

1 Peter 2:19-25^{iv}

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? If you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

^{iv} **About the Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

The author recognizes that living our faith is often difficult since we continue to live in a world that does not acknowledge God's sovereignty. We are called to the patient endurance of unjust suffering, for that is the example given by Christ. But Christ's endurance of suffering is not only exemplary, it is redemptive. The fact and consequence of atonement are stated but not explained.

As God was called Shepherd in the Old Testament, so is Jesus. The language of shepherd and flock also became standard terminology for describing those ministering within the Church.