James #57

To the winner goes the crown!

Open up today in 1Peter chapter five RF.

Let us keep Hawaii in our prayers as many have suffered the devastation of a tsunami.

I have to cover some principles today concerning pastors or church leaders. I often do not like to teach on this, but GOD the HS has put us here, so no arguing with that!

Our recent study is on the crowns written about within many NT teachings.

There is no time in eternity to gain maturity and gather any spiritual rewards, crowns or blessings, now is the time we all run our own race.

We noted the Crown of Righteousness and also the Crown of Life which began our study from James 1:12. Now we will dive into the next crowns or rewards noted in the NT teachings.

/There are blessings or rewards we receive in time (temporal), as we gain capacity and get closer to GOD. These can include a blessed marriage or family life, doctrinal family or friends. A career or job that is abundantly satisfying in the physical, mental and financial realm. Health in the mentality and physical aspects of day-to-day life… etc. These types of temporal blessing are all part of escrow blessings or rewards, which give us a clue that we may be headed for greater blessings & rewards or crowns in the eternal life.\

Crowns in the heavenly are the assurance that you have privilege and rank for all of eternity.

The next crown we will note is the Crown of Glory. This crown is awarded to pastors who faithfully study and communicate Bible doctrine to their congregation. The size of the congregation can be small or massive, a home study group or a large building for gathering together.

Either one has nothing to do with this crown.

The numbers game is a man-made standard not a Godly one!

 REPEAT

/The pastor-teacher is only held accountable for his hard work and honesty, his integrity in studying & teaching. He is not held to a standard of numbers and feelings. Academic honesty is the true calling for teaching, especially for the WORD of God. Nowhere is the call for a ministry leader meaning a deacon, evangelist or pastor, a call into counting the butts in the seats. Or making sure everyone feels good. In fact, accurate teaching is often abrasive for hyper sensitive people.\

These letters from the Apostle Peter are incredible, considering he began his adult life only educated in basic TORAH concepts and fishing. It is a sterling example of steadfast endurance, mixed with positive volition.

He nails the Hermeneutics and really emphasizes the ICE principle to set a teaching standard for all pastors and church leaders.

Good Hermeneutics point to accurately studying and teaching the Bible in its proper context.

Not fun stories, feelings and human relativity.

 REPEAT

Peter, meaning the little stone among many which built the early church of Jesus Christ was in Rome at this point.

Rome was often called – Babylon, for various reasons by the early church leadership.

Nero is the emperor and he is turning up the heat on the early church.

The Apostle Paul had been through Rome and it is believed his followers there had established a bible study group.

The Apostle Peter arrives (65 AD) in the absence of Apostle Paul, who was heading into Spain. Mark and Silas are believed to be working with this early Rome congregation when Peter arrives.

Many historians believe this was just another set of common, small Christian groups who gathered in homes.

It was probably only 3 or 4 groups of 30 or 40 serious Christians in several towns in the main city of Rome at this historic point.

1Pet 5:1 Therefore, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed:

/Elders – *presbyteros,* has dual meanings as it can be used to point toward a man or woman who is advanced in age. More often than not, it had to do with life experience and intellect. So a pastor, deacon or evangelist would sometimes be referred to in this manner.\

PRESS-BO-DA-ROS, was used for elderly people, but more often than not it pointed to leadership. In the church it pointed to men with life experience. In fact, it was a term used to point out the leaders of the Sanhedrin.

The Apostle Peter made sure copies of this letter, like most NT epistles was distributed among all the groups.

Never forget there were men with the gift of being a scribe, working in the early church. They painstakingly copied scriptures, teachings and notes to be sent out to multiple groups of Bels.

/[1Pe 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/5/2/s_1156002) shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and **not with greed but with eagerness**;

These two qualities are flaws and in leadership, especially with pastors, they destroy authority and infect the ministry instead of edifying it.\

Greediness in any form, is extremely corrosive. Within in leadership, its detrimental because it brings forth vast, collateral damage that destroys trust.

Eagerness for leadership and eagerness, for any form of authoritarian recognition usually is a warning sign of narcissism. It is a problem of power lust and men suffer from this much more than the ladies.

 REPEAT

[1Pe 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/5/3/s_1156003) nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.

/You are never called to imitate the life of a ministry leader. The call is to follow their example of what they teach and how they apply BD to their own life. We are all called to find who we are IN CHRIST, not be cookie cutter Christians. Unique quirks and personalities make up the body of Christ.\

One example is, if your pastor only teaches once a week and his messages are milk toast and sweet, that will lead to a weak congregation.

/[1Pe 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/5/4/s_1156004) And when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, **you will receive the unfading crown of glory**.

The English term pastor, is derived from a Latin root word meaning SHEPHERD. The original language tells us the CHIEF Shepherd shall appear…hinting to a supernatural appearance, such as in the clouds of the air for Christians (rapture).\

TLJC is not referenced as a shepherd in the Tribulation, that is a time of fire and fury stepping down upon the earth. The warrior KING steps down to bring justice.

POY-MAIN, is one version of that word for shepherd meaning pastor also in Latin.

