

1 Peter 4:17 – 5:11

New American Standard Bible (NASB1995)

1 ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household
2 of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the
3 outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

4 ¹⁸ And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,
5 what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

6 ¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of
7 God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing
8 what is right.

9 ⁵ Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow
10 elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a
11 partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ²shepherd
12 the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not
13 under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of*
14 God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet
15 as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving
16 to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief
17 Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of
18 glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your
19 elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility
20 toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but
21 gives grace to the humble.

22 ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of
23 God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all
24 your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸ Be of
25 sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil,
26 prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to
27 devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that
28 the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished
29 by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰ After you have
30 suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called
31 you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect,
32 confirm, strengthen *and* establish you. ¹¹ To Him *be*
33 dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Read the passage through completely
before looking at these questions.**

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle the ways Peter describes himself.
- Box the tasks he gives to elders.
- Underline instructions to everyone else.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Why would Peter exhort elders at this point in his letter?
- Why would he list his “credentials” before addressing the elders?
- How would you summarize the general commands he gives as he reaches the end of his letter?
- What would it look like for God to “exalt” you? What might be the “proper time”?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What anxiety do you have right now? How do you “cast” that on God?
- How would resisting the devil be part of casting anxiety?
- Verse 10 sounds like a incentive. How do we make that incentive a practical reality to help us persevere through difficulties?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

Observation – *What does it say?* **Interpretation** – *What does it mean?* **Application** – *What does it mean for me?*

For additional thought and discussion:

“Be sober, self-controlled” (νήφω, nēphō; used six times in NT, three of them in 1 Peter)

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep **sober in spirit**, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1:13)*

*The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and **sober spirit** for the purpose of prayer. (4:7)*

*Be of **sober spirit**, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (5:8)*

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation **(What does it say?)**

*What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?*

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation **(What does it mean?)**

*What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?*

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application **(What does it mean for me?)**

*What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?*

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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