



1 Peter

The Journey Home

Getting Safely Home

1 Peter 5:5-14

Message #13 of 13 – S693

Sermon given on June 26, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Getting Safely Home

1 Peter 5:5-14

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 Peter 5**
- Today, we conclude our series through the first letter from Peter – **The Journey Home**
- Peter had the wisdom to see that the journey was not going to be easy
- He wanted the church he was writing to, to be ready
- Peter wanted them to get home to heaven safely
- That is God's desire for all of us
- Even if you don't believe in God or the Bible – that's what God wants for you to
- And at the end of the message I am going to share how you can be guaranteed to make it safely to heaven
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 Peter 5:5-14**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Getting Safely Home**
- Here Peter turns his focus from the leaders to the younger people, and then everyone
- **1 Peter 5:5**
- Our message has three points
- Three things to keep in mind to get home safely
- First thing to keep in mind – **Don't Go Alone**
- It is safer to travel with someone than it is to travel alone
- God said in the book of Genesis that it is not good for man to be alone
- So He put us into families
- And then He put us into the family of God – we call it the church

- Peter tells us that if we want to get home safely – need to be submitted to the elders, the shepherds, the leaders, and to one another and ‘clothed with humility’
- How important is humility in the life of a Christian?
- Peter quoted Proverbs 3:34
- ‘God resists the proud’ – pride is the opposite of humility
- God actively opposes the pride in our lives
- ‘but gives grace to the humble’ – grace is the unmerited favor of God
- This is a promise – one of many promises to the humble **Isaiah 57:15**
For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”
- God loves hanging out with people who are humble – but those with pride He resists
- And grace is exactly what we need if we want to get home safely
- We need all the grace we can get
- Peter gives us the natural response to that truth
- **1 Peter 5:6-7**
- The journey home is long, dangerous, and not easy to find
- Don’t go alone – be connected to the family of God
- And humble yourself under the ‘mighty hand of God’
- Speaks of God’s strength and power – His ability to do whatever He wants
- Human nature as it is has a tendency to exalt itself
- That is from the root of pride that exists in every human heart because of sin
- To overcome that nature we need to humble ourselves
- And if we do, God does what it is that we desire – He exalts us
- He will do it ‘in due time’ – He will exalt us when we are ready to be exalted and when it will bring Him glory, and not before
- Until then, humble yourself
- In verse seven Peter makes a statement about God that amazes me every time I read it – ‘He cares for you’
- And while it means that God takes care of those who are His

- The stronger interpretation of this word is that He is concerned for His people
- We matter to God – I matter to God – you matter to God
- No one else in the world may care, but Creator God does
- And Peter says you ought to respond to God’s care by ‘casting all your care upon Him’
- Turn to **Matthew 6**
- The word ‘care’ = ‘cause for feeling concern’ = worries
- Jesus talked about our worries
- **Matthew 6:25-27**
- Your worrying can’t change anything – except to make you miserable
- **Matthew 6:28-34**
- God loves you and He cares about what is going on in your life
- And when we start feeling anxious Paul tells us what to do
- **Philippians 4:6-8**
- **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**
- Turn back to **1 Peter 5**
- Instead of worrying, think about how much God cares for you and cast all your cares upon Him
- And not just the big ones, but all of them
- God cares about you so much that He cares about the little things in your life
- Because He knows that the little cares of your life are likely to grow up to be big cares
- Cast them upon Him while they are small and easier to throw, and then watch Him prove to you how much He cares for you
- The first thing to keep in mind on our journey home – **Don’t Go Alone** – submit to one another and humble yourself before God
- The second thing to keep in mind – **Watch Out for Danger**
- **1 Peter 5:8-9**

- Not only are there physical dangers in this world
- The Bible teaches us that the greater battles are actually fought in the spiritual realm **Ephesians 6:10-12**

