

I Peter 5:12-13 and Summary of I Peter

I. Exposition

A. Stand firm in the true grace of God (vs 12)

1. Exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God
 - a. This is an affirmative statement
 - i. Peter calls us to ponder the truth of this book
 - ii. This isn't merely a man's ponderings about things
 - iii. The contents of this book are the true grace of God
 - iv. If that is true, how should we react to this book? We'll consider that in just a minute.
 - b. This is an exclusive statement
 - i. Not only does Peter affirm that the teaching of this book are true, by this statement he excludes teachings that are not in line with this book
 - ii. Health and wealth gospels of all sorts, and there are many sorts of health and wealth gospels, are excluded because according to Peter Christians ought not to be surprised by suffering and they ought to suffer well as a testimony to the gospel
 - iii. Cheap atonement gospels of all sorts are excluded because according to Peter the price for our ransom was the precious blood of Christ that was given to make us righteous
 - iv. Cheap grace gospels of all sorts are excluded because according to Peter our salvation must make us righteous
 - v. THIS is the true grace of God, pay attention to this!
2. Stand firm in it
 - a. Standing firm in the faith is something we are called to throughout Scripture
 - i. Ephesians 6:10-18 - *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you **may be able to stand** against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 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, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.*
 - ii. Exodus 14:13-14 - *And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, **stand firm**, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."*
 - iii. I Corinthians 15:1-2 - *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you **stand**, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain.*
 - iv. I Corinthians 10:12 - *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he **stands** take heed lest he fall.*
 - b. What does it mean to stand firm?
 - i. Ephesians 6 - standing firm is actively fighting against the schemes of the devil
 - ii. Exodus 14 - standing firm is trusting the promises of God without wavering
 - iii. I Corinthians 15 - standing firm is holding fast to the gospel
 - iv. So, standing firm means we hold fast to the truth by actively living it out in our lives
 - c. Peter calls them to live according to the truths of this letter
 - i. We've heard a lot of great teaching from Peter as we've gone through this letter
 - ii. But having heard great teaching is not enough
 - iii. We must first grasp a hold of these truths for ourselves - making sure we understand them and believe them
 - iv. Then we must live them out in our lives
 - v. So Peter exhorts and declares that this is the true grace of God - Stand Firm In It!

B. Be at unity with all true churches (vs 13)

1. This is a topic he's already touched on briefly in chapter 5
 - a. I Peter 5:9 - *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*
2. The unity of the universal church is taught several times in Scripture
 - a. Ephesians 2:16 - *and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*
 - b. Ephesians 4:4-6 - *There is one body and one Spirit---just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call---one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*
 - c. Colossians 3:15 - *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.*
 - d. Romans 16:16 - *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.*
 - e. II Corinthians 13:13 - *All the saints greet you.*
3. So, Peter closes his letter by reminding them of their brotherhood throughout the world
 - a. They aren't alone in persecution
 - b. They aren't alone in fighting against sin
 - c. They aren't alone in following after Christ
4. This is both an encouragement and an exhortation
 - a. They aren't alone - they should draw encouragement from this
 - b. Since they are part of the universal church, they should also be exhorted to care about their brethren throughout the world
5. So, as we close this book, we shouldn't only be considering our own minor persecutions that we face
 - a. I think we can all agree that we experience a relatively small amount of persecution here in the U.S. - not none, but minimal
 - b. But in many places, our brotherhood throughout the world is experiencing persecution
 - c. This ought to be on our heart - it ought to prompt us to earnest prayer for our persecuted brethren - it ought to prompt us to acts of mercy to them when the opportunity arises
 - d. How can you care for your brethren throughout the world?

