

Refuge City Church — March 14, 2021 “Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 5)

Introduction

- As we conclude our study of 1 Peter, let's review the 'highlights'
 - The hope of our salvation and call to pursue holiness.
 - The hope of our calling and purpose as members of God's family and His Church.
 - The hope of a peace-filled life in submission to authority, in government, work, and the home in marriage.
 - The hope we have to endure hardship & suffering.
 - The hope of a sinless life and our association with the mighty name of Jesus!
- **TODAY:** Hope for the Church in these last days.

Scripture Reading (1 Peter 5)

Verses 1-5

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. **5** Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders... Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- Peter dedicates some time to exhorting/encouraging elders that oversee the church.
 - Let's recall why he does this, because he was given similar encouragement by his Pastor/Elder/Shepherd, Jesus.
 - **John 21:15-17**, “When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”
 - Although imperfect, Jesus restores Peter 3 times, and commits him to ministry. **[appropriately and symbolically the same number of times Peter denied Jesus]**.
- Jesus and Peter both use the imagery of 'shepherding'.
 - All sheep, young or old, belong to God **[“flock of God”, “my lambs/my sheep”]**.
 - This is why I'm very careful not to proclaim Refuge City “my church”, or you as “my people”.
 - Our purpose as Elders/Shepherds
 - Oversight: “tend” and “feed”

- To spiritually provide instruction in the Word of God, care, guide, and protect as we ‘graze’ through life together.
- We are to do all this willingly **[obediently]**, not by force. Nor do we do it for lavish/greedy living.
 - **EXAMPLE:** Finances/Ministry-living vs. Education/Degree-six figure living.
- We are to be examples
 - **1 Corinthians 11:1**, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
 - **Philippians 3:17**, “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.”
 - **Titus 2:7**, “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,”
 - Not as a perfect example, but one who strives to be more and more like Christ in all I do!
- This is why Peter would refer to Jesus as the ‘Chief Shepherd’.
- Younger generation: Submission. Listen. Watch. Learn. Grow.
 - **Ephesians 6:1**, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
 - **1 Timothy 4:12**, “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”
- For everyone: HUMILITY!

Verses 6-11

- 5** Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- 6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **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.
- “Humble yourselves”: Why? Because pride leads to destruction.
 - Pride says, “I don’t need help.” “I can do this on my own.” “I have all the knowledge I need to get through this life.”
 - **Proverbs 11:2**, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”
 - **Proverbs 16:18**, “Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.”
 - **Proverbs 29:23**, “One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.”
 - Humility is dependence on someone else; because that individual knows better than you do.
 - **EXAMPLE:** We entrust our care/health/healing to physicians.
 - A doctor/surgeon, sometimes, has to ‘hurt you’ in order to heal you **[surgery, reset a dislocated bone, amputate, etc.]**

- Peter makes it very clear, as does the ENTIRETY of Scripture = **God cares for us!**
 - **Psalm 37:5**, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.”
 - **Psalm 55:22**, “Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”
 - **Psalm 40:17**, “As for me, since I am poor and needy, let the Lord keep me in his thoughts. You are my helper and my savior. O my God, do not delay.”
 - **Matthew 6:25-27**, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”
 - Someone once said, “Anxiety is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but you don’t get very far.” **[Proverbs 3:5-6]**
- **RECALL: 1 Peter 4:7**, “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”
- **[Verses 8 & 9]** Peter now provides us a warning.

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

 - Lions are not loud, obnoxious animals. They’re sleek, quiet, cunning, and relatively calm just before they pounce and kill.
- How do you resist? Peter already told ya!
 - Humble yourself. Give everything over to God. Understand and believe HE caress for you. Be calm. Be vigilant, alert, and firm in your faith!
 - **Ephesians 6:13-14**, “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,”
 - **EXAMPLE:** Who was responsible for Daniel’s safety in the lion’s den?
 - Because Daniel stood firm in his faith and dependency on God, God sent His angel to shut the mouth of the lions.
- **James 4:6-8, 10**, “But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”
 - **What is grace?** = The unmerited/undeserved favor of God, and the ability to do what He calls you to do. **[garden hose example]**
 - **Proverbs 11:2**, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”
- **Verse 11:** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

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.**

- If all else falls flat in what we've discussed regarding a hope-filled life, Peter concludes by encouraging us to understand it's all established on God's grace... stand firm in it!

Response/Prayer

1. What does it mean to you, practically, to cast your anxieties on God? What do you need to do, get rid of, to make this a daily habit?
2. What specific worries are you carrying, instead of handing them over to God?