

DON'T BE MISLED

Confronting Misconceptions, Lies, and Deceptions

SERMON COMPANION • MESSAGE ONE

Sermon by Pastor Anthony J. Shetley | Sunday, October 25, 2026

The Big Idea

Following Jesus does not make us immune to suffering. Scripture calls us to recognize trials without losing sight of the living hope, heavenly inheritance, and final salvation promised to believers in Christ.

Sermon Recap

1 Why truth matters

Misconceptions can weaken faith, lies can distort our understanding, and deception can lead us away from Christ. Jesus warns against being deceived. The devil is described as a liar, while Jesus identifies Himself as the way, the truth, and the life. Truth may confront us, but it also sets us free.

Read: John 8:32, 44; John 14:6; Matthew 24:4; Revelation 21:8.

2 The misconception: faith means freedom from suffering

A believer may wrongly assume that following Christ should prevent hardship. God is a good Father who saves, sustains, protects, and cares for His people; yet His care is not a promise that they will never experience grief or trials.

Read: 1 Peter 1:3–9, 13.

3 A living hope beyond the present

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, believers have been born again to a living hope. Our inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading—kept in heaven. God guards His people through faith for the salvation to be revealed at the last time. This future hope gives us reason to rejoice even while present trials grieve us.

Read: 1 Peter 1:3–9.

4 Trials are not strange—and they are not the end

Peter tells believers not to be surprised by fiery trials. We can continue rejoicing because suffering does not erase our identity in Christ or our promised future. Paul reminds us that present suffering cannot compare with the glory to be revealed.

Read: 1 Peter 4:12–13; Romans 8:16–18.

Key Truths to Remember

- Faith in Christ does not mean a life without difficulty.

- God's protection and provision remain real even in seasons of suffering.
- Our living hope reaches beyond what we can presently see.
- Trials can grieve us, but they need not rob us of eternal hope.
- The outcome of faith is the salvation of our souls (1 Peter 1:9).

Personal Reflection

1. Have I ever assumed that strong faith should prevent problems? How did that expectation affect me?

2. What is the difference between trusting God's protection and expecting a trouble-free life?

3. Which description of our heavenly inheritance in 1 Peter 1:4 encourages me most?

4. What present burden looks different when I consider Romans 8:18?

Study Through the Week

Monday | John 8:31–44

What does Jesus teach about truth and lies?

Tuesday | 1 Peter 1:3–5

What has God promised, and what is being kept for us?

Wednesday | 1 Peter 1:6–9

How can grief and rejoicing exist together?

Thursday | 1 Peter 4:12–13

Why should trials not surprise believers?

Friday | Romans 8:16–18

How does future glory reshape my view of today?

Weekend | 1 Peter 1:13

What does it mean to set my hope fully on God's grace?

A Prayer for the Week

Father, guard my heart from misconceptions and deception. Help me to trust Your Word when life is difficult. Keep my eyes fixed on the living hope I have through Jesus Christ, and teach me to rejoice in Your promises even through trials. Amen.

Keep reading: 1 Peter 1:3–13 • 1 Peter 4:12–13 • Romans 8:16–18