

21 Apr 2013: Preached by Elder John Leong

Topic: **The Duties of Shepherds and the Flock**

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 5:1-5

1. The Apostle Peter exhorted the pastors (teaching elders) and elders of the various churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. Peter shared to them he was a fellow elder having a common shared experience with them and understanding their difficulties and struggles. He also shared his Apostolic authority as a witness of the sufferings of Christ. Peter encouraged the elders of the glory to be revealed in Jesus Christ which he had seen in the Mount of Transfiguration.

2. In v.2-3, the duties and the attitudes of the pastors and elders were taught. They are to shepherd their sheep which belong to God, and not them. Sheep are known to be helpless, defenseless, hopeless without a shepherd. The key task of an elder is to teach the Word of God to his flock and to take care of them.

3. The pastor or elder must be a responsible leader to be overall in-charge of his flock to take oversight. He must not do it by force or peer-pressure or by pride. He must serve God willingly. He knows his calling from God and will do it for the Lord joyfully. He must not serve for filthy lucre (shameful gain) out of money and personal benefits, but of a ready mind which is with eagerness. A pastor or elder must not dominate and intimate the flock. He must set a good example to them. True leadership is to be with the people to lead them by his life example.

4. Verse 4 tells of the motivation and reward of service. One day, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is called the Chief Shepherd, shall come to reward the faithful elders and pastors. They will receive a crown of glory that fades not away, Every earthy trophy, prize and award will fade away and be forgotten. But God's reward and crown is forever.

5. Finally in verse 5, the duty of the flock is to submit to the pastor and elder. The younger ones are singled out as they tend to challenge and despise the leadership. The Bible reminds everyone, whether pastor or member, to subject one to another. We can only do it when we are humble before God.