

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 30, 2019

“A Living Hope: Don’t Just Survive, Thrive!”

1 Peter 5:1-11

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Peter 1:3)

Peter’s doesn’t want the church to just _____, he wants it to _____, so that _____ can be known, worshiped, and obeyed throughout the world.

6 PRINCIPLES TO HELP US THRIVE

Principle #1: _____ matters.

“Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.” (1-4)

elder = *presbyteros* =

Christian leaders _____ the Lord Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd, and are therefore called to shepherd the _____ of God.

“Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.” (Acts 20:28)

Leaders must serve _____, eagerly, and as good _____ to the flock—not for their own gain, but for Christ’s _____.

exhort =

tend or feed = not just tell people what they want to hear, but to edify and _____ them with the deep truths of solid spiritual food.

They’re to exercise _____, and watch over the sheep, assessing their condition, as to how best to lead, _____, and feed them.

3 PITFALLS INHERIT IN SHEPHERDING

- Shepherding under _____, rather than as eager, willing servants who minister _____. Shepherds must be _____ rather than lazy; _____ motivated rather than forced to be faithful; and _____ about their privileged duty, rather than _____.

When the _____ is fully Christ’s and driven by _____ for Him and His people, there’s an internal _____ that precludes any need for external motivation.

- Sordid _____ speaks to the shameful _____ of money and power. True shepherds will eagerly rejoice at the _____ to serve, often at great personal _____.
- The temptation to _____ or sinfully _____ the sheep. Any kind of autocratic, oppressive, or intimidating leadership is a _____ of the overseer’s office, the standard set by Jesus.

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:25-28)

How would you describe the quality and character of leadership at LW?

Principle #2: _____ the leader.

“In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders.” (5a)

God has established an _____ structure in the home, church, workplace, government, and society in general; and Christians are to _____ to all in authority over them—especially in the _____.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

submit = *hypotasso* =

Peter calls everyone in the church to put aside self-promoting _____ and willingly and respectfully place themselves under the _____ of their shepherds.

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—for that would be harmful to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)

This call to submit rests partially on the belief that _____ comes from age. Great _____ is a mark of youth; however, tested wisdom is a mark of _____.

“You shall rise before the aged, and defer to the old; and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:32)

It’s not just those who are older in years, but also those who are older in the _____—those whose faith has been _____ and who have developed godly wisdom over the years. Life isn’t easy, and living the Christian life is even harder—that’s why _____ is so important.

What kind of follower are you?

Principle #3: Practice _____.

“And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time.” (5b-6)

clothe = egkoomai =

Humility is something we _____ ourselves in—something that covers everything we think, say, and do. It also describes the apron that a _____ wore in the first century.

The ability to humble ourselves comes from understanding of the _____ of God—that everything we are and everything we have comes from _____. Humility isn’t running yourself down, _____ your talents, or feeling embarrassed about your gifts, abilities or accomplishments—it’s using what we have for God’s _____ and not our own.

The fact that God is _____ to the proud is the greatest _____ for believers to adopt the attitude of humility.

We are not called to humble ourselves to blind _____, capricious circumstance, impersonal _____, or unseen chance, but to the gracious _____ of the God who loves us. We’re not enslaved by the circumstances of life because we are _____ by the hand behind the circumstances.

“mighty hand of God” = God’s sovereign _____ at work in and through the elders of the church, as well as in the _____ of His people. Whether for deliverance, _____, or correction, God’s might is always accomplishing His eternal _____ in and through us.

“For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)

**Are you going to be exalted or humbled?
What role does humility play in your life?**

Principle #4: Release _____.

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (7)

cast = epiipto =

By an act of the will, we’re to unload all our _____—a word that can include:

on the Lord because we can trust His _____, faithfulness, _____, and wisdom.

anxiety = merimna =

Anxiety produces a _____ mind and heart, which is pulled this way and that way, constantly _____ and disturbed.

What is troubling you this morning?

2 OBSERVATIONS ABOUT OUR TROUBLES

- None of the things are earth shattering in their _____, but rather the normal, ongoing _____ of life. However, _____ though they may be, they do have a _____ effect that can weigh heavily on the soul.

- We have no _____ to solve or change most of the things on our list, at least not _____. Some things will take care of themselves. Some involve God’s _____. And others are ongoing concerns that we need to _____ about daily

Either God _____ the worry or we do. If we do, we’ll be _____, distracted, disturbed, confused, frustrated and burdened. However, if God carries the load, we may still have trouble and difficulties, but consuming anxiety, dominating fear, undue concern, or hopeless despair will not _____ us. Sometimes the problem isn’t casting our burdens on the Lord, but taking our burdens _____.

We’re much more able to do this when we understand the reason: God _____

for us. This touches on a secret _____ we hardly ever talk about—that Jesus can't be _____ to take care of us; or that He doesn't have our best interests at heart.

What kind of God do I believe in?

God proved His _____ by sending his own Son to die for you. The issue was settled once and for all at the _____.

“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?” (Romans 8:31-32)

When we come to God, we don't have to _____ Him to hear us. We come to Him as His _____, trusting that He cares for us and will hear us.

What do you do with your cares and concerns?

Do you cast them onto the Lord or keep them to yourself?

Principle #5: Watch for the _____.

“Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.” (8-9)

This principle acts as a _____. We're to cast our cares on the Lord, but we're not to be _____. Satan desires to _____. He constantly seeks out our _____ points and _____ and where to attack.

TWO-FOLD STRATEGY FOR DEFEATING THE ENEMY

- _____. The only way we can resist the enemy is by standing firm in the _____. Since Satan is a liar and a _____, the only way we can stand up to him is by faithful obedience to biblical _____. This is a call to know and believe _____ doctrine; to be discerning in distinguishing truth from error; and to be willing to _____ the truth in the face of false teaching. The truth of Holy Scripture provides the firm _____ we need for resisting Satan's attacks.

We're no match for the enemy in our own _____, however, when we stand firm in the faith, we will not be _____.

- _____. When the heat's turned up, we need to remember that we're not _____. We need to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ

throughout the world who _____ daily for their faith; and who at this very moment, are standing firm in the face of attack—and we need to draw _____ from them.

“For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

Our battle is a _____ one and our only hope is constant _____ against the enemy.

How are you fighting this spiritual battle?

How well do you resist and remember?

Principle #6: Trust God for _____.

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.” (10-11)

We need to look beyond the present to the _____. We were made for _____.

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)

GOD'S 4 PROMISES

- _____ us: God will make up whatever you _____.
- Make _____: God will give you whatever you _____.
- _____: God will _____ that which is weak.
- _____: God will set you on a _____ foundation.

God does this because He is the God of all _____.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

And not only does He have the grace for our every need, He alone also has the _____ to supply it.

Do you trust that's God's grace is sufficient?

When you think about your life, are you surviving or are you thriving?

If I could summarize everything that Peter has said in this letter it would be: