

4 WAYS TO RESTORE HOPE IN THE CHURCH

For the week of November 15, 2020

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1 Peter 5:1-14

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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 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.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 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. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

MESSAGE POINTS

Hope is Experienced in Hardship when it is...

1. Fulfill Your Role in the Church
2. Model Humility in the Church
3. Maintain a Good Witness for the Church
4. Remain Faithful to the Church

THE GOAL

To find hope in the church by being part of the solution

GET GOING

- What is the purpose and significance of the church?
- The word for 'sober minded' in vs. 8 means free from distraction. What are your biggest distractions in life?
- Look at verses 2-3. What is the primary function of elders in the church? Why is this important?
- Why is service so crucial in our personal faith and the growth of the church?
- How has God humbled you? How have you sought to humble yourself?
- Look at verse 7. What cares do you need to cast before the Lord?
- Look at verses 8-10. Why and how does the enemy seek to destroy the witness of the church?

KEEP GROWING

Turn to Ephesians 2:11-16

- What does this passage reveal about the purpose of the church?
- How has God uniquely gifted you to help "build up the body of Christ"?
- Define spiritual maturity. How does this passage inform your understanding?
- Look at vs. 15. Why is speaking the truth in love so important in the church?
- Why do you think that Paul uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church?

GET GROUNDED

- Look at verse 9. Where are you failing to resist the enemy and stand firm in your faith?
- What causes your witness for Christ to be silenced?
- Take a minute to discuss how you can hold one another accountable and encourage each other throughout the week.
- Where is the enemy seeking to devour you? Take some time to pray.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world." - 1 Peter 5:8-9