

**"The Conclusion"**

**1 Peter 5:12-14**

**Introduction:** Tonight we have come to the end of our study of 1 Peter. We have the last three verses to consider this evening. It would be easy to skip over these and move on to something else, but they are here for a reason, so we need to examine these last few verses.

**I. The Theme**

There is one one major focus in the conclusion of this letter, and it is also the theme for the entire letter.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:12**

Before we get into the theme, I want us to consider the man whose name is Silvanus. Most people believe that this is Silas who is mentioned elsewhere in the Scriptures. Peter tells us that he is a faithful brother to those he was writing to. I want to raise a question here, "What does a faithful man's life look like?" We can see the answer in the life of Silas.

**1. He was a trusted leader.**

**Acts 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> *Then pleased it the apostles and elders with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas and Silas, chief men among the brethren:*

**2. He was a teacher.**

**Acts 15:**

<sup>32</sup> *And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.*

**3. He had a burden for people.**

**Acts 15:33-34**

<sup>33</sup> *And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.*

<sup>34</sup> *Notwithstanding it pleased Silas to abide there still.*

**4. He had an outstanding reputation.**

**Acts 15:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.*

<sup>37</sup> *And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.*

<sup>38</sup> *But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

<sup>39</sup> *And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;*

<sup>40</sup> *And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.*

**5. He suffered patiently.**

**Acts 16:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> *And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:*

<sup>24</sup> *Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

<sup>25</sup> *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

**Application:**

These are just five points from the life of a faithful brother. Everyone of these should be true of our lives also. We should all be leaders in the sense that we set the example for others to follow. This could be people at work or your children and grandchildren at home. We should all be teachers if not in word, then certainly in our conduct. We should all have a burden for people to know Jesus Christ and then to grow in their faith. We certainly should have outstanding reputations that compliment the fact that we are children of God. Last of all we should all suffer patiently if we must walk the path of suffering. There should be no bitterness or murmuring that comes from our lives. We should remember as we have studied in Acts that God uses our suffering for His glory just as He did the lame man in Acts 3.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:12a again.**

It is believed that Peter dictated this letter to Silvanus and then Peter wrote the conclusion with his own hand. Either way, Silvanus was a faithful brother to many who knew the Lord and it was God who inspired Peter to pen these words which means this is forever recorded in heaven concerning his faithfulness. That alone tells us how important faithfulness is to our Lord.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:12 again.**

Here we shall see the theme.

I want to look at the TRUE GRACE OF GOD and the word "this." Peter tells his readers that "this" is the true grace of God but what does "this" refer to? It refers to this letter that he has just finished and the grace that was given to man through Jesus Christ to be able to face the trials and difficulties of this life.

**1 Peter 1:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:*

<sup>11</sup> *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*

<sup>12</sup> *Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

The people whom Peter wrote to were partakers of the true grace of God in their lives. It was a grace that the Old Testament prophets searched for and prophesied of did not experience in the earthly lives. But these believers whom Peter was writing to were living it. Grace is unmerited favor. It is receiving that which we do not deserve. These believers as well as you and I experience a grace that the Old Testament saints did not experience. Under the New Covenant our sins are completely taken away from our account. Our sin debt is paid in full. The Old Testament saints did not have this.

**Hebrews 10:4**

<sup>4</sup> *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

Their sins were not paid for and removed until Jesus Christ died on the cross. They could not come to the throne of grace as we do because sin was still on their account. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year. Under the old economy the saints were not made perfect. Neither did the Old Testament saints have a clear conscience.

**Hebrews 9:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:*

<sup>9</sup> *Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience:*

But Peter's consideration of the true grace of God goes even further than this. Peter's entire letter deals with the true grace of God. It is in Peter's letter that we learned that it is grace that teaches us to walk in the Truth while suffering, it is grace that teaches us to submit to authority, it is grace that teaches us to be model citizens, model employees, and model families. This is the TRUE GRACE of God.

**Notice 1 Peter 5:12 again.**

I want you to notice that we are to stand in this grace. The idea in this verse is that we are to stand in this true grace. To stand has the idea of have a fixed resolve. It means that we are to be steadfast. We are told 6 times in the New Testament to "STAND FAST". Paul tells us in Ephesians we are to stand against the enemy. Standing then gives the idea of a solid base. Here in Peter's letter he tells his readers that they are standing in the true grace of God and that was where they needed to remain. The opposite of standing would be to fall. So Peter's idea in this letter is that we are to remaining standing in the grace of God instead of falling to sin under the pressure of suffering. Let us notice what can happen if we are not careful.

**Psalm 73:1-9**

*Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.*

<sup>2</sup> *But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.*

<sup>3</sup> *For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

<sup>4</sup> *For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.*

<sup>5</sup> *They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.*

<sup>6</sup> *Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.*

<sup>7</sup> *Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.*

<sup>8</sup> *They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.*

<sup>9</sup> *They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.*

The feet of the Psalmist were starting to slip because he became consumed with the evil in his day. This person was a spiritual leader, and he was slipping. This is exactly what we must guard against. We stand in the true grace of God, and we must allow it to instruct us as we face the trials of life.

How do we remain standing in the grace of God? We must put away sin and we must rest in the promises that God gives to His church. Let us notice how the Psalmist regained his footing.

**Psalm 73:17-19, 22-28**

<sup>17</sup> *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.*

<sup>18</sup> *Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.*

<sup>19</sup> *How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.*

<sup>22</sup> *So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.*

<sup>23</sup> *Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.*

<sup>24</sup> *Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*

<sup>25</sup> *Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

<sup>26</sup> *My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

<sup>27</sup> *For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.*

<sup>28</sup> But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

## II. Standing Together

### Notice 1 Peter 5:13-14

We need to notice how close Peter is with the other believers. He refers to Silvanus as a brother and Marcus as his son. These are intimate terms. Peter had surrounded himself with faithful believers because he knew that he needed a support structure around him. Without that he would have really struggled.

#### Application:

Our fellowship with other believers is vitally important and especially when we are facing the trials of life. It is the desire of the enemy to separate us from our support structure.

Let me refresh your memory concerning the Jews of Daniel's day.

### Daniel 1:1, 3-5, 8

*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.*

<sup>3</sup> *And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;*

<sup>4</sup> *Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.*

<sup>8</sup> *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

#### Conclusion:

Peter learned to surround himself with good support. Remember when he denied the Lord? He was separated from the other disciples, and he fell. We need one another, and we must have the very resolve that Daniel had.