



"Matadors Make Bad Shepherds"

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1 Peter 5:1-4



1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as [your] fellow-elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory which is about to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, [exercise] oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to [the will of] God; yet not in fondness of dishonest gain, but willingly; 3 neither lording it over those

allotted to your care, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

– 1 Peter 5:1-4, As translated from the Greek New Testament by Tony A. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Introduction:

I. A Faithful Shepherd is Mindful of His Ministry (1a)

A. Elders as the key leadership office in the church

1. O.T. background to N.T. pattern (cf. Acts 20:17,28; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5,7)

B. Peter begins with a word that is curiously omitted by the NIV: "Therefore"

1. The word connects this passage to what we saw in chapter 4 – Namely verse 17 (cf. Ezek. 9)

II. A Faithful Shepherd is Mindful of His Message (1b-c)

A. Witness = *martus* (μάρτυς) - cf. 'martyr'

1. When we speak of Christ's sufferings we speak of the Gospel

III. A Faithful Shepherd is Mindful of His Mandate (2a)

A. Shepherding and exercising oversight

1. Imagery of shepherding the flock
2. Textual issue: The omission of *episkopountes* (ἐπισκοποῦντες) - exercise oversight

IV. A Faithful Shepherd is Mindful of His Motivation (2b-3)

A. Three couplets consisting of a negative followed by a positive

1. Verse 2: not under compulsion,
but voluntarily,
2. Verse 2: yet not in fondness of dishonest gain,
but willingly;
3. Verse 3: neither lording it over those allotted to your care,
but being examples to the flock

"In exhorting pastors to their duty, he points out especially three vices which are found to prevail much, even sloth, desire of gain, and lust for power. In opposition to the first vice he sets alacrity or a willing attention; to the second, liberality; to the third, moderation and meekness, by which they are to keep themselves in their own rank or station."
[John Calvin]

V. A Faithful Shepherd is Mindful of His Master (4)

A. The unfading crown of glory

"We are your guardians, and you are the flock of God. Reflect and see that our perils are greater than yours, and pray for us. This befits both us and you, that we may be able to give a good account of you to the prince of pastors, and our universal head." [Augustine, Letters 231]