

## Keeping the Faith

*Strangers and Aliens*

1 Peter 5:1-14

March 8, 2020

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

*Context:*

In this final section of 1 Peter, the Apostle lays out a practical framework that can help us thrive in a hostile culture. In order to encourage 1<sup>st</sup> Century exiles, he penned timeless truths that remind us that:

- An inheritance awaits us in heaven.
- Trials come for a reason and help us get closer to Christ.
- Love for other believers is paramount.
- We can share the glory of God with non-believers.

Now, he'll explain how to stand firm in a rapidly changing culture. With God's help, we *can* keep the faith.

### Key Scripture -

#### 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: <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> 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."

<sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.



3. Peter commands us to resist the devil. Do you believe he is real? Can you find scripture to support your view? How can you gain victory over this ever-present enemy?

4. Suffering is hard. But Christians *can* suffer well. What is your hope in suffering? How does God make himself known in suffering? Share personal experiences.

#### **NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC**

**Experiencing the Passion: Walking with Jesus to the Cross in Preparation for Easter  
The Betrayal – John 18:1-11**

