
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

I Peter 5:1-4

by Dempsey Collins

V. 2 Shepherd (Poimainō) Lead, feed, care for, provide for

The flock of God – Elders are overseeing a flock that belongs to God.

Cp. V. 3 “allotted to your charge” (Entrusted with the care of a flock of God’s people)
cp. Acts 20:28 (set by H.S.)

“Among you” – local oversight (cp. Acts 14:23)

Exercising oversight – (epis kopountes)

“Watching over, caring for, looking over, inspecting” (A & G. p. 299)

Elders are to continually inspect and supply the spiritual needs of the flock. Cp. Hebrews 12:15 “see to it that no one ...”

Not under compulsion – not by force or constraint

But voluntarily – of his own accord realizing its grave responsibilities.

v. 2 “Not for sordid (dishonest) gain”

Not to enter this work with the intent of serving himself financially or in any way.

But with eagerness, i.e., to serve the Lord.

v. 3 “Not yet as lording it (katakurievontes)

To hold in subjection, to be master of, exercise lordship over” (Thayer p. 332)

Their “rule” is not autocratic (absolute) or democratic (a representative of the group) but elders are delegated by Christ (H.S. 14 & 20) to humbly oversee a flock of God.

Elders primarily “rule” (lead the way) by example, teaching and persuasion according to the will of God.

v. 3b “Proving to be examples to the flock”

Elders must first show the way, then teach the way.

“Prove to be examples”

Tupos “visible impression of a stroke or pressure, mark, trace ... in the moral life example, pattern” (A & G 837)

“An example to be imitated: of men worthy of imitation” (Thayer p. 632)

“Elders are to be molds or patterns after which the brethren can fashion themselves in service to God” (C.H. 296)

To be a true leader they must live consistent with their teaching. Their lives reinforce what men should do.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- James 5:16