



EXILES - A Study Through 1st & 2nd Peter - Stand Firm and Be.

ADAM LONG

| Week of February 6th, 2022

SERMON TEXT // 1 Peter 5:8-14 English Standard Version

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. ¹³She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

SERMON OVERVIEW // In the concluding verses of Peter's first letter he warns the church: **Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.** We must be able to recognize the difference between a cheap imitation and the true Lion of the Tribe of Judah. (Revelation 5:5) And so, Peter closes this letter with the command to: **stand firm and be.**

SERMON GUIDE //

1. Stand firm and **be sober-minded** toward your adversary. (v.8)
2. Stand firm and **be watchful** for his attacks. (v.8)
3. Stand firm and **be resistant** against his advances. (v.9)
4. Stand firm and **be patient** in suffering. (vv.10-11)

SERMON CLOSING // Peter closes his letter by acknowledging two of Paul's former companions, Silas and John Mark, who had been instrumental in his own journey in writing and delivering this letter. He also restates the purpose for writing this entire letter: to exhort and declare **that this is the true grace of God**. And so, for anyone who has not trusted the Lord with their life because of the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross – everything in the pages of this letter is **the true grace of God** – this is the gospel of God's glory and of His love. And for the believer, Peter says: **stand firm in it.** Stand firm in the gospel of God's glory and love!



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COMMUNITY GROUPS | Week of February 6th, 2022

Question 1 // Read **1 Peter 5:8-14**. What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the text theme?

Question 2 // On Sunday, Adam quoted C.S. Lewis in his book *The Screwtape Letters* where Lewis says most people find themselves in two camps in regards to the devil. The first is in complete ignorance of his existence and the second is assuming the devil is around ever corner and behind every bad happening. **Where do you tend to land on the scale of believing the devil is "non-existent" and "ever present"? Why do you think that is the case for you personally? How do we all move toward a more balanced understanding of our adversary?**

Question 3 // Peter puts forth four major charges to his reader - both ancient and modern - in regards to standing firm in spiritual warfare: we must be sober-minded toward our adversary, watchful for his attacks, resistant against his advances, and patient in suffering. **Of these four charges which one presents the greatest area of growth in your own walk with the Lord?**

Question 4 // Let's close our time together in this text by celebrating the Lord's work in our lives. Peter says we are able to stand firm and be patient in suffering because **after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** (1 Peter 5:10) **Take a moment to share evidence of God's grace with our Community Group about a time you saw the Lord Himself restore you, confirm you, strengthen you, and/or establish you.**

Reflection & Prayer

Pray and ask the Lord to give us a sober-mind toward our adversary, a watchful eye for his attacks, a resistant heart against his advances, and unrelenting patience in times of suffering. Ask the Lord to help us stand firm and be all He has created us to be in Him.