



- How does God provide on-the-ground care for his people in a hostile world?

### 1. Elders – Be Good Shepherds v1-4

- Elders = Presbyters (where name 'Presbyterian' comes from)

#### a) The work God calls elders to v1-2

- **Shepherds** – feeding, leading, guarding God's flock
- **Overseeing** – a guardian of the spiritual health of God's people
- High privilege – elders always remember that it is God's flock

#### b) The attitude God requires v2-3

- 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1 give character qualities.
- Peter gives 3 on-the-job attitudes
  - **Not reluctant, but willingly obedient** – not ducking responsibility, but taking on the hard work God calls us to
  - **Not self-serving, but serving in love**
  - **Not power-hungry, but serving humbly** – 'serving', 'being examples'

#### c) The reward God promises v4

- Focus not on people, but on Christ's return – remember you must give an account (Heb 13:17)
- Look for his appreciation, not those around you

### 2. Christians – Be Good Sheep v5

- v5 – 'those who are older' literally 'those who are elders'
- **Be Submissive** – doesn't mean follow blindly, but follow as they follow scripture
- There will be times when you will not know all the details, but will have to trust your elders.
- **Be Humble** – humility is essential to peaceful church life

### 3. All – Keep your eyes on the Good Shepherd v4

- As elders watch Christ they will shepherd like Christ
- He is the perfect example and model of the care God provides to you:
  - He didn't require coercion to go to the cross, instead he went willingly
  - He wasn't greedy for selfish gain, but came to serve
  - He doesn't lord it over his people, but serves willingly
  - He is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep (John 10:11)
- Thank God for your Good Shepherd, and pray for your under-shepherds (elders)



#### Notices

Sunday	Evening service in Milford	8pm
Mon 5th	The Christian Institute Mount Errigal Hotel <i>Informing Christians of key issues facing the church in Ireland today</i>	8pm
Thursday	Bible Study at May's Study 2	8pm
Sun 11th	Communion - Sermon on 1 Peter 5:5-14 If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and would like to take part please speak to Mark beforehand.	10.15am
Friday 16th	Food & fun evening at Mark & Judith's	