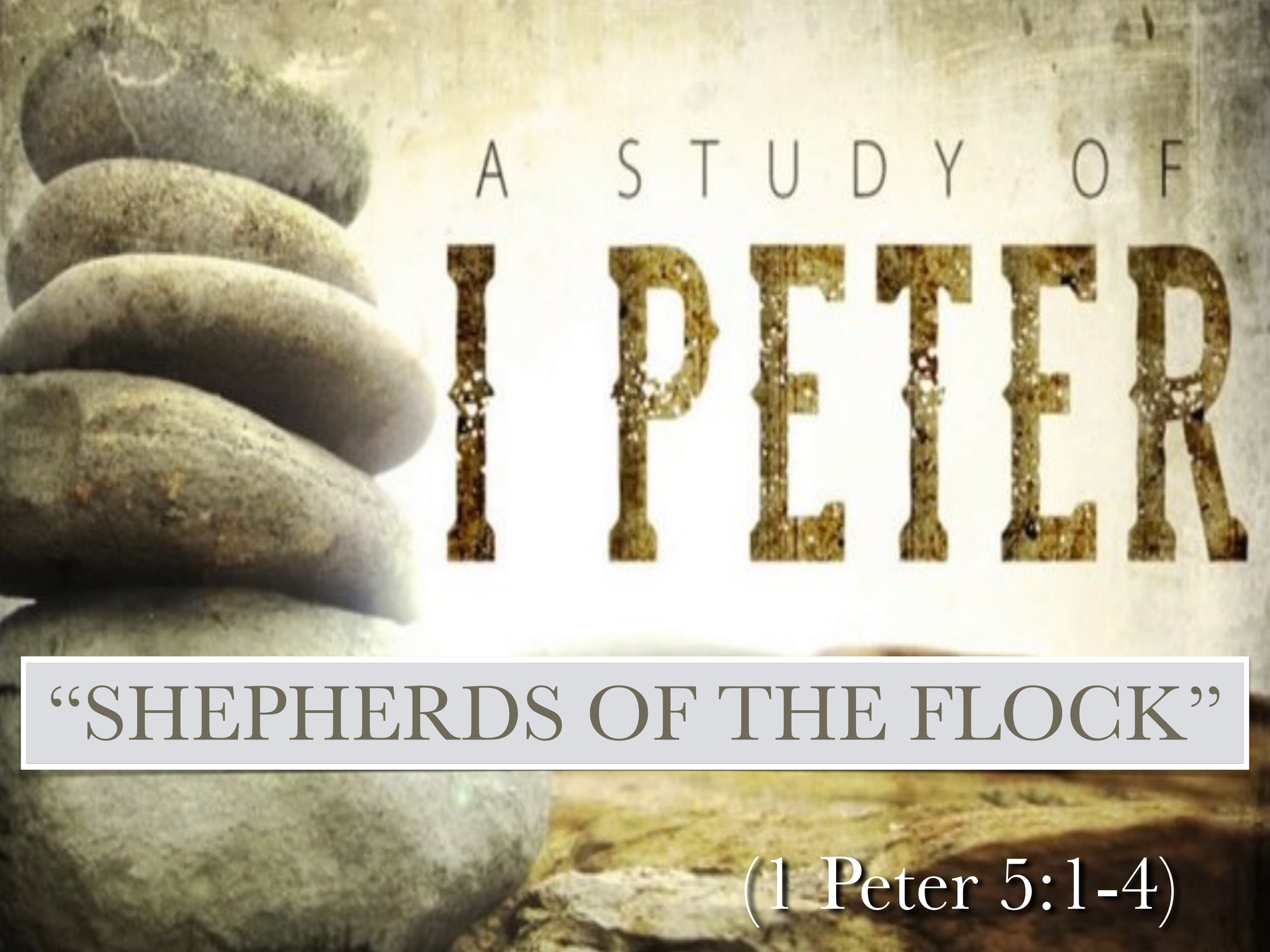
A STUDY OF
1 PETER
"SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK"
(1 Peter 5:1-4)

Our Living Hope

- We are but "pilgrims" (vs. 1), implying there is a destination - a goal - a **HOMELAND**! — **Heb 11:13-16**
- This HOMELAND is spoken of as a **LIVING HOPE** which Peter points to as a means of encouraging us to **ENDURE** — 1:6-9,13,13; 5:9-11

OUR LIVING HOPE (1:1-12)

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY (1:13-2:3)

CORNER STONE OR STUMBLING STONE (2:4-10)

ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS (2:11-12)

RESPONSE TO HUMAN GOVERNMENT (2:13-17)

RESPONSE TO ABUSIVE AUTHORITY (2:18–25)

I Peter 3:1-7

A God Honoring Marriage

"heirs together of the grace of life"

"Don't Allow Suffering To Rob You of Your Blessing"

I Peter 3:8-17

- Remember - You Are Blessed If You Suffer For Christ (3:14,17)
- Sanctify The Lord In Your Hearts (3:14-15)
- Always Be Ready To Give A Defense (3:15)
- Keep Your Conscience Clean (3:16)

17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:17)

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We Are Saved Through The Suffering & Resurrection of Jesus (18)

Those who suffer with Christ will be victorious (19-22)

ARMING YOURSELF *for* SUFFERING

With The Same Mind Christ Had

1 PETER 4:1-6

In View of the End

"GLORIFY GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST"

