

12. The Hitchkiker's Guides

- I Peter 5:1-5

• 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
 - o Not power-hungry, but serving humbly 'serving', 'being examples'

c) The reward God promises v4

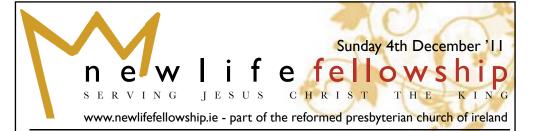
- Focus not on people, but on Christ's return remember you must give an account (Heb 13:17)
- Look for his appreciation, not those around you

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:
 - o He didn't require coercion to go to the cross, instead he went willingly
 - o He wasn't greedy for selfish gain, but came to serve
 - o He doesn't lord it over his people, but serves willingly
 - o 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 8pm

Informing Christians of key issues facing the church in Ireland today

Thursday Bible Study at May's

8pm

Study 2

Sun 11th Communion - Sermon on 1 Peter 5:5-14

10.15am

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.

Friday 16th Food & fun evening at Mark & Judith's

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