**Exhortations for Shepherds and Sheep**

**(1 Peter 5:1-5)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1.** In your own words, explain how the word “So” (v. 1) connects today’s passage to the previous passage(s) in Peter’s letter. What theme(s) should we be mindful of as we study 1 Peter 5:1-5?

**2.** In what way(s) does Peter describe his own ministry in verse 1? How might his description encourage and strengthen the elders who serve the “elect exiles” spread abroad?

**3.** According to verses 2 and 3, what are the three “not…but” statements that Peter uses to instruct the elders/shepherds? How would you explain Peter’s exhortations into your own words? How do they correlate to Paul’s instructions in 1 Timothy 3:1-7?

**4.** According to verse 4, to what degree and in what way does eschatology (i.e., the study of last things) factor into Peter’s exhortations? Where else do you see eschatology playing a role in Peter’s first epistle?

**5.** Why do you think Peter felt it necessary to address those who are “younger” specifically in verse 5? What does he call them to do? Why? In some Bible translations (e.g., NASB, NIV, NLT), Peter addresses “young men.” If these versions are correct, why might he address young men specifically?

**6.** To whom is Peter speaking in verse 5? Among all the exhortations Peter could have offered, why do you think he chose to exhort them to exercise humility? How do verses 5b and 6 help us understand how Christian humility is cultivated and sustained?

**7.** How do you (currently) understand the Bible’s affirmation of the office of elder within the New Testament church? In light of Peter’s focus on persecution and suffering, to what degree are godly leaders helpful to you in times of trouble? How has God used fallible, weak men (i.e., elders/shepherds) to bless and strengthen you by their gospel proclamation and their gospel-centered living? What are some hindrances to practicing humility and willingly subjecting one’s self to the authority of church leaders? How does the hope of the gospel rescue us from nursing cynical and unyielding spirits?