Think Soberly,

Love Fervently,

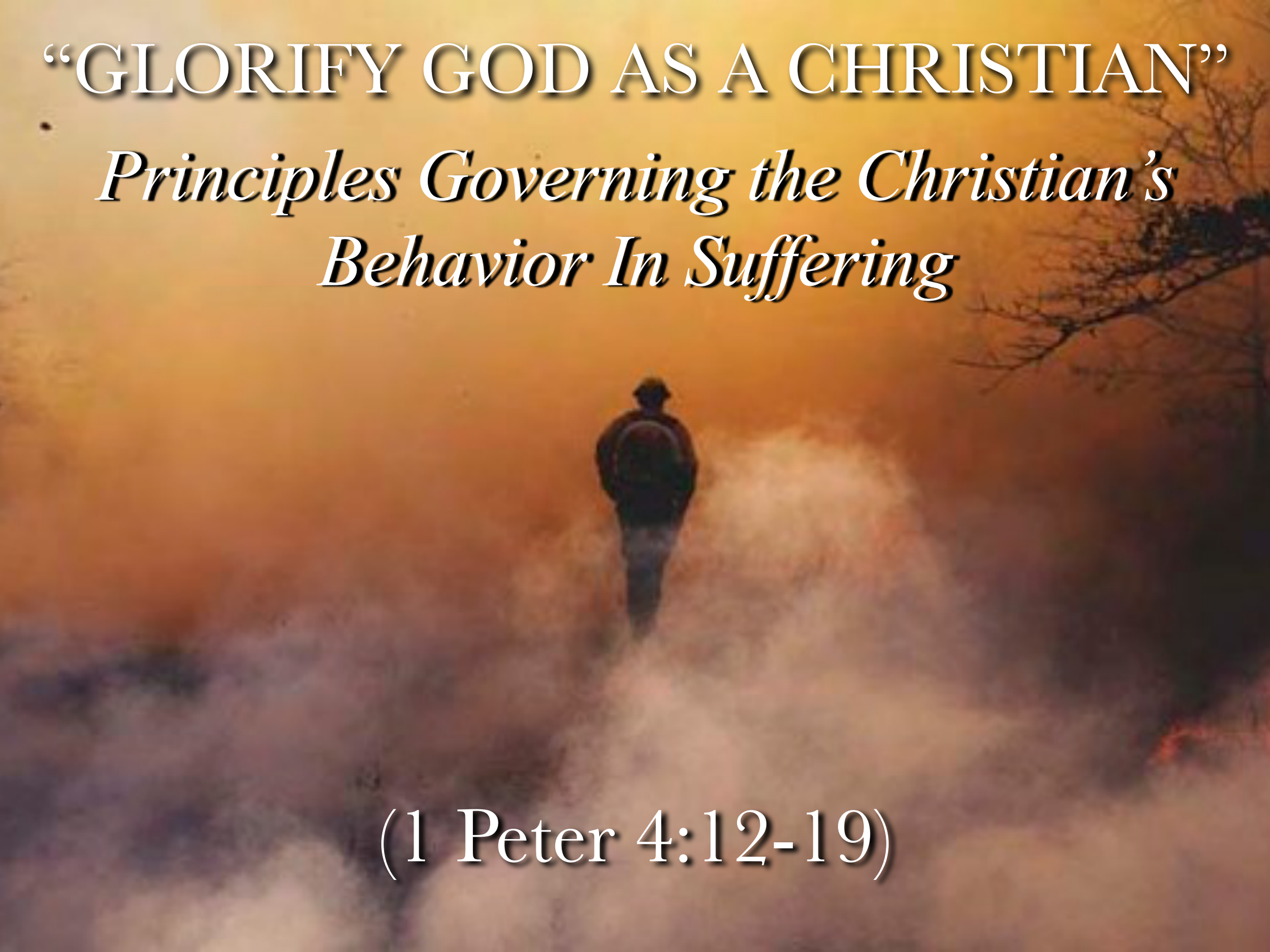
Teach Authoritatively

Serve Faithfully-

(1 Peter 4:7-11)

"GLORIFY GOD AS A CHRISTIAN"

Principles Governing the Christian's Behavior In Suffering



(1 Peter 4:12-19)

Elders, Overseers & Shepherds

SHEPHERDING GOD'S FLOCK

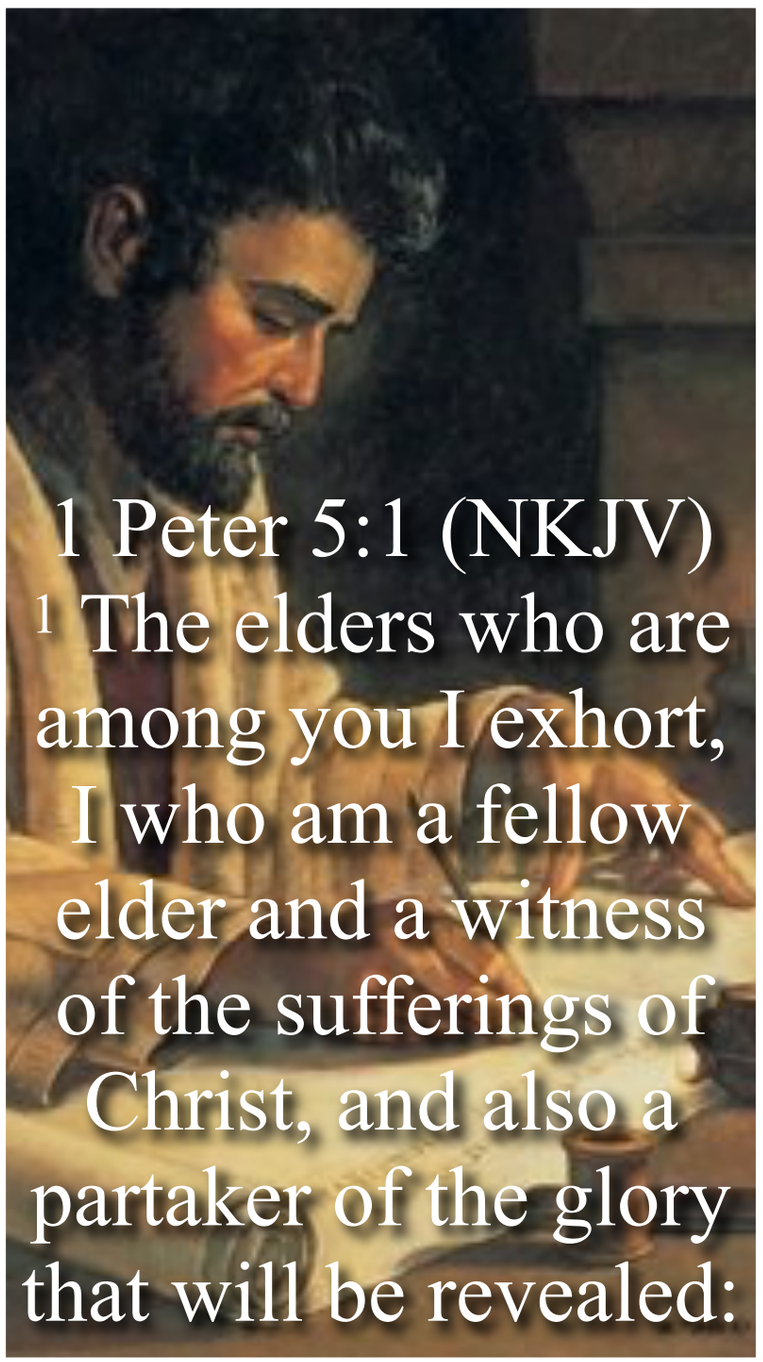
(Function, Authority, Qualifications, Need)

1 PETER 5:1-4

1 Peter 5:1–4 (NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I
who am a fellow elder and a witness of the
sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the
glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the
flock of God which is among you, serving as
overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not
for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being
lords 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 does not fade away.

