



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The First Catholic Epistle of St. Peter

## Chapter 5

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# Introduction

- The final chapter contains charges to clergy and their respective flocks (1-5)
- They were to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God
- They are to be sober and vigilant, resisting the Devil steadfast in the faith (6-9)
- He concluded with a prayer that God will establish, and strengthen them and a command to greet one another with a kiss of love (10-14)



# Shepherd the Flock (5:1-4)

- St. Peter means the clergy, not the aged persons
- St. Peter himself was a clergyman as well as an apostle
- He exhorts them as one of themselves
- He was an eye witness of what Christ suffered and of His resurrection
- Thus he is an heir of the glory that shall be revealed when Christ comes
- He used “shepherd” as the Lord did Joh 21:15-17



# Shepherd the Flock (5:1-4)

- Which is among you: Churches wherever you are
- Overseers: Acting as bishops (Acts 20:28)
- Attend to the duties cheerfully, willingly not for love of gain, but with enthusiasm, and not with an illogical, dictatorial rule
- Rather set an example that others may follow
- Christ is the Chief Shepherd to whom all the shepherds shall give account. He will grant the eternal reward to faithful and wise shepherds

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- All who are not elders are meant
- Younger sometimes meant inferior in position as well as those younger in years
- The virtue of submissiveness and humility is encouraged here
- Let every one be ready, upon all occasions, to give up his own will
- Wrap yourselves up in humility, so that no force may be able to tear it from you (Prov 3:34)

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- Other sins flee from God: pride alone opposes itself to God; therefore, God also in turn opposes Himself to the proud
- Humility is the vessel of all graces
- Humble yourselves because God gives grace to the humble (1 Pet 5:5)
- God exalts as well as casts down. He lifts up the humble, therefore, Humble yourselves... that he may exalt you in God's own time; not our time

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- Care is a burden which faith casts off the man on his God
- God is the Good Shepherded
- In the mean time watch
- There is a close connection between this, and the casting our care upon Him
- Be vigilant as if he had said, awake, and keep awake
- Sleep no more: make this your care

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- As a roaring lion - Full of rage
- The lion while hunting, only roars when it springs. So the devil is cautious and does not give warning of his approach
- Seeking deviously to swallow up both your souls and bodies
- When the devil is resisted he flees
- Steadfast in the faith. Confident in God



# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- That your sufferings are not unusual, but that the brethren everywhere suffer as you do
- God of all grace. Who bestows all grace
- He from the first "called us to eternal glory."
- He will not let His purpose fall short of completion
- The three are fitly conjoined: the call, the glory to which we are called, and the way (suffering)

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- The fourth is the ground of the calling, namely, the grace of God in Christ
- You may be called to suffer for a season, but it will soon be over, and the glory is eternal
- Perfect: He will supply every need, leave nothing wanting
- Establish: build you up
- "Strengthen" with might in the inner man by His Spirit, against the enemy

# Submit to God, Resist the Devil (4:5-11)



- Settle: make you firm, steadfast, unshaken
- Though you are called on to watch and resist the devil, God Himself must really do all in and through you
- The same God who begins must Himself complete the work
- To Him and Him alone be glory: not to ourselves
- Dominion: "the might" shown in so "perfecting," you, 1 Pet 5:10



# Farewell and Peace (5:12-14)

- By Silvanus. Silas, the old companion of St. Paul
- It has been supposed that St. Paul, then a prisoner of Rome, had sent Silvanus to St. Peter
- This may imply that St. Peter had little personal acquaintance, Silvanus having been with St. Paul in the work among the Gentiles
- He sends this letter by Silvanus
- The true grace of God: the gospel which had been preached to them and which they have accepted



# Farewell and Peace (5:12-14)

- St. Peter probably referred to his wife. The salutations are from individuals
- Others say there is no reason whatever for regarding this any place but the Chaldean capital."
- Others say that Babylon is Egypt
- St. Mark, the author of the second gospel. St. Peter's wife is the cousin of St. Mark's father
- A kiss of love: a sign of unity and oneness
- In Christ Jesus : the true Christians



# Conclusion

- What are the terms that the Orthodox Church is using for: Elders – Overseers?
- What should the Elders do & what they should avoid in their ministry? What kind of reward will be for them?
- What kind of attitude the church is expecting from the younger? Why?
- What are the armors that the believers can use in fighting the devil?
- “Satan is bound”, how do you prove this from the chapter?
- What is Babylon?