week 19

Studying

 THE CHURCHAAA

Together

 [a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading – 1 PETER 5:1-4

Keep in Mind

The term “elder” was used in the ancient world both generally (of an older member of the community) and specifically (of a wise and trusted one chosen to lead a community with other elders). Biblically, elders and pastors (i.e. shepherds) are synonymous.

Did You Notice?

1. Peter claimed to be a fellow \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a witness of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a sharer in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (5:1)

2. Elders are called to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who watch over God’s flock. (5:2)

3. What three things did Peter instruct the elders to *do/not do*? (5:2-3)

4. What will be the reward for elders who do their work as God desires, and when will they receive it? (5:4)

What Do You Think?

In what ways are our elders/pastor shepherding you? How can you support them in their work?

Day 2

Reading – 1 PETER 5:5-14

Keep in Mind

Humility is to mark all disciples of Jesus – both the leader and the follower, the one in authority and the one who submits to authority. Strength and humility find a perfect marriage in the faithful followers of Jesus, for even as they humbly serve, they can overcome their great enemy, the devil!

Did You Notice?

1. What are younger disciples called to do? (5:5)

2. We are to humble ourselves toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (5:5-6)

3. Why should we cast all of our anxieties on God? (5:7)

4. Knowing that our enemy is on the prowl, what ought the church to do? (5:8-9)

What Do You Think?

Peter describes the devil as a fierce enemy who can devour, yet He also makes it clear that he can be resisted. What can our church do specifically in the effort to resist the enemy who seeks to destroy the church and/or render her powerless in her mission?

Day 3

Reading – 2 PETER 1:1-4

Keep in Mind

While the great theme of 1 Peter was the call on disciples to suffer victoriously, the theme of 2 Peter is one of warning against false teachers. 2 Peter is remarkably similar to the book of Jude in theme and content.

Did You Notice?

1. How have we received our precious faith? (1:1)

2. God’s divine power has given us everything we need for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (1:3)

3. God has called us by His own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - not our own. (1:3)

4. What are we able to do through God’s great and precious promises? (1:4)

What Do You Think?

Peter makes it clear that we are able to live godly lives and participate in God’s divine nature. Are you convinced that these things are truly possible for us? What has God provided that make these attainable for us?

Day 4

Reading – 2 PETER 1:5-11

Keep in Mind

Here Peter offers a roadmap to actually living godly lives and participating in God’s divine nature. God has already provided for these things, and we must “make every effort” to utilize what has been generously given to us!

Did You Notice?

1. What are the eight qualities that Peter calls us to have in increasing measure as we mature as disciples? (1:5-7)

2. What is the first quality with which we must begin our growth process? (1:5)

3. What is true of those who have these qualities increasingly? Of those who don’t? (1:8-9)

4. What incredible benefits are promised to those who do as Peter instructs here? (1:10-11)

What Do You Think?

Why are these eight qualities necessary in becoming like Jesus? What can you do specifically to continually grow in these qualities?

Day 5

Reading – 2 PETER 1:12-21

Keep in Mind

Peter began his attack on false teachings here as he reviewed the reasons these disciples could trust the message they first received about Jesus. A church can only be healthy and effective if she is rooted in the true gospel of Jesus, and false teachings are powerful to weaken or destroy her.

Did You Notice?

1. Peter was determined to do *what* as long as he was alive in his mortal body? (1:12-15)

2. The church’s message is not based on made-up stories, but on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ testimony of the apostles. (1:16)

3. What specific event in Jesus’ life does Peter mention to highlight Jesus’ majesty? (1:17-18)

4. What did the disciples have to know “above all” about the prophetic writings? (1:20-21)

What Do You Think?

How does your church family help to remind you of the truths of God, and how do you help to remind them?