

## The Office and Work of Elders.

---

1 PETER v. 1.—The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder (Greek—*sumpresbuteros*), and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.

In defining his own status in the Church of God Peter says, I am an elder, I am a witness of the sufferings of Christ, I am a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed; but he does not say I am the Supreme Pontiff set over all the rest of the apostles—the infallible head of the church universal. No. That was a distinction which he never claimed and never enjoyed, but which was ascribed to him by the superstition of a later age.

He was content to take rank as an elder and a witness of the sufferings which he saw the Son of God pass through in his earthly career, in Gethsemane and on Calvary, when he put away sin by offering himself a sacrifice once for all, “and made reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

Peter was content to testify to these redemptive sufferings, and to be a partaker, along with the humblest of God's people, of the glory that shall be revealed when Christ shall appear to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe. Is not this enough, and infinitely better than all the pomp and honours falsely claimed by his pretended successors?

But my wish is to turn your attention specially to the first title claimed by Peter, that of an elder. We are met this morning to ordain additional elders in this church, and it is fitting that we should think about their office and work.