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER

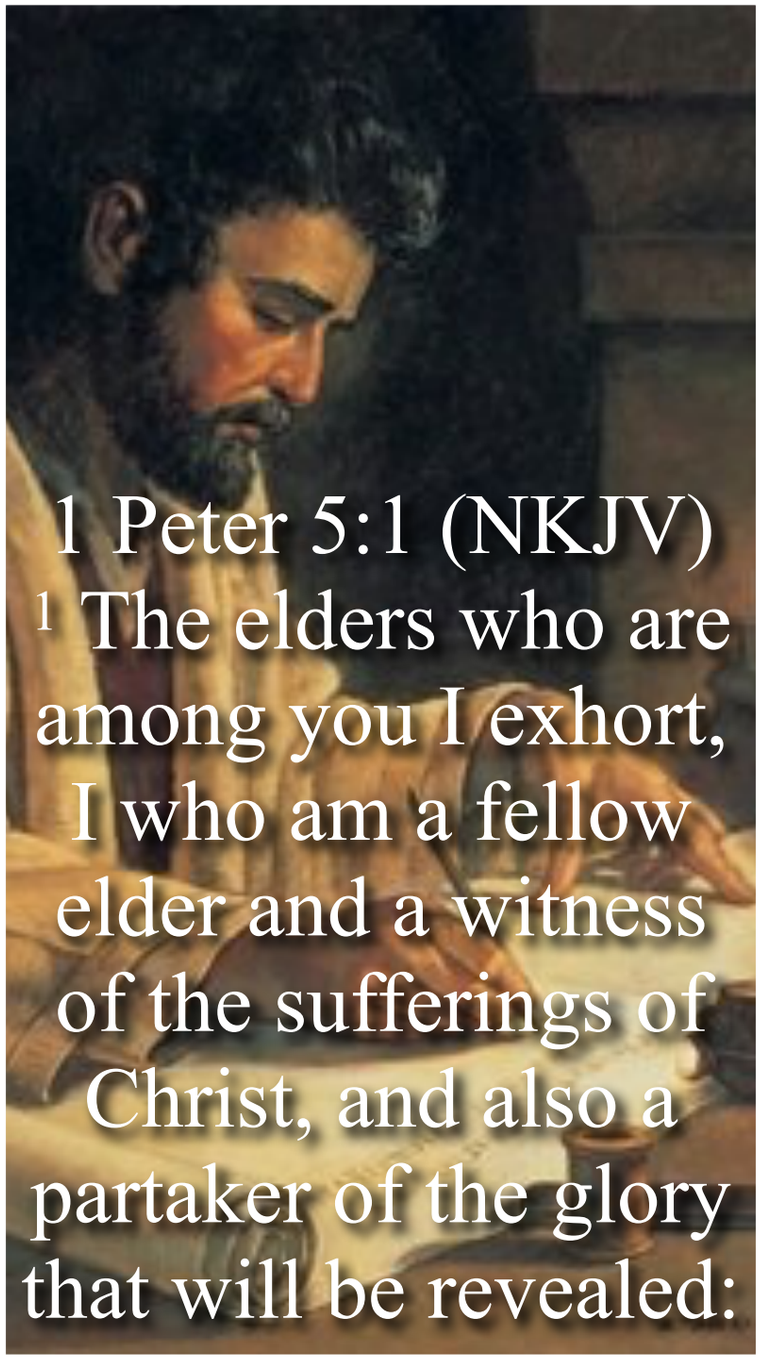


"Elders Who Are Among You I Exhort" (1)

- The pattern for congregational government is a plurality of elders in each church (1,2; Ac 14:23; 20:17; Phil 1:1; Ti. 1:5; 1 Tim. 5:17).
- The use of the plural (elders) in the singular (church) implies that each local church had a plurality of elders just as Philippi (Phil. 1:1), Ephesus (Acts 20:17, 28), Jerusalem (Acts 21:18) and the cities in Crete (Titus 1:5).

“ELDERS - SHEPHERDING GOD’S FLOCK”

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER

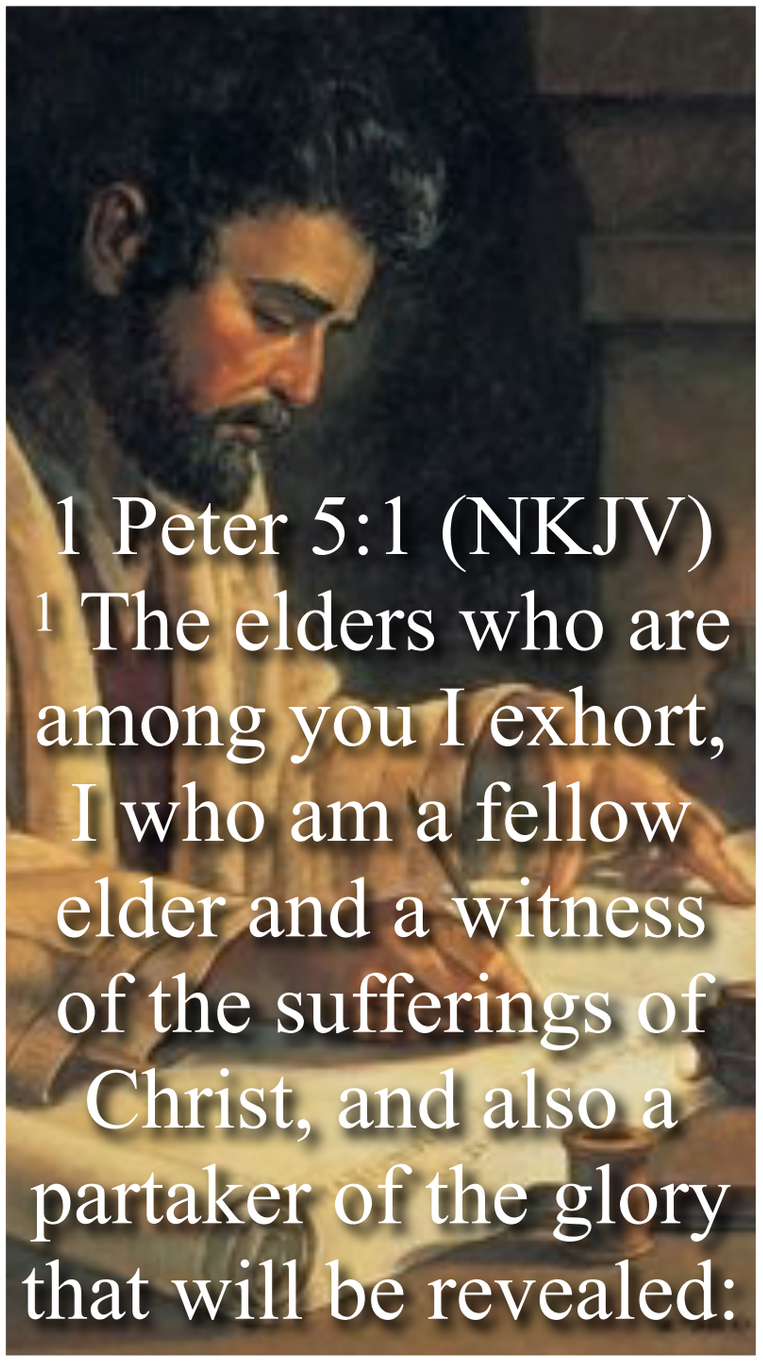


“Elders Who Are Among You I Exhort” (1)

“It is implied here that there were elders in each church; that is, that in each church there was more than one. . . . Titus 1:5, "I left thee in Crete, that thou shouldest ordain elders in every city." Acts 20:17, "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church." It could not mean, therefore, that they appointed a single minister or pastor to each church, but they committed the whole affairs of the church to a bench of elders.”

