

BE SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV)

Key Verse: 5:2, "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve."

1. To whom does Apostle Peter give this exhortation (1a)? Into what context does Peter write this letter (1:1,6; 2:11-12; 4:12)? What position did the elders hold in the church (Ac 20:28)?
2. How does Peter identify himself (1b)? Why does he introduce himself in this way? How did Jesus shepherd Peter (1Pe 2:24), and each of us (Jn 10:11; Ps 23:1-6)?
3. What does "Be shepherds of God's flock" mean (2a; Jn 21:15)? Consider this in light of their suffering situation. What does "watching over them" imply?
4. What motives and attitudes are needed to shepherd God's flock (2b-3)? How is this different from those of worldly leaders (Mk 10:42-43; Jn 10:12)? How does a shepherd's motive impact God's sheep (1Sa 17:34-37; Ps 78:70-72; Eze 34:1-6)?
5. Who is the "Chief Shepherd" and what happens when he appears (4)? What kind of reward should we seek? In light of this study, what does God really want us to do regardless of our situation?