

**"The Believer's Suffering"**

**Part 12**

**1 Peter 3:13-5:14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of 1 Peter we started into chapter 5 where Peter addresses the entire church and how they are to function under persecution.

**I. The Believer's Responsibilities in the Times of Suffering**

**A. Exhortation to the Elders**

**1. The pastor's responsibility.**

**a. Feed the sheep.**

**Notice 1 Peter 5:1-2**

Tonight I wanted to share a message with you dealing with comfort for the day in which we live in and so I was going to go elsewhere in God's Word until I started to look at our text and I realized there was no need to leave this study because our text before us has the comfort we need for what we are facing in our world. We are not to face the circumstances in our world with fear and anxiety, but we are to have hope.

**1 Peter 3:15**

*<sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

There are however many believers who do not have much hope today. They focus upon all that is going on and they begin to sink in despair.

**Matthew 14:28-30**

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.*

*<sup>29</sup> And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.*

*<sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.*

Tonight it is my desire to help you to grasp the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Before we get to what we are going to look at tonight I want to look at a verse that we stopped short of last week.

b. Be an example.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:3**

The pastor is not to lord over the sheep. It is the pastor's responsibility to watch over the sheep. The sheep are God's heritage. They belong to Him, and they are only entrusted to the care of the pastor/under shepherd. To "lord" over the flock is to "be domineering" over those who are weak. The pastor is to be loving, kind, long suffering, and patient with those who are entrusted to his care. He is not to belittle people who are weak, he is not to leave behind those who are weary and struggling. He must be sensitive to the different places where people are walking.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:3 again.**

The pastor is to be an example to the flock in all he does. The word "example" literally means "to leave a visible mark or impression caused by a blow from an instrument or object". The idea then is that the pastor is to live in such a way that his life leaves an impression in the character of the sheep entrusted to him.

**1 Timothy 4:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

c. The Believer's Hope

**Notice 1 Peter 5:4**

The faithful pastor will receive a crown of glory which we will touch on more next week. But tonight I want to look at the title given to our Lord here.

**1. The Chief Shepherd**

Every one of us belongs to the Chief Shepherd.

**Psalm 23:1**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

The Lord is referred to in three ways as our Shepherd.

a. The Good Shepherd.

**John 10:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

<sup>12</sup> *But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.*

<sup>13</sup> *The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*

<sup>14</sup> *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

As the Good Shepherd He died for us so that we might have a personal relationship with Him.

**b. The Great Shepherd.**

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*

<sup>21</sup> *Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**c. The Chief Shepherd**

As the Good Shepherd He died for our sins to bring us into a relationship with Him, as the Great Shepherd He rose from the grave for our justification, and as the Chief Shepherd He is coming again to reward His servants.

Now let us get a little more detailed. The responsibility of a shepherd is to carry out oversight, protect, lead, encourage, discipline, guard, guide and feed the sheep. This is what our Lord promises as our Shepherd to do for us. But how do I know that I can rely upon Him? Can my Shepherd keep, guard, and sustain me in the midst of what is going on? The obvious answer is "YES." Let us therefore see just who our Shepherd is.

➤ **He is Creator and Sustainer.**

**Colossians 1:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Everything was called into existence by our Shepherd in only six days.

**Exodus 20:11a**

<sup>11</sup> *For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:*

**Genesis 1:1**

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

This world in which we live in is sustained by our Shepherd. He has set the seasons and they will not change.

**Genesis 8:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> *And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

<sup>21</sup> *And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.*

<sup>22</sup> *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

These Words of Genesis given to Noah when he exited the ark completely destroy "global warming". God tells us there will be COLD and HEAT which means there will be times when the earth heats up and there will be times when it cools down. Man cannot change this because Jesus is the Shepherd who sustains all things.

There is yet another verse that destroys the alarmist's message concerning the rising oceans. Our Shepherd has set the boundaries and said to the sea, "You shall come no further!"

**Job 38:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?*

<sup>9</sup> *When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,*

<sup>10</sup> And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup> And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

**Proverbs 8:29**

<sup>29</sup> When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

This makes it very clear that the oceans are not rising as the climate alarmists would want us to believe. Our Chief Shepherd has set the boundaries. He sustains all things.

**Application:**

If our Shepherd can speak the world into existence, control the seasons, and keep the oceans within their boundaries then He can surely keep us and provide all we need. The Psalmists understood this very well.

**Psalm 121:1-8**

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

<sup>2</sup> *My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

<sup>3</sup> *He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

<sup>4</sup> *Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

<sup>5</sup> *The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.*

<sup>6</sup> *The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

<sup>7</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.*

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

**Psalm 46:1-3**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

<sup>2</sup> *Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

<sup>3</sup> *Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.*

➤ **He Loves us with an Everlasting Love**

**Jeremiah 31:3**

<sup>3</sup> *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

**John 17:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

<sup>21</sup> *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

<sup>22</sup> *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

<sup>23</sup> *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

**Conclusion:**

**Romans 8:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

<sup>39</sup> *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*