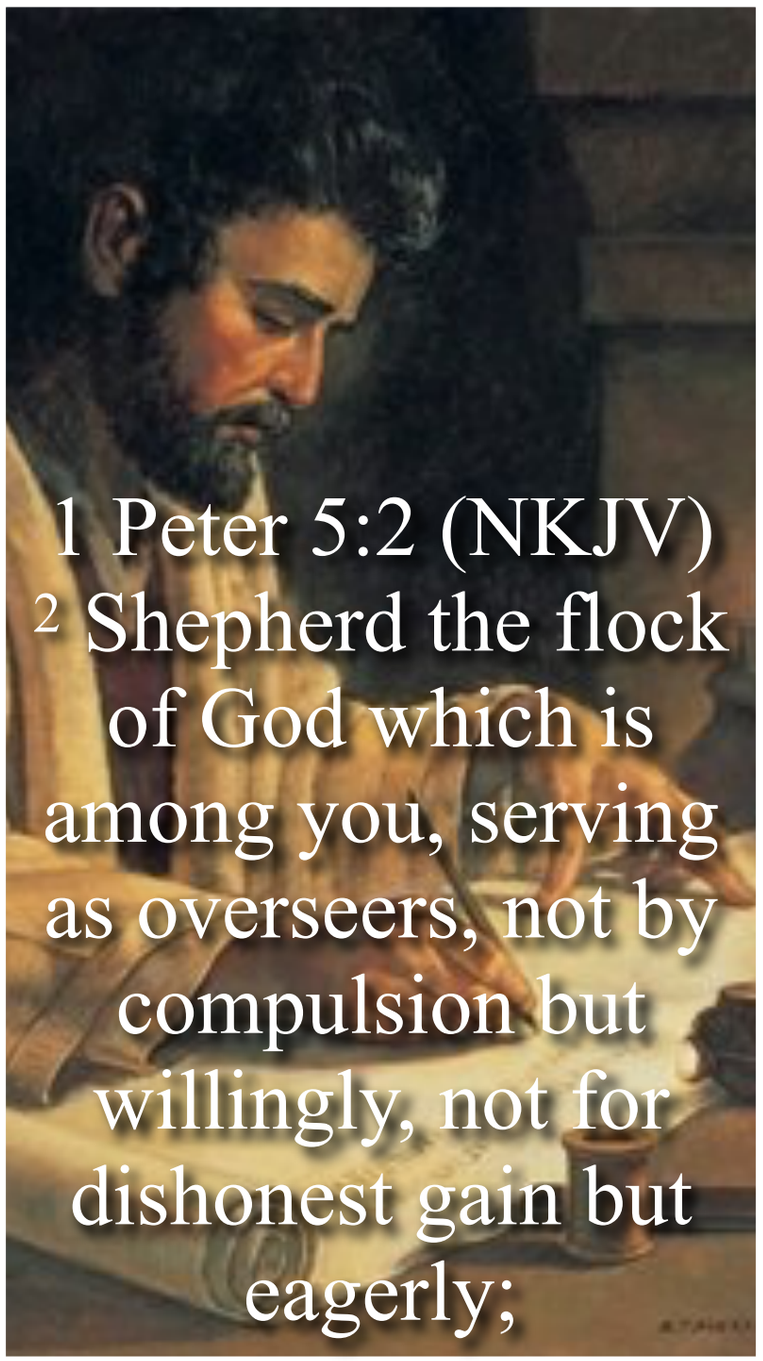
(Barnes New Testament Notes on Acts 14:23)

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



- **"Elders Who Are Among You I Exhort"** (1)
  - Elders, like everyone else, needs instruction and encouragement.
  - As spiritual overseers, elders need to be encouraged and equipped to attend to their responsibilities with diligence, especially in times of hardship (2; 4:17-19; 5:1-4)
  - Remember the suffering of Christ, [we should also be sacrificial], and the glorious reward that we will receive, [such sacrificial service will be worth it], (2; He. 12:1,2).

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- The terms elder, bishop & pastor are descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.

1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV)

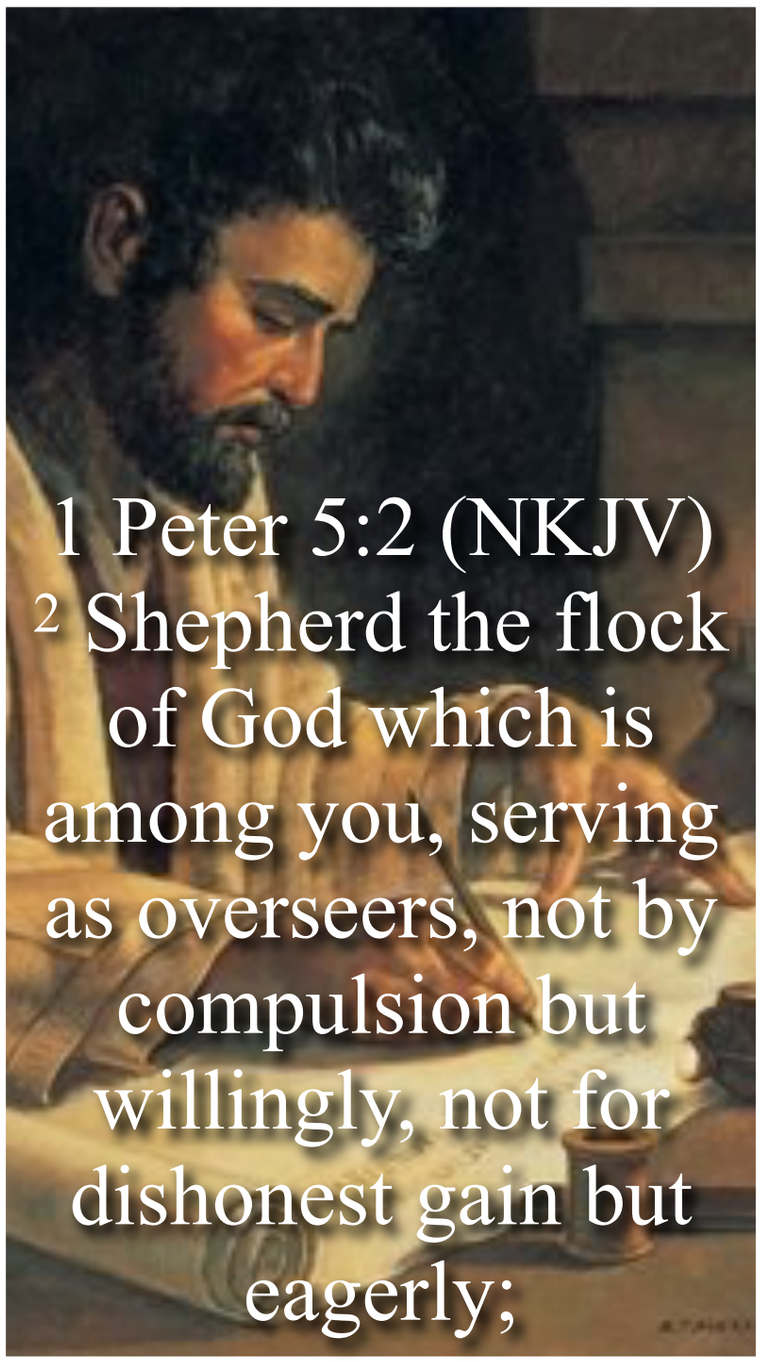
1 The elders (***presbuteros***), who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
2 Shepherd (***poimen***), the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, (***episkopos***),

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER

The terms elder, bishop & pastor are descriptive terms emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the same office.

