

## **HOPEFUL**

*First Peter: Standing firm in the hope and encouragement of the grace of God.*

*Lesson title: Stand Firm*

### Introduction

- A. Observation of growth and danger of the visible Church.
- B. Drifting (Hebrews 2:1).
- C. Peter ends his letter with a simple yet stirring exhortation: Stand firm! 1 Peter 5:12-14

### **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

- A. ***“By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you.”*** (12)
  - 1. What that means?
  - 2. That may seem obvious, but it offers us unique encouragement.
- B. ***“She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings.”*** (13)
  - 1. The interpretation falls into two categories: Peter could be referring to “woman” in a figurative sense or he uses the word literally.
  - 2. **“Mark”**, is not his son, but the author of the Book that bears his name.
- C. Finally, he instructs us to ***“greet one another with the kiss of love”***, which was a culturally appropriate greeting indicating the family relationship of the church.

### **THE DNA OF TRUE GRACE**

- A. ***The gospel of substitutional glory.***

1. 1 Peter 1:35 ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being kept through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”***
  2. Then in chapter 2:6 he tells us ***“God has laid in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”***
  3. In 3:18 he says, ***“...Christ has suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”***
- B. We claim this hope by (1) focusing on the Lord in 1:2, 7, 11, 13, 18-20. (2) by trusting in His Word in 1:23-2:2.
- C. We live in a world that is not our home. We live this pilgrim life by submission. We flesh this out in daily life, however, ultimately, we are submitted to human authority but to divine authority (2:13-14).
- D. Peter was an eyewitness to all this! This is not secondhand but authentic **Apostolic Gospel**.
- E. **Our part** in all this is to **cooperate** with God by **trusting Him** (4:19), by **submitting** to the leadership of the church (5:5), and by **exercising faith** and **standing firm** and **resisting** the onslaught of the devil (5:9).

## **MAKING OUR STAND**

- A. **Live in light of the living hope**.
1. The hope we have is deep, rich and alive.
  2. ***“Therefore, preparing you mind for action, and being sober minded, set your hope on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:13).”***

3. We stand firm in grace by **setting our hope** fully on this hope of his grace.

4. Put your hope, all of it, on Jesus Christ.

**B. Accept no neutrality (1:14-19).**

1. The grace that bought you, bought you – total you.

2. There is nothing about us that Jesus did not buy.

3. So, we need to eliminate all concept of **“no-man’s-land”**.

**C. Refuse to tamper with God’s grace.**

1. The human impulse to divine grace is to try to find a way to make something in it count on us.

2. Be tenacious in refusing to add anything to God’s grace.

3. So, what do we do when we sin? ***Run, don’t walk***, to the throne of God!

4. Be people who drink deeply from the knowledge of God’s grace and stand firm.

## Conclusion

1. When our faith is weak, joy strengthens us (1:6-8).

2. When our good is mistreated, endurance stabilizes us (2:19-20).

3. When our confidence is shaken, love supports us (4:8).

4. When our adversary attacks us, resistance shields us (5:8-9).