C. Be at unity within the local church (vs 14)

1. What does it mean to greet one another with the kiss of love?
 - a. This concept is found several times in the New Testament
 - i. Romans 16:16 - *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.*
 - ii. I Corinthians 16:20 - *All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.*
 - iii. II Corinthians 13:12 - *Greet one another with a holy kiss.*
 - iv. I Thessalonians 5:26 - *Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.*
 - b. As we look at all five instances, they are all found at the end of a letter
 - i. These are never found as didactic commands
 - ii. They are salutations - a desire for them to greet one another to be in loving unity with one another
 - iii. The emphasis is on the greeting, not the kiss - the kiss was a symbol of peace and brotherly love
2. So, at the end of his letter, Peter doesn't only call them to ponder their unity with the universal church, but also to affect their unity within the local church
 - a. This is something we have considered throughout the letter
 - b. The local church, our brothers and sisters, are extremely important to us, especially during times of persecution
 - c. We ought to be encouraging unity and peace within our church

II. Overview

Premise: In the face of persecution we must return to the fundamentals of the gospel to remind ourselves of the significance of our salvation and the purpose of our salvation, which is to glorify Christ. Once we understand the significance and purpose of our salvation, we will be ready to understand how both the suffering of Christ and our suffering is leading to our ultimate glorification. Then we will be able to bear up under it in a way that brings glory to God.

Short Premise: The magnificence of salvation and the example of Christ enables the suffering Christian to proclaim the excellencies of Christ.

1. **Introduction: Exiles of the Dispersion. (1:1-2)**

2. The Fundamentals of Salvation: Why is Peter bothering to write? (1:3-2:12)

- a. **Blessing or Persecution: Which is more fundamental? (1:3-12)**
- b. **Set Your Hope on this Great Salvation (1:13-2:3)**
- c. **A Precious Stone and a Chosen People: What is the end and purpose of salvation? (2:4-12)**

-Transition from 2 to 3, the purpose of salvation is to proclaim the excellencies of Christ (2:9)-

3. Proclaiming His Excellencies: How are we to proclaim to the persecutor? (2:13-3:17)

- a. **Willing Submission to Worldly Authorities: How do we demonstrate our translation from their kingdoms into Christ's kingdom? (2:13-25)**
- b. **Christ Honoring Relationships between Husbands and Wives: How do we demonstrate to our spouses and to the world the significance of life in Christ? (3:1-7)**
- c. **Righteously Responding to Suffering: How do we react to persecutors to demonstrate our position in Christ? (3:8-17)**

-Transition from 3 to 4, suffering is a chance for proclaiming the excellencies of Christ-

-All three of these categories were people that were persecuting them (worldly authorities, unregenerate spouses, and all other persecutors) and they were able to proclaim the excellencies of Christ in each situation-

4. A Theology of Suffering: What is the purpose of the persecutor? (3:18-4:19)

- a. **Christ Also Suffered: How does Christ's suffering lead to our righteousness? (3:18-4:1)**
- b. **Following Our Exalted Head: How does Christ's example spur us on to fight for sanctification? (4:1-11)**
- c. **The Right Way to Suffer: Suffering for righteousness leads to glorification. (4:12-19)**

-Transition from 4 to 5, how do we entrust our souls to a faithful Creator? (4:19)-

5. Final Instructions: How can we live out the instructions of this letter? (5:1-14)

- a. **The Role of the Church in the Christian Life: Where can we live out godly leadership and submission? (5:1-5)**
- b. **The Proper Attitudes of the Christian Life: How should we prepare our minds for submission to Christ through suffering? (5:6-11)**
- c. **Conclusion: The true and universal gospel that brings peace. (5:12-14)**

III. Synthesis

- As we close I Peter, I want to take a few minutes and think about some of the major topics of the book
 - I just finished going through the whole book in order - what is Peter's argument and how does he lay it out?
 - But now I want to think across the whole book and synthesize topics that Peter brings up several times
 - I want to ask, what do we learn from the book of I Peter as a whole?
 - Five questions that I Peter answers

A. How should we think about our salvation?

1. This is Peter's main positive concept that he comes back to over and over again throughout the letter
2. Peter wants us to develop a proper mindset about our salvation - a mindset that will be particularly useful during persecution
3. Three things Peter wants us to think about salvation:
 - a. First, our salvation is very great - greater than any persecution possibly could be
 - i. I Peter 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - ii. I Peter 1:10-12 - *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*
 - iii. I Peter 2:9-10 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*
 - b. Second, therefore we should sober-mindedly set our hope on salvation and not on temporal, worldly things
 - i. I Peter 1:13 - *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
 - ii. I Peter 4:17 - *The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.*
 - iii. I Peter 5:8 - *Be sober-minded; be watchful.*
 - c. Third, because our hope is set on our great salvation, we ought always to rejoice in all circumstances
 - i. I Peter 1:6 - *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,*
 - ii. I Peter 1:8 - *Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory*
 - iii. I Peter 4:13 - *But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*
4. So, how should we think about our salvation? We should recognize how great it is, sober our minds and set our hopes on that salvation and then rejoice greatly in it.

