

Joshua & Peter: The Sufficiency of God

Lesson 13: The Sufficiency of God's Grace

Key Verse: 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. ~1 Peter 5.12

Reality television showcases our sin nature. Unfortunately, the Church sometimes mirrors the train-wreck drama of reality TV. Ego drives manipulation, fear drives lies and back-biting, pride drives ruling by force and domination. As Peter closes his letter, he exhorts the church leadership and its members to “stand firm” in “the true grace of God” because His **grace is Enough (All Sufficient)** as the only wellspring to draw from in church leadership and membership. *All-Sufficient God, You are Enough! Your grace is Enough! Please convict us of where we need to be more like You as we support our church leaders, as well as one another. May we learn more how to stand firm in the truth of Your grace as we come together to serve and glorify You. Amen.*

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: **2** 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; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 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.”¹ **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be sober-minded²; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **10** 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. **11** To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 By³ Silvanus⁴, 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. **13** She⁵ who is at Babylon⁶, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark⁷, my son. **14** Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Diamonds:

Peter finishes this letter on the same foundation in which he began this letter: grace and peace from God, through Christ (V 12-13). His instructions to the collective Church, as well as its individual members stand on the foundation of grace and peace from God, through Christ.

While Peter gives final instructions to church leaders (V 1-4), he sets an example of humility by intentionally positioning himself alongside their leadership struggles and temptations. While Peter could have exalted himself as a “witness of the sufferings of Christ”, he instead chooses to identify himself as “a fellow elder...as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” (V 1).

1. List Peter's three exhortations to church leaders as well as the contrasting temptations all church leaders experience from verses 2-3:

¹Scholars debate the exact origin of this quotation. Some say it's derived from Proverbs 3.34. Others say it's a general principle found throughout scripture.

²Unrelated to alcohol or drug use. Rather, a call to alertness and reality which allows being able to “resist” Satan's strategies and “firm” in faith of God as our All-Sufficient Warrior (see lesson 12).

³The phrasing of this sentence allows scholars to debate if “Silvanus” was a scribe to Peter's oration, or that he delivered this letter that Peter handwrote. Most favor the view that Peter wrote this letter and “Silvanus” delivered and helped interpret the letter.

⁴Scholarly debate questions if this is referring to Silas from Acts 15-18 or another person with this name.

⁵A reference to another group of fellow Christ-followers; feminine likely to refer to Christ's Bride, His Church (Ephesians 5.25-27; Revelation 19.6-9).

⁶A generic reference to Rome used to include the sin-sick culture of the time period.

⁷The longtime companion of Paul who joined Peter. Not a biological son!

2. Godly church leadership violates cultural norms and expectations of leadership of an organization. However, what is the reward for those who lead as God commands, and by the example Jesus set (see V 4)?

The “unfading crown of glory” referenced is a crown conferring glory and honor to the recipient, such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom. As such, it is not a crown of power and riches, but is a metaphor meant to describe the collective “glory that is to be revealed” in Christ (V 1, 4)⁸.

3. From Peter’s exhortations to Church members in verse 5-10, how will you support your church leadership so that when the Chief Shepherd appears, they will delight to receive their “unfading crown of glory”?

As indicated in question 3, Peter exhorts the members of the church on how to support not only the church leadership, but also one another. Read the example set by Jesus in each of these exhortations.

4. What convicts you or encourages you in these exhortations and examples set by Jesus?
 - a. V 5a with Luke 2.39-49:
 - b. V 5b with John 13.4-5 (note that “clothe”-V 5b- is transliterated to “tie on a servant’s apron or towel”):
 - c. V 6 with Matthew 26.36-44:
 - d. V 7 with Luke 22.32-43:
 - e. V 8 with Luke 22.31-32:
 - f. V 9 with Matthew 4.1-11:
 - g. V 10 with Luke 24.36-53:

Peter ends his letter with the call to legacy building in Christ. Joshua was part of God’s legacy building through His work with Moses, passed down to Joshua, whose faithfulness to God saw the completion of God’s holy war to cleanse His Promised Land. Now Peter, an apostle of Jesus, who was face-to-face with the Messiah (like Moses to God), lists those to whom he is teaching about Jesus. Just as God commanded Moses to pass His truth from generation to generation, Peter is doing likewise, just as Jesus commanded him (John 21.15-17).

5. In Lesson 12 we asked that you identify who you are learning from or instructing (or both!) in God’s teachings and faithful obedience to His Son, Jesus. Using one of the exhortations from Peter and the corresponding example of Jesus, write a prayer for both yourself and the person(s) you identified in that question (Lesson 12, question 16).

⁸ Doriani, p. 216

Deity: Enough (All-Sufficient)

Enough~ equal to what is needed: equal to the needs or demands: in or to a degree or quantity that satisfies or that is sufficient or necessary for satisfaction

Sufficient~enough to meet the needs (of the law) under a situation or a proposed end: having or providing as much as is needed

6. Read Psalm 46 in several different translations (www.biblegateway.org). List all the ways God is Enough and/or All-Sufficient from this psalm:

7. Likewise, list all the ways Christ is Enough and/or All-Sufficient from Colossians 1.9-14; 1 Peter 5.12; and Hebrews 4.14-16:

Doctrine: Grace~ Unmerited, or undeserved, favor from God: an act of clemency (mercy) from God. God's grace provides salvation as a work of God alone, given to sinful man not because of any work sinful man has done, or could ever do to satisfy the requirements of Holy God (2 Timothy 1.9, Titus 3.5).

Grace is God's favor to the utterly undeserving. It is something we cannot earn; for if we could earn it, it would not be grace (Ephesians 2.8-9).

8. Why do you think Peter ends his letter the way he began his letter: grace and peace from God, through Christ (V 12-13)?

9. Why is it necessary that the Church stand firm in the truth of God's grace (V 12)? What steps will you take today to begin doing so?

Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer:

Lecture Outline:

Aim: The hope of eternal glory impacts a believer's earthly living.

- I. Humble Willingness (1 Peter 5.1-7) **T1:** The hope of eternal glory motivates us to be humble, willing servants of God.
 - a. Which desires of your flesh do you need to mortify to "humble yourself under the mighty hand of God"?

- b. What needs to change in your way of thinking and acting to pursue Christlike humility?
 - c. How might you more humbly and willingly care for the needs of your church family?
 - d. How does or could the hope of an unfading crown of glory impact your day-to-day life?
- II. Hopeful Watchfulness (1 Peter 5.8-14) **T2:** The hope of eternal glory motivates us to stand firm in God's grace.
 - a. What steps could you take to maintain your hope of glory, even in a season of suffering?
 - b. What is your battle plan for resisting the enemy and standing firm in the faith?
 - c. How might you become a receptacle as well as a dispenser of God's grace?

Clowney, Edmund P., *The Message of 1 Peter*, Bible Speaks Today (London, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2021) pgs. 159-184
Doriani, Daniel M., *1 Peter*, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2014) pgs.201-238