

FULL ^{OF} HOPE, FAR ^{FROM} HOME

Study in 1 Peter

Sermon Title: *“Standing Firm in the Grace of God”*

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:12-14

Pastor for Preaching & Worship, Chris Fritz / Sunday, August 21, 2022

I. MEANS... PURPOSE... GOAL... BLESSING...

A. THE MEANS: This letter comes to us **BY** inspiration of the Holy Spirit, **THROUGH** the Apostle Peter, **USING** a secretary (a faithful brother!) named Silvanus.

*“...men spoke from God as they were **CARRIED ALONG** by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21b)*

Note: Silvanus was not only Peter’s secretary but he was also, most likely, the one who would actually deliver this letter to the original readers. Peter wanted his readers to know and trust this messenger, **AND** Peter wanted to commend and highlight God’s work in this faithful brother!

“By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written BRIEFLY to you...” (1 Peter 5:12a)

B. THE PURPOSE: The Holy Spirit intends for us to know the **TRUE GRACE** of God, that is God’s favor, God’s riches, God’s work, God’s goodness towards wrath-deserving people.

Question #1 - What does Peter mean by “this”? Peter writes *“THIS is the true grace of God”*. What is the “this” referring to? What does Peter have in mind?

Question #2 - What does Peter mean by *“the true grace of God”*? Is this as opposed to the false grace of God? What is Peter wanting us to see and consider here?

Note: When Peter writes *“THIS is the true grace of God”* he is referring to **ALL** (to everything!) that he has *“written briefly”* about to his readers.

Note: When Peter writes *“that this is the TRUE GRACE of God”* he is subtly pleading with his readers not to accept any counterfeit definitions or descriptions of God’s grace!

C. THE GOAL: We can (we should!) STAND FIRM in this grace! Don't "graduate on" to something bigger or better; don't shift the focus of your hope to anything or anyone else. Anchor your life in the Person and grace of Jesus!

D. THE BLESSINGS: The blessings of God's grace include genuine love and fellowship with other believers, restoration and acceptance (even after we've blown it), a continual "welcoming", and peace (peace with God and peace in the family of God).

Note: Peter is encouraging the believers to show their love and mutual care for one another!

Note: In Christ (because of Jesus), we are at peace with God; that peace should "spill over" into our friendships and relationships, especially in the Body of Christ!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Who was Silvanus? Why does Peter bother to introduce and describe him?
2. What is Peter referring to in verse 12 when he states that, "*THIS is the true grace of God*"?
3. What are we told to do in response to the "true grace of God"? How do you do this?
4. Who was Mark? Why do you think Peter mentions him?
5. What does "the kiss of love" represent? Why must we "greet one another" in this way?