

1 Peter 5:1-4
Great Our Eternal Reward Shall Be

INTRO: Taking a stroll down memory lane and recounting those “glory days.”

(Phil. 3:8f; Jer. 9:23-24)

Outline of 1 Peter 5:1-4

I) The Empathetic Shepherding Mandate.

(1 Peter 5:1-3)

II) **The Eternally Glorious Prize.**

(1 Peter 5:4)

*“Only one life, twill soon be past/
 Only what’s done for Christ will last/
 And when I’m dying, how happy I’ll be/
 If the lamp of my life has burnt out for Thee!”*

Poem by C.T. Studd

If we faithfully serve the Lord and His people in our respective callings/vocations our glory days

“Only what’s done for Christ will last!” (1 Peter 5:8-11)

For Further Reflection/Application: *We must be doers of God's Word and not merely hearers*

To date what are some of your greatest school/academic, sports, work, and/or life achievements?
What are some goals that you are currently working towards?

What are some signs that we may be pursuing excellence, (which is biblical), for the wrong reasons?
Note Philippians 3:8f. Jesus not only cares what we do, He also cares about the how and the why!

Many “has beens” enjoy taking a stroll down ‘memory lane’ as to recount their “Glory Days!” How did Pastor Caleb apply these biblical principles to his own life? Note Jeremiah 9:23-24.

Reflect on the song lyrics to the praise songs, “One Pure and Holy Passion;” and/or “Knowing You, Jesus;” and/or “My Worth is Not in What I Own.” Add these songs to your “playlist” to help you remember the truths that were taught from God’s Word this morning.

You could summarize the sermon as follows: *With great privilege, comes great responsibility; but with great spiritual responsibility comes the prospect of a great reward!* How is this true for both shepherd-leaders (1 Peter 5:4) and faithful sheep alike? (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Rev. 2-3)

What are some of the ways that 2nd Coming Hope should impact our daily lives?
How does it help us to persevere during difficult seasons of life and/or Christian ministry?

Faithful elders regularly give up personal down time, they sacrifice sleep, and add quite a bit of stress to their daily lives (and to their families) for your sake beloved! No wonder 1 Thess. 5:11-12, 1 Tim. 5:17-19, and Heb. 13:17 are in the Bible.

The next time you’re beginning to feel a bit down and out invest a little bit of time in the biblical 3-4-5’s. That’s 1 Corinthians 3, 2 Corinthians 4, and 1 Peter 5.

When HELL cranks up the heat, who are the first people to be targeted? Typically, our great Adversary goes after the brightest lights and the boldest truth proclaimers. (Eg. John the Baptist)

Learn more about the steadfast faithfulness of Polycarp of Smyrna, of Justin Martyr, or William Tyndale, of Hugh Latimore and Nicholas Ridley, of Lady Jane Grey, of J.C. Ryle, of Charles Spurgeon and the list goes on and on.

Read about some of the heroes of the faith to fortify your steadfast commitment to Christ and His gospel!
See list of recommended biographies below.

Make this C.T. Studd poem be the refrain of our Christian life and ministry service! Make this your daily goal in the strength of His power!

*“Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in ‘that day’ my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Awesome Bema Judgement seat;*

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.
 Only one life, a few brief years,
 Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
 Each with its clays I must fulfill,
 living for self or in His will;
 Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.*

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
 Only what's done for Christ will last.
 And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,
 If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee."*

By way of review: As a spiritual "sheep," are you embracing the Good Shepherd's plan for your life in terms of 1) the primacy of the local church and 2) the essential need of shepherding/biblical soul care)? What does someone's church life look like when these biblical convictions take hold of their heart?

The Word of God also teaches that believers (sheep) need faithful shepherds who willingly over them (hence 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Acts 20:26-28). List 2-3 things that you can do to more faithfully embrace the Good Shepherd's plan for your life and His church in the next few months.

"Elders are responsible for the leadership of others, under the Headship of Christ, within the parameters of God's Holy Word!" Christian Sheep are responsible to encourage, pray for, minister alongside of, and follow such leaders. Alistair Begg sums it up the heart and soul sermon series quite well.

Related Scripture Passages: Search the Scriptures to see if this be so.

1 Peter 5:1-5; 1:1-7; 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17; Philippians 3:18f; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Thess. 5:11-12; 1 Timothy 5:17-19; Revelation 2:8-11 (and really all of Revelation 2-3).

Recommended Resources: *"Visit many good books but, live in the Bible;" Charles Spurgeon.*

J.C. Ryle: Prepared to Stand Alone- by Iain H. Murray
The Nine Day Queen of England: Lady Jane Grey- by Faith Cook
The Forgotten Spurgeon- by Iain H. Murray
21 Servants of Sovereign Joy: Faithful, Flawed, and Fruitful- by John Piper
Loving the Church: God's People Flourishing in God's Family- John Crotts

Related Praise Songs: *Theology fuels Doxology! We dig deeply in order that we may go high!*

One Pure and Holy Passion-
My Worth is Not in What I Own- Keith and Kristyn Getty and Fernando Ortega
Knowing You, Jesus- Graham Kendrick
Rise Up O Men of God- Hymn
I Love Thy Church O God- Hymn
O Church of Christ, Invincible- Matt Boswell
Soldiers of Christ, Arise- Hymn
Let It Be Jesus- Christy Nockels/Passion
O Church Arise- Keith and Kristyn Getty

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