B. What should we do with salvation?

1. I hope as we have gone through I Peter that you have caught the emphasis we have given to proclaiming His excellencies
2. Peter sees that the purpose of salvation is to glorify God, so he calls us to use our salvation to proclaim His excellencies both in word and in deed
 - a. I Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
 - b. I Peter 3:14-17 - *Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*
3. Because of this, a large portion of the book is given to specific ways of displaying the glory of God through our deeds
 - a. I Peter 2:13 - *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,*
 - b. I Peter 2:18 - *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect,*
 - c. I Peter 3:1 - *Wives, be subject to your own husbands*
 - d. I Peter 3:7 - *Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way*
 - e. I Peter 3:8 - *All of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*
 - f. I Peter 3:9 - *Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless*
4. So, what do we do with salvation? We proclaim Christ's excellencies in word and deed.

C. Why should we fight against sin?

- This is one of the biggest ones that has struck me. Peter gives us all sorts of reasons to fight against sin in our lives. When we are tempted to sin, we can think of many different things in I Peter that will encourage us in our fight against sin. Six things from I Peter to think about:
1. We should fight against sin because we have been adopted by a holy God
 - a. I Peter 1:14-16 - *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*
 2. We should fight against sin because the blood of Christ was what was necessary to cover sin
 - a. I Peter 1:17-19 - *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*
 3. We should fight against sin because sin wants to destroy us
 - a. I Peter 2:11 - *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*
 - b. I Peter 5:8-9 - *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,*
 4. We should fight against sin because Christ fought against sin
 - a. I Peter 2:21-22 - *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*
 5. We should fight against sin because Christ died in order to make us righteous
 - a. I Peter 3:18 - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,*
 6. We should fight against sin because we want to suffer for righteousness like Christ did
 - a. I Peter 4:1-2 - *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.*
- If you meditate on these things when you are tempted, I think you will find in them great power against sin - it's hard to sin when you are meditating on Christ's sacrifice for sin or when you are deciding to suffer for righteousness sake

D. Who is our great example?

1. A major part of Peter's theology is our association with Christ
 - a. We are participants with Christ and therefore we should participate with Christ
 - b. Because we have shared in Christ's blessing we must follow His example
2. We see this several times explicitly mentioned in I Peter, as well as many more times less explicitly:
 - a. I Peter 2:21-23 - *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*
 - b. I Peter 3:18 - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,*
 - c. I Peter 4:1-2 - *Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.*
 - d. I Peter 4:13 - *But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*
3. So, as we live out our Christian life, we ought not only to trust in the redemption of Christ but we must also consider how Christ lived and imitate Him - this entails study and meditation in the gospels and then practice in our lives

E. Who do we live out our salvation with?

1. Peter viewed the living life in the fellowship of the church as a strict necessity for the Christian, and we can see that in how many times how we act in the church comes up in I Peter
2. I Peter 1:22-2:1 - How we act towards one another sets our hope on salvation
 - a. I Peter 1:22-2:1 - *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*
3. I Peter 3:8 - How we act towards one another is a proclamation of the excellencies of Christ
 - a. I Peter 3:8 - *Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.*
4. I Peter 4:8-11 - How we act towards one another is a means of discipline in the fight against sin
 - a. I Peter 4:8-11 - *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies---in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.*
5. I Peter 5:1-5 - How we act towards one another is important in persevering through God's refining judgment
 - a. I Peter 5:1-5 - *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."*
6. So, as we close I Peter, I hope that you are encouraged in how important the local church is to your Christian walk
 - a. We don't follow Christ alone, we follow Him together
 - b. So, how we act toward each other is extremely important for many reasons
 - c. Meditate on the one another in I Peter and consider how you can live them out toward your brothers and sisters in Christ

IV. Conclusion: Read/Quote I Peter