Radiant Church, November 19, 2017

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**Look for Jesus’s Return**

**1 Peter 5:1-5**

1 Peter 5:1 *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:*

Exhort: strongly encourage

Peter’s qualification for what he will say next

Fellow elder

Fellow partaker of God’s promises and glory

1 Peter 5:2 *shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;*

Shepherd: lead, feed, protect

Not under compulsion: feeling forced

As God would have you: fulfilling the calling of an elder, with the guidance of

the Spirit, using the gifts to each elder the Spirit has given

Not for shameful gain: not to be liked, respected, affirmed, get rich, etc.

But eagerly: eager for God’s glory

1 Peter 5:3 *not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*

Not domineering: controlling, not treating people like disposable commodities

Being examples: humility, exercising gifts, being willing, treating others as

equal partakers in the glory of Christ’s return and Kingdom

consummation

1 Peter 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

The crowns awarded to military victors or athletic champions was usually twisted parsley…which soon withered and died

Peter is here telling the churches that a leader’s primary motivation is for God’s glory

1 Peter 5:5 *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

The proud are in opposition to God, either licentious or legalistic

Humility is the position for waiting for Christ’s return

Leaders and followers, both are to be humble

We are living in the most authority-resistant culture the world has ever seen.

We see ourselves as holding the freedom and autonomy of church consumers, because we are skeptical if not aversive to any authority over us. We all want the benefits of God’s grace, without it costing us anything.

Consumerism is chronic dissatisfaction…and a very low regard for God’s grace to us.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Brett McCracken: Uncomfortable

“What we think we want from a church is almost never what we need. However challenging it may be to embrace, God’s idea of church is far more glorious than any dream church we could conjure. It’s not about finding a church that perfectly fits my theological, architectural, or political preferences. It’s about becoming like “living stones” that are “being built up as a spiritual house” focused on and held together by Jesus, the stone the builders rejected who became the cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-7)

The comforting gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to live uncomfortable lives for Him.

To be a follower of Christ is to join his journey of abandoning comfort and enduring suffering, a journey that is foolishness in the eyes of the world

On the other side of discomfort is delight in Christ.

Philippians 3:8 *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*