

I PETER 5; December 18; Peter An Elder, But Not a Pope

ANALYSIS:

1. What three things does Peter tell us about himself in verse one?

2. How does Peter exhort the other elders to serve Christ?

3. At Christ's appearing, what will faithful elders receive? _____

4. How are we to stand against the devil? _____

5. To what end or goal is God using suffering in our lives?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Peter proves beyond any question that he did not hold any superior ecclesiastical office as the Roman Catholic Church claims. Peter puts himself on the same level with those whom he exhorted by saying, "who am also an elder." He did have one advantage over later elders in that he was "a witness of the sufferings of Christ." He was an eye witness of Christ's earthly ministry, His crucifixion and His resurrection. Any church claiming Peter was the first "Pope" is using a lie in an attempt to establish their deceitful false doctrines.

Peter concludes by declaring his epistle "is the true grace of God wherein ye stand" (v 12). He did not want the troubles his readers were suffering to be allowed to rob them of the blessedness and progress they had experienced in their Christian life. And we need to stand fast in the true grace of God, as found in this epistle and other scripture, regardless of the troubles we may experience.

HELP:

1. He says he is an elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed (v 1).
2. Peter exhorted elders to take the oversight of the flock of God: [1] not by constraint but willingly, [2] not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind, [3] neither as lords over God's heritage but as ensamples to the flock (vs 2-3).
3. A crown of glory that fadeth not away (v 4).
4. Be sober, be vigilant, resist steadfast in the faith (vs 8-9).
5. To make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us (v 10).