

*June 26, 2016*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“The tempter will make his first and sharpest attack on you... He has long practiced fighting...against the shepherds, that he might scatter the flock... Take heed then, for the enemy has a special eye on you. You are sure to have his most subtle insinuations, incessant solicitations and violent assaults.”

“Dangers bring fears, and fears more dangers bring.”

~Richard Baxter (1615-1691), English Puritan leader

“[Many Christians act] as if we still lived in a Christian culture, a Christian civilization, a society that reinforced the Gospel. No. The honeymoon is over...[but] the news has yet to sink in fully in many quarters.”

~Peter Kreeft, professor of philosophy at Boston College

“Now it is not sufficient for anyone, and it does him no good to recognize God in his glory and majesty, unless he recognizes him in the humility and shame of the cross.... [W]ithout a theology of the cross, man misuses the best things in the worst way.”

~Martin Luther (1483-1546), German reformer

“We are never so defenseless against suffering as when we love, never so forlornly unhappy as when we have lost our love-object or its love.”

~Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), founder of psychoanalysis

“The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

~C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

“Faith indeed tells what the senses do not tell, but not the contrary of what they see. It is above them and not contrary to them.”

~Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician and philosopher

“Unbelief is the root of all sins, just as faith is the origin and root of uprightness.”

~Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “Peter’s Faith Purified and Protected” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGES** – *Luke 22, 1 Peter 1, & John 21 (NASB)*

*Luke 22*

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> But he said to Him, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” <sup>34</sup> And He said, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me.”

<sup>54</sup> Having arrested [Jesus], [the crowd] led Him away and brought Him to the house of the high priest; but Peter was following at a distance. <sup>55</sup> After they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter was sitting among them. <sup>56</sup> And a servant-girl, seeing him as he sat in the firelight and looking intently at him, said, “This man was with Him too.” <sup>57</sup> But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know Him.” <sup>58</sup> A little later, another saw him and said, “You are one of them too!” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” <sup>59</sup> After about an hour had passed, another man began to insist, saying, “Certainly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean too.” <sup>60</sup> But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.

*1 Peter 1*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

*John 21*

<sup>15</sup> ...Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend My lambs.” <sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Tend My sheep.