

## 5 Setting Things in Context

### 5.1 Following Christ implies suffering.

- » **1Peter 4:12-5:14** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 4:13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

### 5.2 Judgment begins with God's own people.

- » **1Peter 4:17** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the Gospel of God? 4:18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 4:19 **Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.**
- ▶ God judging his own people first (particularly the "elders") is brought over from the Hebrew Scriptures. See Jeremiah 25:29, Ezekiel 9:5-6, Amos 3:2, Zechariah 13:9, Malachi 3:1-5
  - ▶ In the larger context, our suffering serves as a "refining fire" preparing us for the approaching day of examination. All the New Testament agrees that those who are "in Christ" will not be condemned (see Romans 8:1ff.); we will however stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of our lives (see 2 Corinthians 5:6-21)

### 5.3 The "Generation Gap" is addressed.

- » **1Peter 5:1-4** So I exhort the **elders** among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 5:2 *shepherd* the flock of God that is among you, *exercising oversight*, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God

would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 5:3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5:7 Likewise, you who are **younger**, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for

*“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

- ▶ The Elders
  - “elders” [presbuteros]
  - “shepherding” [poimainō]
  - “exercising oversight” [episkopeō]
  
- ▶ The “younger”

#### 5.4 Some final words.

» **1Peter 5:6** **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 5:9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 5:10 **And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** 5:11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- ▶ Humility
  
- ▶ Our Adversary, The Devil

» **1Peter 5:12** By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that **this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.** 5:13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 5:14 Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

“Grace is God’s **unearned favor**, freely given to the **humble** in Christ, so that we may have access to His **unlimited power** through the Holy Spirit.”