- **Elder** - [*presbuteros (n)*] denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences. Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1
- **Pastor, shepherd** – [*poimen (n); poimaino (v)*] – Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God over which they have been appointed. – Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2
- **Bishop** – [*episkopos (n); episkopeo (v)*] – Denotes the overseeing function – not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)

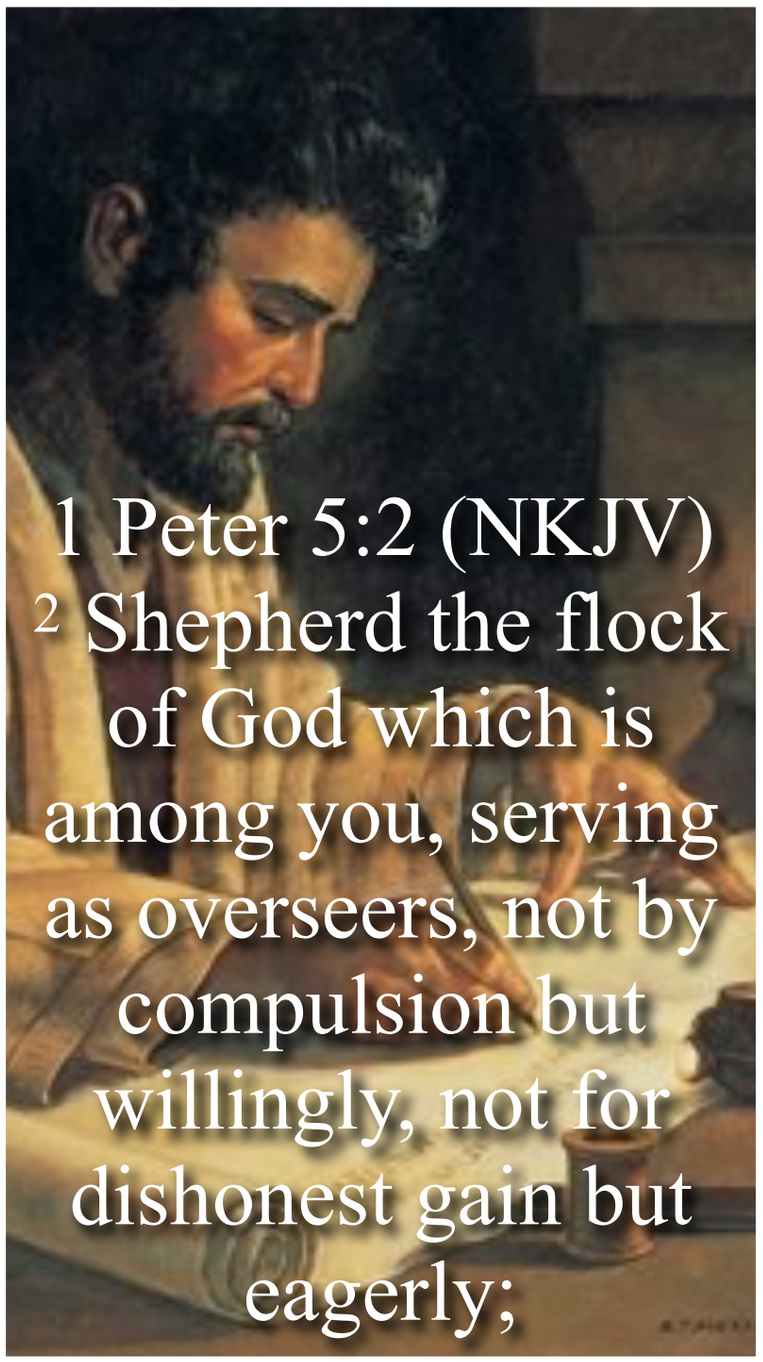
THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- 'SHEPHERD'- Poimaino - denotes all that is included in the work of a shepherd, i.e., to care for the flock by feeding and watering, to guide, to guard and protect, to seek out the missing, etc. (Psalm 23:4; Titus 1:9-11; Acts 20:29-30)
- Elders are taking care of something that belongs to God and not themselves (Jeremiah 23:1-4)
- "Among you" - their authority and work is limited (Acts 14:23; 20:17,28)

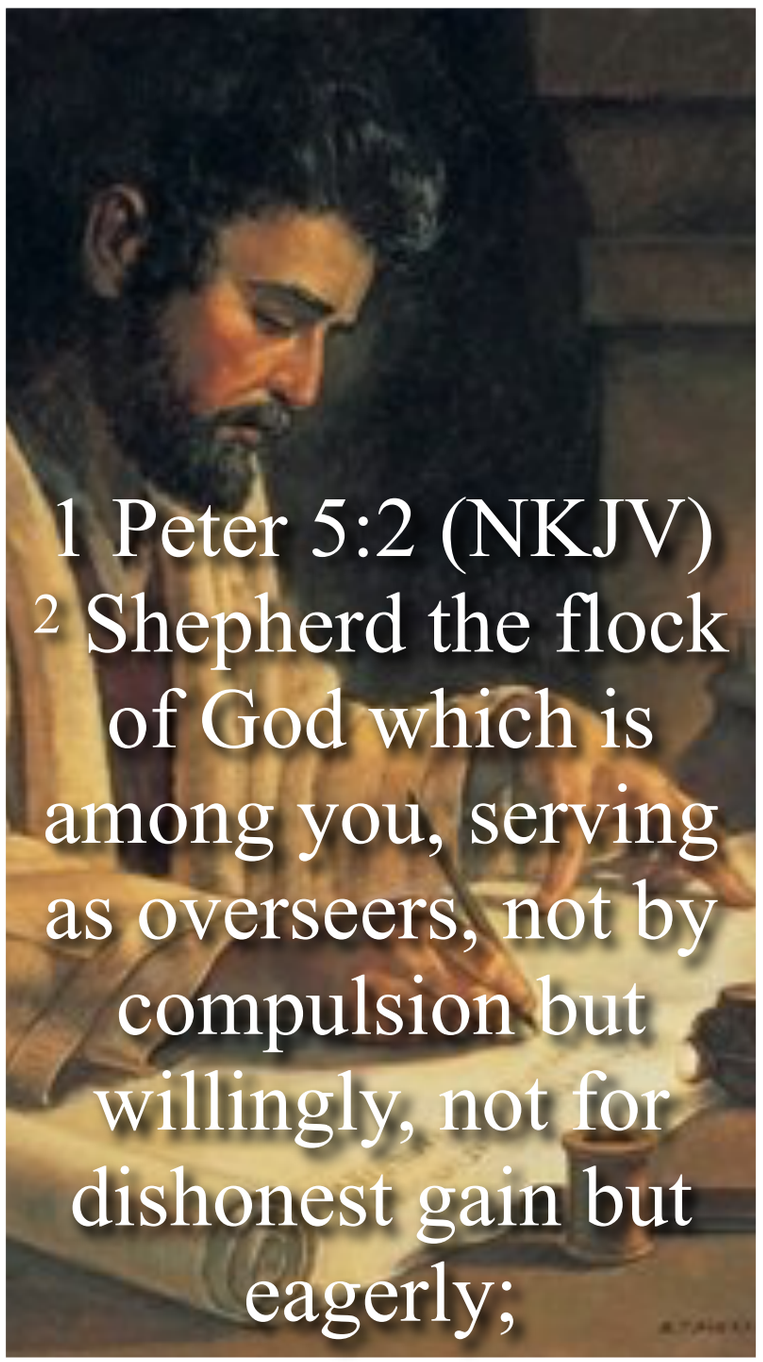
THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- 'SERVING AS OVERSEERS'- accepting the role of serving others by providing care, leadership and oversight of the collective work (Acts 20:28)
- The office or position of a bishop is NOT a legislative position, but an administrative position in which qualified men should willingly, and eagerly serve our King by serving His people according to their ability (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28-33)

