

1 Peter 5:6-14
(Luke 12:22-34)
“Because He Cares for You”

Introduction

As we finish this little letter, a letter we have studied together for the past six months, and as Peter sums things up and says farewell, I hope that you will hear and even feel the beating of God’s heart in these final words. Peter reminds us that what he has written is simply “the true grace of God” and that we are to “stand firm in it” (5:12). He wants us prepared for whatever comes, and so he concludes this letter with warnings and encouragements as final reminders of the glory that awaits those who are God’s children, those who by the grace of our Lord Jesus have spent their lives, not running away from him, but running after him.

Last Sunday, I said something that caused some of you confusion, so I want to make clear what I meant, because it is, I believe, necessary to understand if we are to stand firm in the true grace of God. I said that people misuse the word “unconditional” in describing God’s love, and offer the comforts and assurances of the gospel to those who are not yet in Christ, and so who are, according to the Scripture, still under the wrath and curse of God (see, for example, Ephesians 2:1-3). Our salvation is conditioned upon Christ’s suffering the judgment due unto us in order that those of us who are in him by grace might know the comforts and assurances of God’s love for us *in Christ Jesus*. So God’s saving love for us is made possible, is *conditioned* upon, the life and death and resurrection victory of Jesus Christ over everything that would otherwise separate us from the love of God.

So, here too, Peter’s final word is only for those who are *in Christ Jesus*.

Body

- 1. Don’t be proud, but humble yourself so that God may exalt you (5:6).**
- 2. Don’t be anxious, but cast your cares on him who cares for you (5:7).**
- 3. Don’t be careless, but be watchful of the devil’s approach (5:8).**
- 4. Don’t be lazy, but engage the enemy in spiritual warfare (5:9).**
- 5. Don’t be overwhelmed, but trust in the “God of all grace” (5:10).**

Conclusion

“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” (5:10-11).

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