

22S05 1st Peter 5:12-14 Final Greeting

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are concluding our series on 1st Peter with 1st Peter 5:12-14.

The author of this letter is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1st Peter is “Where does our Hope come from?” for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I’m reading from the International Children’s Bible (ICB) again today, I like the plain English in this translation. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Before we start today, Peter has been encouraging Christians. These encouragements speak to us as well. We are going to face tough days. But remember everyone faces tough days Christian and non-Christian. But we have the hope and peace of Jesus to help us in our suffering. Take heart it won’t last long, then we will be with Jesus. But the world is watching, so how do we respond to things matters.

Let’s read the conclusion of 1st Peter 5:12-14 (ICB) *¹² I wrote this short letter with the help of Silas. I know that he is a faithful brother in Christ. I wrote to comfort and encourage you. I wanted to tell you that this is the true grace of God. Stand strong in that grace. ¹³ The church in Babylon sends you greetings. They were chosen the same as you. Mark, my son in Christ, also greets you. ¹⁴ Give each other a kiss of Christian love when you meet. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from 1st Peter, help us to feel the encouragement you intended us to feel. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Okay, let’s look closer at what Peter is telling us. First 1st Peter 5:12 (ICB) *¹² I wrote this short letter with the help of Silas. I know that he is a faithful brother in Christ. I wrote to comfort and encourage you. I wanted to tell you that this is the true grace of God. Stand strong in that grace.*

As with many of the letters in the New Testament, the authors acknowledge other in their final greetings. Peter says that Silas helped him with this short letter. Do you remember who Silas is? The First mention of Silas is in Act 15:22 when he was selected to accompany Paul to the Jerusalem Council. Later in Chapter 15 of Acts, Silas goes on Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:40-41). Silas is in prison with Paul in Philippi (Acts 16:19-40), with Paul in Thessalonica (Acts 17:4-10), in Corinth (Acts 17:15). Paul mentions Silas in 2 Corinthians 1:19, 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1 and of course here in 1 Peter. So, Silas was a prominent missionary

and earlier church leader. The Christians Peter is writing to would know or at least know of Silas.

Peter goes on to say in, 1st Peter 5:13 (ICB) ¹³ *The church in Babylon sends you greetings. They were chosen the same as you. Mark, my son in Christ, also greets you.* A couple of things here. First, Peter is not literally talking about a church in Babylon, but rather Babylon represents the wicked empire in whatever period. The bible often uses Egypt and Babylon as a reference to the wicked and it is not a stretch to assume Peter means Rome or the church throughout the Roman world. Either way you can get his point. We are all in it together. And then, Mark. Most historians agree this is John Mark. The author of the Gospel of Mark. The same Mark who started on the first missionary trip with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25). He is actually mentioned several times in the bible. Acts 12:12, 13:5, 15:36-41, Colossians 4:10 as Barnabas's cousin. This is the same Mark who travel with Paul and Barnabas on the 1st missionary trip but then abandoned them and this eventual resulted in Paul and Barnabas splitting up. With Barnabas taking Mark and Paul joining up with Silas. Later Paul writes about how much John Mark is a fellow worker for Christ and of great help to him, in Philemon 1:24 and 2 Timothy 4:11. Most scholars believe John Mark actually traveled with Jesus for at least parts of His ministry. So again, John Mark would have been known to the people Peter is writing to. What encouragement to receive a letter from these three men of God.

Peter ends his letter with 1st Peter 5:3-4 (ICB) ¹⁴ *Give each other a kiss of Christian love when you meet. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

What a beautiful and powerful letter 1st Peter is. Stay strong because of Jesus. Jesus is control of everything and those who hurt us will face justice. Amen and Amen.

Let me leave you with this today. Peter spent time with Jesus here on earth. He wants us to be confident in what we believe. There are a lot of people trying to deceive us or tell us false promises of God. Trust Jesus, Trust your Father in heaven. He knows what you need. He loves you. And we have the promise of peace and hope and assurance now as we live for Jesus. And we have the promise of a happily ever after when are work here in this life is over. A relationship with Jesus is what its about, which means doing the things Jesus has commanded us to do. Love others as He loves them by helping those who need help, sharing what God has given you, spending your time and money as God wants you to use it. God is calling all of us to this wonderful fulfilling life of service to others. Do miss it.

Let's Pray.

Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Peter. I am encouraged and convicted to live for you. You promise if we keep you the focus of our lives, you will take care of us and I trust you Lord. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1st Peter. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.