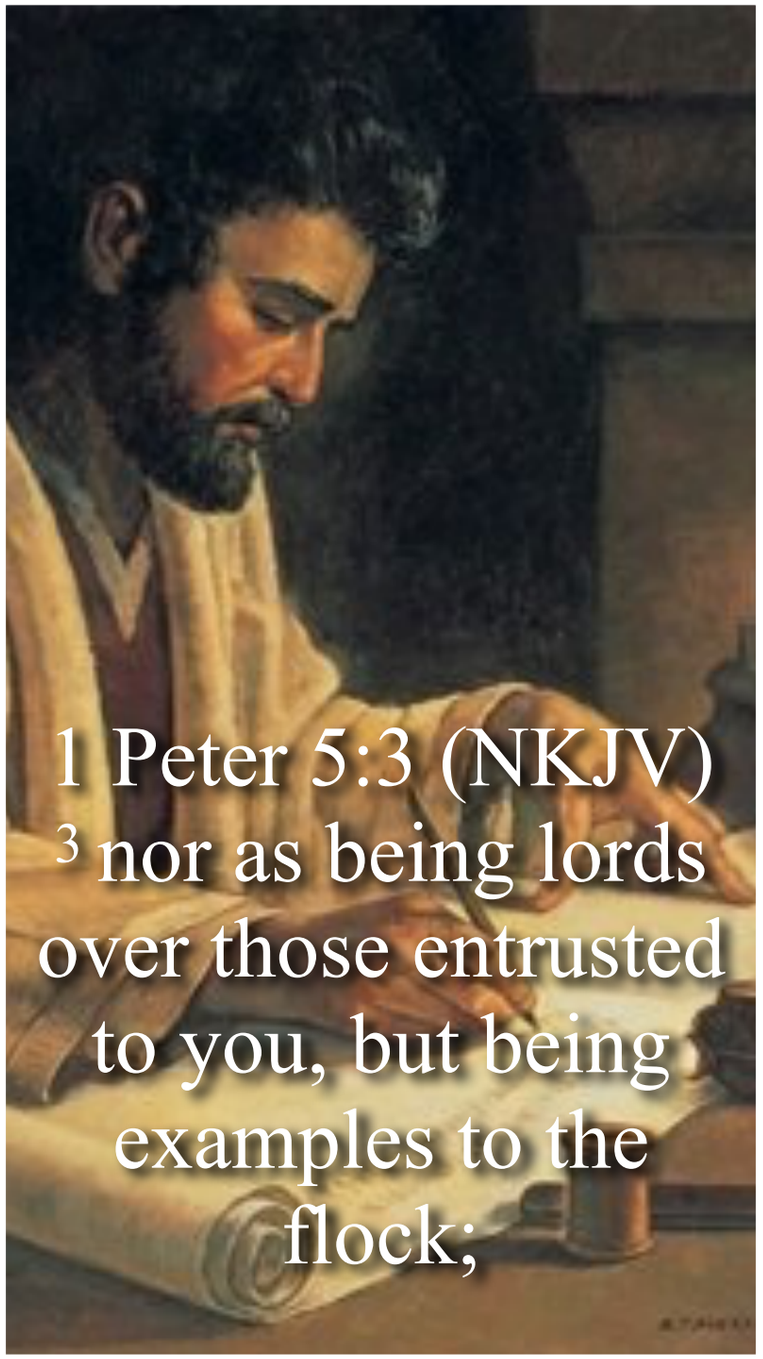
THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- **not by compulsion**-'not by force, unwillingly' (Vine p. 232), 'but willingly, i.e., voluntarily.
- God wants the motivation to serve to come from within the man who eagerly desires to serve Him (Rom. 6:16,17; 1 Tim. 3:1).
- Shepherds in the O.T. often fell into the trap of turning their position into a lucrative business, i.e. serving from the motive of personal profit (Isa. 56:11; Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10; 5:31)