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

- The devil or Satan is real and He is determined to destroy all who are made in the image of God which means every human
- Peter gives us three things to help us prevent the devil from devouring us or someone else close to us
- First – **Be Sober** – be clear-headed
- The devil is an immensely powerful creature
- And if you don't respect that power, it is going to bite you
- Like – sign 'Caution – Dog Bites' – don't respect it, will be bit
- Need to be clear-headed – obviously stay from intoxicating drink and drugs
- But those are not the only things that cloud our mind
- Going back to verse 7 – worry clouds our mind, or fear, anger, pride, covetousness, lust
- Let the Holy Spirit help you to clear your mind of that junk
- Second thing – **Be Vigilant** – be awake, be alert, be on guard
- Turn to **Matthew 26**
- Peter understood the importance of this, not because he had mastered it, but because he had failed
- Peter, James, and John were invited to be with Jesus while He prayed on the night He was betrayed
- **Matthew 26:36-38**
- 'watch' there is same Greek word as 'vigilant' in 1 Peter
- Jesus telling them to be alert and watching
- **Matthew 26:39-41**
- Three times Jesus asked them to watch and pray, and three times they fell asleep
- And the third time, Jesus woke them up as the mob was coming to arrest Him

- And because Peter wasn't clear-headed and watching, his response was to take out a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant
- Turn to **Luke 4**
- We have an enemy – he is powerful and dangerous
- Take the threat seriously, and watch out for him
- Third thing we need to do – **Resist Him** – resist the devil
- How do we do that? Peter tells us we do it by being 'steadfast in the faith'
- Jesus showed us what it looked like
- **Luke 4:1-2**
- Forty days without food – He was physically weak – it was then that the attack came
- **Luke 4:3-13**
- With each attack Jesus responded by quoting the Word of God
- The Word of God is the arsenal we have been supplied to defend ourselves against the attacks of the enemy **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**
For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...
- The reason so many Christians are defeated by Satan is because they have never learned spiritual self-defense
- Turn back to **1 Peter 5**
- No Christian need ever be defeated – we have all of God's Word to defend ourselves
- And we have the Holy Spirit living in us **1 John 4:4**
You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- So far two things to remember – Don't Go Alone – and Watch Out for Danger
- Third thing – **Stay Focused on the Goal**
- **1 Peter 5:10**
- We are on a journey – our destination is our home in heaven
- But that is not the goal – the goal is the glory of God
- The whole universe exists to bring God glory
- And our lives are intended to bring Him glory

- And as we allow God to carry us along on this journey, toward His glory, Peter acknowledges that it might sometimes be difficult, may have to suffer
- Afterward, Peter prays that God would do four things
- ‘perfect’ = make them/us complete or whole
- ‘establish’ – make us firm, like a solid foundation, unmovable by the junk this world throws at us
- ‘strengthen’ – make us more able to deal with the things of this world
- ‘settle’ – to make us stable – not being tossed to and fro
- Peter concludes with an outburst of praise and then with some closing comments
- **1 Peter 5:11-14**
- ‘Silvanus’ is believed to be the same as ‘Silas’ – Like Rick and Richard
- ‘She who is in Babylon’ – interesting, and a little obscure
- ‘She’ is likely the church is the city where Peter is staying
- ‘Babylon’ – could be the literal city – more likely code for ‘Rome’ to avoid unnecessary persecution
- ‘Mark’ is believed to be the same Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark which many scholars believe was influenced heavily by Peter
- ‘kiss of love’ – common in Paul’s letters – socially normal – not anymore
- Peter ends with ‘Peace to all who are in Christ Jesus.’
- That is his prayer for the suffering church
- Our journey home will likely include some difficult times
- But because we are in Christ, we know that we are going to make it
- And not just make it, we will glorify God along the way as we live for Christ
- Our lives will be a blessing to others in the name of Christ
- And our faith will grow as we become more like Christ
- And as we learned today – Don’t Go Alone – Watch Out for Danger – Stay Focused on the Destination
- You’re going to be okay – you’re going to make it
- Not because I said so, God says so!

- Amen–Pray