

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*  
Class Notes  
Session 30

**1 Peter 5.6-11** Peter’s “practical instructions” to the church are to be “sober-minded” ... νήφω (*nēphō*): “Clear headed” ...and... “Watchful” ... γρηγορέω (*grēgoreō*): “To stay awake” (Peter’s past?)

“The opposite of this sober watchfulness is a kind of spiritual drowsiness in which one sees and responds to situations no differently than unbelievers, and God’s perspective on each event is seldom if ever considered.”<sup>1</sup>

**(v.9):** Peter continues his warnings and encouragement for believers when it comes to the nature of spiritual warfare. Christians must *resist* the devil.

We resist the devil the way Jesus did...with the Word of God! To resist the devil...

“...means that we take our stand on the Word of God and refuse to be moved. Ephesians 6:10–13 Instructs us to “stand ... withstand ... stand.” Unless we stand, we cannot withstand. Our weapons are the Word of God and prayer (Eph. 6:17–18) and our protection is the complete armor God has provided. We resist him “in the faith,” that is, our faith in God. Just as David took his stand against Goliath, and trusted in the name of Jehovah, so we take our stand against Satan in the victorious name of Jesus Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

And...believers must remember that Christians have gone through...and will go through...spiritual battles because we belong to Jesus!

**(v.10):** Peter reminds the church about God’s promise of vindication and how their suffering was not without purpose, nor would it last forever.

From God’s eternal perspective...this earthly life is brief.

Peter uses four verbs...built upon one another...to assure believers that their lives are in God’s hands and their salvation is secure in Christ!

*2 Corinthians 4.17*

**(v.11):** A summary of all that has been said in the form of a benediction and doxology.

Our hope is based on the dominion of almighty God, who lives forever and ever!

God is stronger than the devil, and faithful to His people!

The final word...“Amen” ... ἀμήν (*amēn*): “Truly” “So be it!” (A declaration of assurance!)

**1 Peter 5.12-14** As we come to the end of 1 Peter, verse 12 truly is a summary of the entire letter.

As Peter concludes his letter, he reminds the church (us) about God’s promise of vindication and how their suffering was not without purpose, nor would it last forever.

Peter wrote the letter to encourage and exhort believers to trust in and testify to, God’s grace.

Even though the church encounters persecution and even suffering, believers must remain faithful in the grace God has given them and resist falling away, becoming faithless.

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<sup>1</sup> W.A. Grudem. *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (InterVarsity Press, 1988).

<sup>2</sup> W.W. Wiersbe. *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1988).

The letter closes with a reference to a man named Silas...His Greek name is Silvanus.

Silas is the likely carrier of this letter and mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament, likely an associate of the Apostle Paul.

*Acts 15.11, 27, 32*

Peter states his purpose clearly and succinctly: He exhorts Christians to stand firm in the “true grace of God.”

*Hebrews 13.22*

“Now is not the time to give up, but rather the time to stand fast in faith (as they have been exhorted to stand against the devil, 5:9) and hold on to what they already have, that is, God’s grace. This is the major purpose toward which the whole letter is directed.”<sup>3</sup>

**(v.13):** Likely, the “she” in *v.13* refers to the church...The Greek word translated, “Church” is a feminine noun... *ekklesia*... “To call out” (To assemble)

What is the *Babylon* reference?

“According to historical evidence, Peter was in Rome during the final years of his life. “Babylon” here might be a disguised reference to Rome, used in order to protect both the Roman church and Peter from the Neronian persecution. (Others suggest, however, that he wrote from the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River.)”<sup>4</sup>

Mark is mentioned as well...This is John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas and the writer of the Gospel of Mark.

The “kiss of love” or “kiss of peace” was a common sign of fellowship and Christian love.

*Romans 16.16... 1 Corinthians 16.20.*

It may also have been a common practice among Jesus and his disciples...*Luke 22.48.*

Peter closes his letter the way he opened it...encouraging believers to pray for peace in the midst of the persecutions, sufferings, and trials (*1 Peter 1.2*).

This peace is given to those who are *in Christ* who is the “Prince of Peace!”

“Peter encourages these persecuted Christians to stand firm in the one thing that is truly trustworthy: God’s grace in Christ. Jesus suffered for us at the hands of evil men. Yet He trusted in His Father with unswerving faith. Whatever trials or difficulties we may face, we can likewise rely on the true grace of God and on the bond of love in our Christian family. Through Jesus, we truly have peace.”<sup>5</sup>

### Going Forward:

- As our “chief Shepherd,” Jesus tells us to be ready when He appears. How are you preparing for Jesus’ arrival in your life (*5.4*)?
- “Remember that as you endure suffering, your faith is being refined as with fire. Value your faith more than gold. Look toward the coming of Jesus, so that your faith, having been tested, will result in praise, honor, and glory to Jesus.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> P.H. Davids. *The First Epistle of Peter* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1990).

<sup>4</sup> J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985).

<sup>5</sup> *Lutheran Study Bible* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2009).

<sup>6</sup> *NKJV Spirit-Filled Life Bible*. Jack W. Hayford, Ed. (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2018).