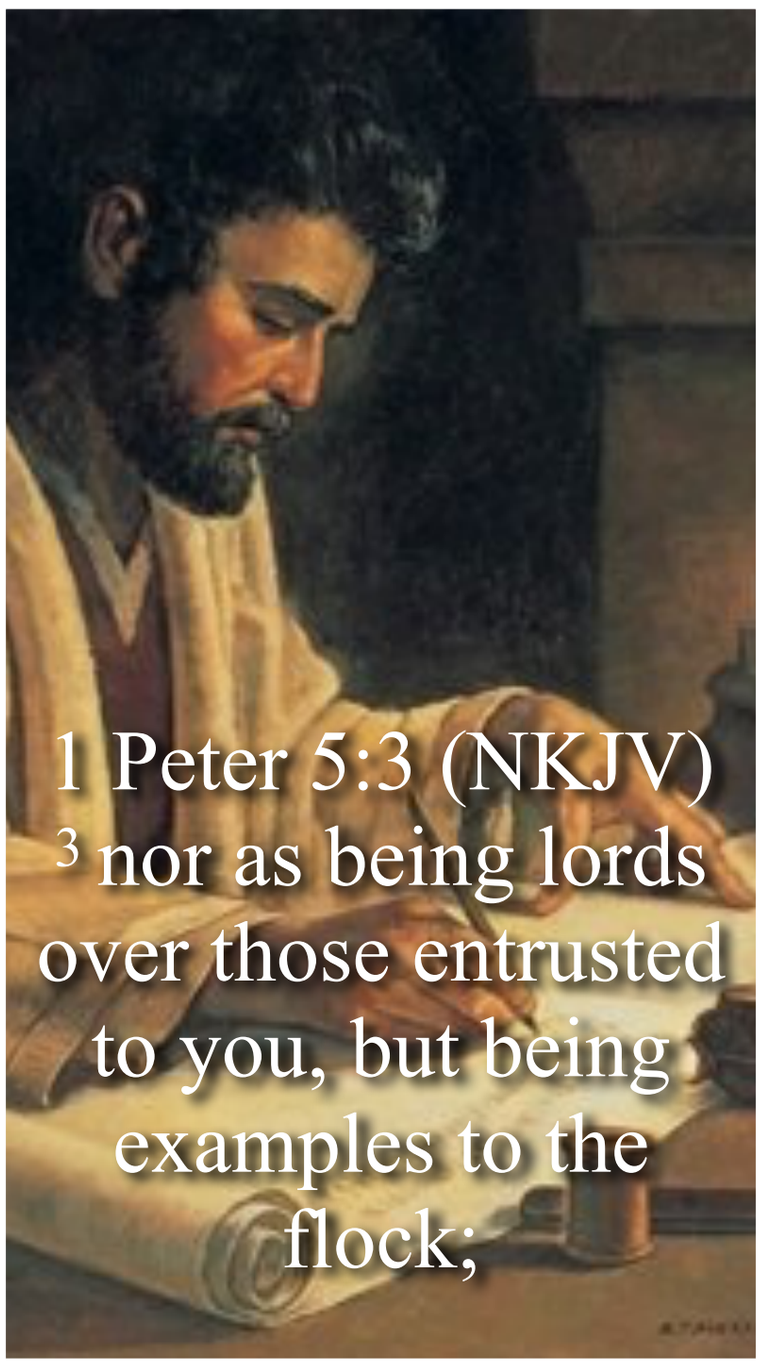
THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- **"nor as being lords over"** — The previous verse had warned against the motive of greed, here we have a warning against the motive of power.
- Elders do have authority and are to 'rule' and govern (1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb 13:17)
- But NOT like the Gentiles, or Diotrephes, who ruled arbitrarily, arrogantly, selfishly, & with excessive force (Mat 20:25-28; 3 Jn 9)

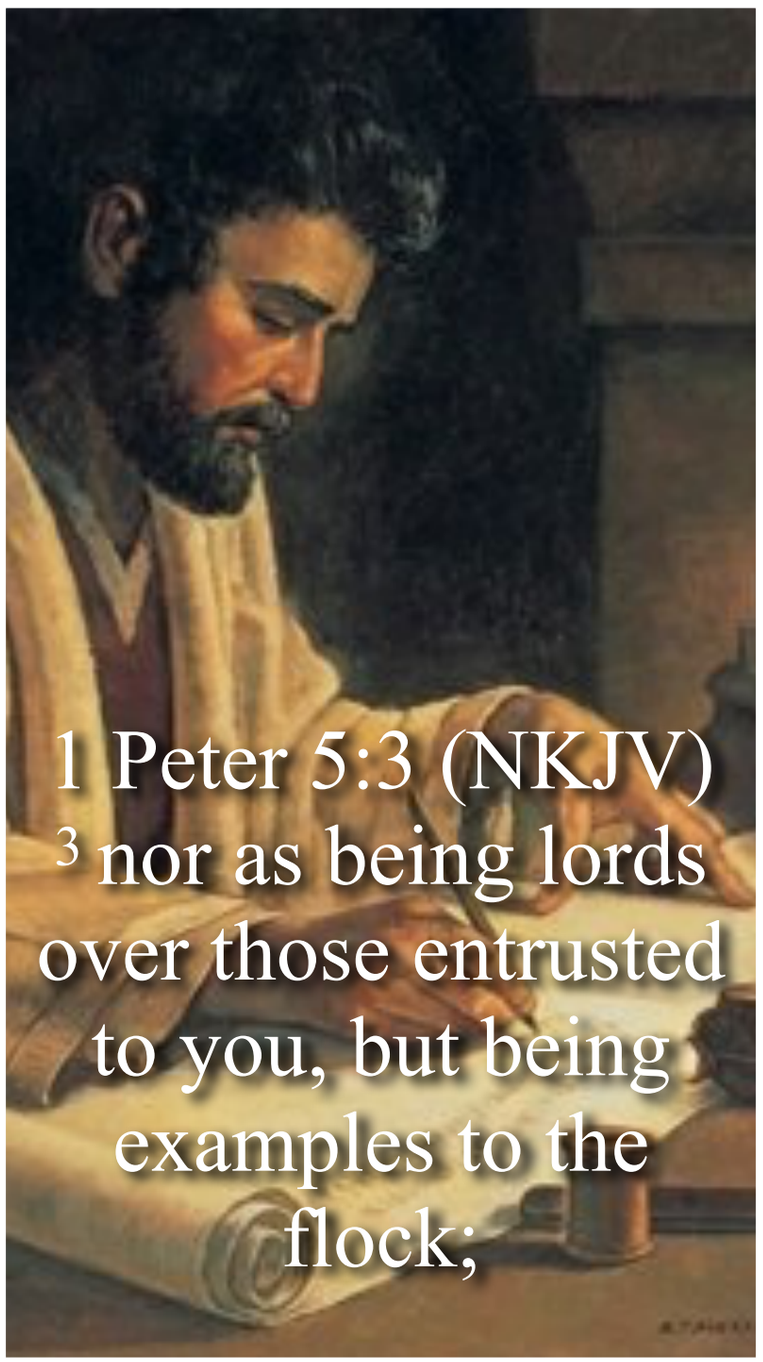
THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God"

- **"those entrusted to you"** (3) — that which has been assigned by lot, portion, share' (Arndt p. 435).
- The local congregation is the portion of God's people which have been allotted to the care of an eldership (5:2).
- Elders are responsible for those who are under their care and will be held accountable for how they serve as stewards (Heb. 13:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Cor. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:10)

THE OFFICE OF AN ELDER



"Shepherd The Flock Of God" (2)

- **"but being examples to the flock"** — Examples'-'models for them to copy.'
- Paul urged others to imitate his example (1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 4:9; 2 Thess. 3:7-9), and instructed Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12) and Titus (Titus 2:7-8) to live as examples of the Christian life before others.
- To not abuse authority, but be a good example, does not negate authority (Gov. / Parents / Elders)

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NKJV)

1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop,
he desires a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the
husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior,
hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not
greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one
who rules his own house well, having his children in submission
with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his
own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a
novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same
condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good
testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach
and the snare of the devil.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

Titus 1:6-9 (NKJV)

6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

1 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

A DEVOTED Man

- This is not the desire to possess authority according to self will, but to serve God and brethren as a conscientious steward (Titus 1:7; I Peter 5:2, 3).
- The objective of his work is the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A GODLY Man

- "Blameless" - (1 Tim 3:2)
- "Of Good Behavior" - (1 Tim 3:2)
- "Just" - (Tit 1:8)
- "Holy, NKJV / Devout ASV" - (Tit 1:8)

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A GODLY Man

- They should be men worthy of imitation (I Peter 5:3; Heb. 13:7).
- Their example in the community will reflect even more powerfully on the entire congregation.
- They need to be known in the community as men of integrity.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A PEACEFUL Man

- He is to be a man of self control, not quick tempered (Titus 1:7-8)
- He is not contentious (I Timothy 3:3).
- He is not self-willed (Titus 1:7).