/This particular crown (Glory) is given to those men who accurately handled the word. This reward is not based on numbers, feelings or social status. In fact, many who appear on concert stages, Christian television or radio, may not receive this crown. It will not be given to those who tried to *‘re-invent the wheel’* with their intellect and new age insight. It will be given to those who were ordained by GOD and put their nose to the grind stone and took academic honesty to the highest level they were capable of.\

[1Pe 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/5/5/s_1156005) You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

This speaks to congregation members but also leadership!

Humility is teachability and all pastors, deacons and evangelist had better start with deep humility and maintain that throughout their walk.

 REPEAT

The fact is any pastor who receives this crown from TLJC at the Bema Seat Judgement will understand that a certain group…usually a minority, was their Crown of Glory on earth.

/Phl 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brothers *and sisters,* whom I long *to see,* **my joy and crown**, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

1Thes 2:19 For who *is* **our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming**? Or *is it* not **indeed you**? 20 For **you are our glory** and joy.\

This joy seen here in Phl 4 and 1Thes 2 is also connected to another crown we will see next message.

The pastor’s job is to enlighten, to be a guiding light so that the congregation can find a way deeper into the grace and knowledge of TLJC.

It’s his job to give them BD that can be digestible and possibly have that turn into divine wisdom, as they take their own free will and critical thinking skills and grow up.

It’s also his job to speak hard truth and even have reprimands woven into his teaching.

 REPEAT

It is all focused on the accuracy of the word…the very mind of Christ. Not political correctness, popularity or pleasing personality.

Some of my greatest teachers in my life were tough and often abrasive to me on certain topics.

Everybody getting a trophy and having their feelings validated and being consistently coddled leads to great national weakness and usually staggering arrogance.

We are witnessing it on some level today.

Here is the true calling for the pastor-teacher in the CA.

/Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written: ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT **ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”**

Jhn 21:16 He said to him again, a second time, “Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Shepherd My sheep.”**

 (3x – feed & tend to My flock)\

Notice JESUS called him SIMON.

This was also a time when the Apostle Peter who betrayed the LORD 3x, was now getting back into a position of strength. This was done for the sake of forgiveness, as well as a teaching tool for the apostles…nothing is more important than teaching the WORD accurately.

We need to close this out today with some tough principles that I do not always enjoy teaching but it must be done.

Just as I do not like to teach on financial giving and serving under the authority of your right pastor teacher.

Yet occasionally the HS is very clear that it is time to touch on the subject matter once again.

If you ever come to a Bible Conference you will see… I rarely ask for an offering. I simply place a donation box in the back of the room and let the chips fall where they may.

Even though I know the pastor needs to be compensated and live comfortably, I do not enjoy asking for offerings.

There are several types, or categories of pastors in the Church Age.

These types of spiritual leaders and teachers have always been around, nothing new under the sun.

/The cosmic pastor - they predominately operate by worldly ideologies and standards. They are often very visible in communities and even on city or government levels, politically. They thrive on social action, crusader arrogance, they display self-righteous attitudes to fit popular narratives of the day. They are ignorant of Bible doctrine and often teach skewed principles, yet are very popular and appear kind-hearted.\

 Many of these types are affiliated with denominations, yet there are plenty that are also non-denominational.

They are extremely useful to the KOD and in most cases are blessed with some financial or prestigious status.

/The adolescent type pastor, who knows just enough BD to fool the majority of Unbels and uneducated Bels. He relies on charming personality traits or some seminary/college background, usually a mixture of both. He does evangelize yet most of his messages revolve around moral lectures or personal stories he considerers parables. He is often too busy counselling or visiting, as well as setting up outreach programs to study.\

Again, another helpful pastor for the KOD. This type of pastor may also be blessed by Satan in some fashion.

/The steadfast denominational pastor. This type will never look outside of their denominational doctrines. They will live and die by their truth of whatever denomination they have pledged themselves into. Often times these men have strong convictions with a sincerity that is hard to challenge. Many are sincerely wrong on core doctrines such as salvation by works, loss of salvation, water baptism, limited atonement, covenant theology, the filling power of the HS…etc, etc.\

Again, some security or blessings can come from denominational allegiance. That is not from GOD!

/The mature pastor who through personal study under years of teaching or teachers, with a depth of Isagogics, Categorical doctrines and Exegesis with an emphasis on academic honesty, has recognized his gift and lives in it. He focuses on the message, not his personality, there are no bells and whistles or fun hooks in his teaching. His life is study and teach, study and teach and study and teach. This pastor has no time for worldly distractions or social programs. He is fully anchored in solid theology, yet remains open to learn. He is not prone to emotional waves or shiny new objects of truth.\

Because this pastor is focused on truth and the person and work of Jesus Christ, he will work diligently to study, even to the point of exhaustion, to deliver accuracy to the best of his ability.

 REPEAT

Therefore, this type of pastor is eligible to receive both the crown of life and the crown of righteousness as well as, the Crown of Glory.

/Heb 6:10 For **God is not unjust so as to forget your work**and the love which you have shown toward His name, **by having served and by *still* serving the saints**.\