

1 Peter 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Analysis

Peter commands faithful shepherding. Serve willingly, sacrificially, humbly. Elders are under-shepherds accountable to Chief Shepherd.

Historical Context

Peter contrasts godly eldership. These standards protect flock. Reformed tradition emphasized genuine call to ministry.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can members discern whether leaders serve willingly?
2. What's the difference between proper authority and domineering?

Interlinear Text

ποιμάνατε τὸ ἐν ὑμῖν ποίμνιον τοῦ θεοῦ
Feed G3588 which is among you the flock G3588 of God
G4165 G1722 G5213 G4168 G2316

ἐπισκοποῦντες μὴ ἀναγκαστῶς ἀλλὰ ἐκουσίως μηδὲ
taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly not
G1983 G3361 G317 G235 G1596 G3366

αἰσχροκερδῶς ἀλλὰ προθύμως
for filthy lucre but of a ready mind
G147 G235 G4290

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 3:8 (Parallel theme): Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Titus 1:7 (References God): For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

1 Timothy 3:3 (Parallel theme): Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

Titus 3:1 (Parallel theme): Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

1 Corinthians 9:7 (Parallel theme): Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

Hebrews 12:15 (Kingdom): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

2 Peter 2:3 (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Ezekiel 34:31 (References God): And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

Zechariah 11:17 (Parallel theme): Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

Luke 12:32 (Kingdom): Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

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