

# A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

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## BIBLE TEXT | 1 PETER 5:10-14

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**10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. **11** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**12** By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. **13** She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. **14** Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR 1 PETER 5:10-14

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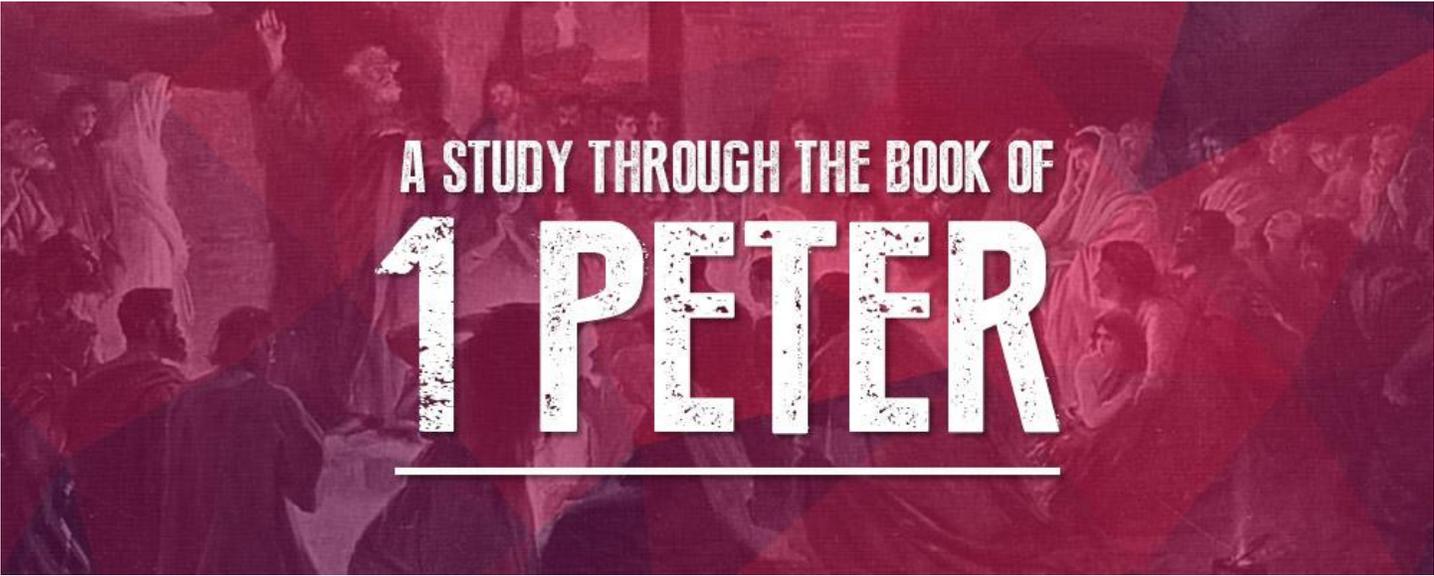
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I really like the way the NIV translates verse 10: “*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ...will...restore you and make you strong.*” I could set a melody to that and make it the chorus of a nice worship song. People in churches all over the world would raise their hands and proclaim that truth, and feel really good about themselves and our God. I might even make some money on the royalties if it got big.

Unfortunately, for me as a songwriter, my bank account, and our vocal cords, that’s not *everything* that Peter says in that verse.

Oh, yeah...‘suffering.’ Suffering, even for ‘a little while’ doesn’t sound too great, does it? Even though the Book of James (James 1:3) tells us that the testing of our faith is a healthy thing for us spiritually, nobody wants to sing about that.

Here we are, in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, for the most part stuck inside our houses—‘suffering’ in a distinctly American, 21st Century sort of way, with conditioned air, running water, cupboards and freezers full of food, and for some reason, dozens of rolls of toilet paper—knowing very little of the horrible persecution that those early Christians were facing as Brandon described in the first lesson of this study. But it’s an accurate way to look at our



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current situation, sequestered, unable to meet together as a church, except through technology that may, or may not work the way it's supposed to at any given moment.

Look, we don't know what the world is going to be like when this thing is over. But it will be over at some point. God is in control, and nothing, not a Coronavirus pandemic, or the next thing that's lurking around the corner, will keep His word from going forth and coming true. (Isaiah 55:11) It didn't when they were persecuted by Nero back then, it didn't during the horrific plagues of the Middle Ages, and it won't now.

We've read the ending of the book, remember? And we know how it all turns out, with Him on His throne, being glorified as He should be, and us singing praises and glorifying Him forever. (Revelation 4:8-11)

I want to remind you of something Claressa wrote about early on in our study of 1 Peter where Francis Chan uses the illustration of a rope, reaching from his hand all the way across the stage until it disappears, seeming going on forever. That rope represents our lives as believers. There's a small section, two inches or so, that's painted a bright red color. That's our time on earth. It's 75 or 80 years...more for some, less for others, but nevertheless, it's just a tiny, tiny part of the timeline of eternity.

Our present afflictions, even if they turn catastrophic, are just a few frayed threads in that small, small section of rope, not even noticeable to the first few rows of seats. And that's the view of life in the timeline of eternity we should have as believers (Psalm 39:5), enduring whatever hardship comes our way (2 Timothy 4:5), but holding firm to the hope that we have in Christ that unfathomable joys await us in the life to come, forever united with Him (Matthew 5:12.)

Persevere, church. Hold onto your hope, take this time to renew your love affair with your heavenly Father and his word, and encourage others to do the same.

## Questions:

1. Who can you call and have a gospel conversation with today? Are you prepared to share your story with them, and if not, what can you do to *get* prepared?
2. If you have extra time on your hands, are you using it wisely, in a way that glorifies God? Find a good Bible reading plan online, read a book, and get someone to hold you accountable for the way you're using the time you've been given.