

Living Hope – 1 Peter – Week 14 – 1 Peter 5:8-14

1 Peter 5:8-14: *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

INTRO to Series—*Living Hope: 1 Peter*: As we begin this year with many challenges and uncertainties, it feels like we are entering troubled waters. Thankfully, the letter of 1 Peter reminds us that there is One who is trustworthy and in whom we can anchor our lives: Jesus Christ—our Living Hope. Written during a time of persecution and hardship for the Church, 1 Peter continually reminds us that our true identity is in Christ. When we walk in His steps, we can be a light to those around us and good citizens in whichever communities we are planted—while remembering that above all our true and highest citizenship is in His Kingdom.

INTRO to **1 Peter 5:8-14**: In Peter's last words of the letter, he encourages the Church once again to be on their guard, to stand firm in faith, and to remember that God's grace wins in the end.

• **Be on your guard and resist the enemy. (vs. 8-9)**

1.) See what is happening in the world through your spiritual eyes – *Be alert and of sober mind.* (See also **1 Thessalonians 5:5-6** below).

2.) You have only one true enemy – *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

3.) Your enemy has already been defeated, so he can be resisted – *Resist him, standing firm in the faith*

4.) You are not alone in the fight – *because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

• **Standing Firm in the Faith (vs. 10-11)**

1.) God-Given Salvation: *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ*

2.) Spiritual Endurance: *after you have suffered a little while*

3.) Christ's Faithfulness: *will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

a. Restore you

-Like rebuilding after a destructive storm

b. Make you strong

-Stability amid future storms

c. Make you firm in your foundations

-Fortify you with foundations that run deep

d. Make you steadfast

-Stand the test of time and not be shaken

-Doxology #3 in the letter – **vs. 11:** *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

• **Closing Remarks (vs. 12-14)**

-vs. 12-13: *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.*

a. Silas: Paul's missionary companion and key leader in Early Church now serving alongside Peter

b. She who is in Babylon: probably not a specific woman but actually the Church in Rome itself (herself) – Babylon = exile!. This is where Peter is writing from and ultimately where he will die.

c. Mark: John Mark who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, was either Barnabas' cousin or nephew, and wrote the Gospel of Mark.

-Key closing words of 1 Peter: . . . *this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.*

-vs. 14: *Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

Other Scriptures Referenced:

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6: *You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.*

James 4:6-10: *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

Ephesians 5:15-16: *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

Other Quotes/Resources:

-Hope means "living in light of and for the future." –Scot McKnight

-Ignatius of Antioch, when he heard the clock strike, would say, "Now I have another hour to answer for." (see **Ephesians 5:15-16** above).