

9 EXEMPLIFYING HOPE

5 I To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

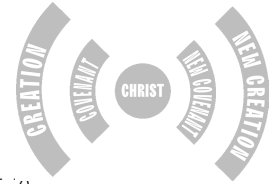
12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1. How is Christian leadership meant to be distinctively **Christian**? (v2-3)

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not	but
not	but

2. Peter has been saying that, with Jesus, we can and should face suffering now for glory in the end.

How is Christian leadership in v1-4 a specific example of this message?



3. How should Christians respond to their leaders? (v5-7)

How is this "in the same way" (v5) as the leaders themselves?

4. Last week we saw **God's** purpose in our suffering. What does **Satan** hope to achieve through our suffering? (v8) How can we resist that? (v9-10)

5. V12 says that Peter has written to encourage Christians that this hard time is truly a gracious gift of God. Have you been encouraged to think that? Why or why not?

6. Only some of us have positions as Christian leaders, but we all have opportunities to lead in a Christian way. For Christian friends who are suffering, how would you help?

What would you warn them about? How would you encourage them?

What example would you set them by your own life?