

1 Peter 5:5-9

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote 2 of the 21 "epistles" [letters] in the New Testament.
2. In his first letter,:
 - a. Peter wrote to Christians who were facing a fiery trial (1:6-7; 4:12)
 - b. Peter addressed various responsibilities that God has given to His people
 - c. Peter showed how God's people must fulfill these responsibilities, even while suffering persecution from unbelievers
 - d. Peter emphasized the Lord's example of suffering as a result of doing the Father's will.
3. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 5:5-9.
4. In these verses Peter addressed several responsibilities that affect the Christian's relationship with God as well as brethren.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.5a) PETER DIRECTED A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE YOUNG
 - A. The young are to submit to the elder.
 - B. Submission is a responsibility for all Christians (vs.5b; Ephesians 5:21).
 - C. This instruction is given specifically to "*the younger*."
 - D. Additional passages help us to understand what is involved.
 1. 1 Timothy 5:1-2
 2. 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- II. (vs.5b-9) PETER DIRECTED ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO ALL CHRISTIANS
 - A. (vs.5b-6) God's people are to "*be clothed with humility*."
 1. Peter gave 2 reasons why this responsibility must be fulfilled.
 - a. Reason #1: Because God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (vs.5b).
 - 1) Proverbs 3:34
 - 2) James 4:6
 - b. Reason #2: To be exalted by God (vs.6; Matthew 23:12).
 2. Jesus confronted this issue with the apostles in Matthew 20:20-28.
 - B. (vs.7) God's people are to cast their anxiety upon Him.
 1. Peter gave a special reason why this responsibility must be fulfilled -- "He cares for you."
 2. Avoiding anxiety is also emphasized in Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6.
 - C. (vs.8-9) God's people are to resist Satan (James 4:7b).
 1. Peter gave a reason why this responsibility must be fulfilled -- Satan, our adversary, seeks to destroy God's people.
 2. To resist Satan we must:
 - a. be sober and vigilant
 - b. remember that others face his afflictions successfully.
 3. According to Ephesians 6:10-13, putting on the armor of God will enable us to withstand Satan's efforts.