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A PEACEFUL Man

- They often have to mediate situations where people are involved in sin.
- They must confront brethren in sin and stop the efforts of false teachers.
- They must bear up under false accusations by some who will criticize without knowing all the facts about a situation.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A FAMILY Man

- "The husband of one wife" (I Tim 3:2).
  - One must be married (*True,* . . .)
  - A man cannot be an adulterer or polygamist (*True,* . . .)
  - Literally, in the Greek the phrase may be rendered as a "one woman man." - An overseer must have demonstrated faithfulness in his marriage.
  - Not merely that he is a husband, but that he is a devoted husband.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A QUALIFIED Man

- "One who rules his own house well" (I Tim 3:4).
  - He must have submissive and obedient children - (I Tim. 3:3, 4; Titus 1:6).
  - Child/Children argument - [The Greek word "teknon" is comprehensive / plural, but inclusive of the singular; cf Gen. 21:7; Deut. 25:5; Mat. 22:24; Luke 20:28-33; I Tim. 5:4,9,10).

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A QUALIFIED Man

- "One who rules his own house well" (I Tim 3:4).
  - Often lost in all of the discussions over "plurality of children" and "faithful children" is the basic qualification –
  - A man MUST have demonstrated the ability to keep his children "under control with all dignity."
  - The Family teaches and gives evidence of one's leadership abilities.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A QUALIFIED Man

- "One who rules his own house well" (I Tim 3:4).
  - The reason for the qualification is explicitly stated (I Timothy 3:5)
  - Has he demonstrated the ability to be a servant / leader, to be tender, but also to administer discipline and correction?
  - Does he have the relational skills to work with people / provide wise counsel & guidance / provide discipline.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A CAPABLE Man

- "Able to teach" - (1 Tim. 3:2)
- Not a novice, but mature Christian - (1 Tim 3:6), Able to lead by example and take oversight with humility - (I Pet. 5:2, 3).
- Equipped to Protect (Titus 1:9-11; cf. Acts 20:28-29; I Tim 3:5; Titus 1:9-11).

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A Sensible Man

- Elders are to be temperate and sober minded, prudent - (I Tim. 3:2).
  - Eyes open to the way things are.
  - He must be careful, wise and use good judgment - able to see the big picture.
  - He is not to be led by emotion, but sound reason.
  - He is committed to truth even under pressure.

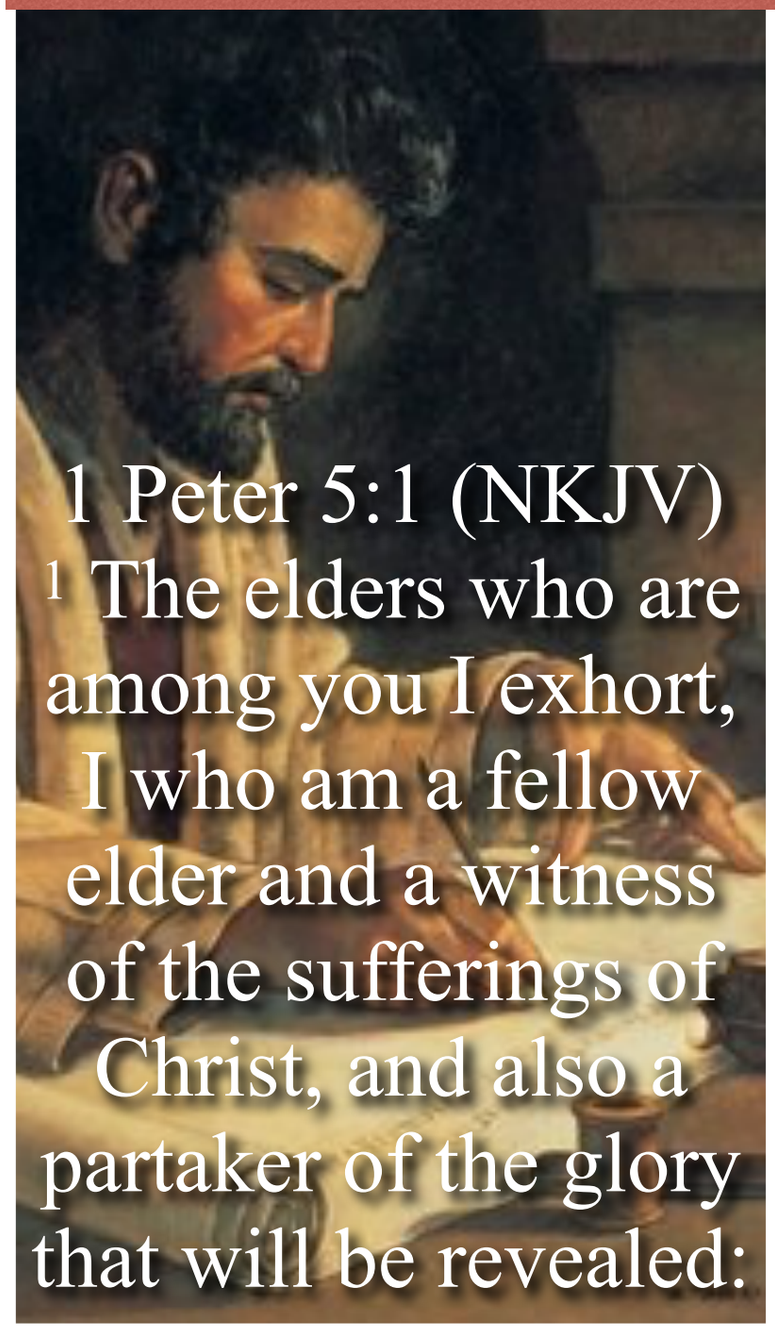
THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

A Caring Man

- Elders are to "take care of the church of God" - (I Tim. 3:5).
  - Encourage & support weak members - (Gal. 6:1; James 5:13-16)
  - Approachable - (1 Tim 3:3)
  - He needs to know the flock - (Jn 10:3,14)
- Elders are to be "hospitable" - (I Tim. 3:2; Heb. 13:1-3).

"ELDERS - SHEPHERDING GOD'S FLOCK"

THE CHURCH OF TODAY & TOMORROW NEEDS GODLY LEADERSHIP!



- Godly leadership is extremely important in a local church!
- Every father & mother should strive to raise their sons and daughters in a way that will equip them to be faithful servants of God -
- Every young man should strive to grow and mature in the faith - make wise decisions - that will prepare him so that one day he will be able to serve & help shepherd the Lord's flock.

“ELDERS - SHEPHERDING GOD’S FLOCK”

1 Peter 5:4 (NKJV)

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Is the Lord your Shepherd?

If not, please come to Him today!

Elders, Overseers & Shepherds
(Function, Authority, Qualifications, Need)

SHEPHERDING GOD'S FLOCK

Charts by Don McClain

Preached October 18, 2020 PM

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