

60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013

Skip Heitzig

When Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" Peter responded "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus promised Peter that upon the Rock of that confession He would build His church.

The truth of who Jesus is empowers common man to speak the message that opens the doors of heaven to sinners. Join us to learn strong principles for godly living and reach new heights in our faith as we work our way through Peter's epistles—writings which evangelize the lost and instruct the church. Pastor Skip Heitzig guides us through First and Second Peter in the series Rock Solid.

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SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	A Pebble, a Boulder & a Solid Foundation
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 1:1
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2509

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter is the most famous of the apostles, even though he only wrote two short epistles in the New Testament. But of all the early followers of Christ, Peter is perhaps the most relatable to us since he demonstrates all the weaknesses and failures we see in ourselves. But Peter's personal life and his writings become a composite model of "strength through trust." Any weak, wobbly, failure-ridden person can become *Rock Solid* through Christ.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. The leaning tower of Pisa
 - 1. Unstable foundation
 - 2. A building is only as good as its foundation
 - B. Jesus spoke of building your house on the right foundation (see Matthew 7:24-27)
 - 1. House built on the sand
 - 2. House built on a rock
 - 3. Rains, floods, winds
 - 4. The house on the sand fell
 - C. Peter wrote I Peter & 2 Peter
 - 1. Name means rock
 - 2. One of the earliest followers of Christ
 - 3. When studying the life of Christ, study His followers
- II. Who Peter Was
 - A. His birth-name was Simon, meaning one who hears
 - B. Inaccuracies about Peter
 - 1. The first Pope
 - 2. Peter at the gate
 - C. The real Peter
 - 1. Fisherman
 - 2. Born at Bethsaida
 - 3. Later moved to Capernaum
 - 4. He had a brother, Andrew
 - 5. His father was named John or Jonas
 - 6. His Hebrew name was Simon bar Jonah
 - 7. Peter was married
 - a. His mother-in-law lived with him
 - b. His wife was mentioned in Mark 1:29-30 and I Corinthians 9

8. He was a leader among the 12
 9. Peter was a disciple
 - a. All rabbis had disciples
 - b. Jesus described discipleship very narrowly (see Luke 9:23)
 - c. We will never experience the thrill of God working through us until we have the experience of God working in us
 - d. A lifelong process of conformity to His will
 10. He was impulsive, impetuous, and strong-willed
 - a. Simon told Jesus He wouldn't be killed (see Matthew 16:21-22)
 - b. He cut off a guy's ear when he came to arrest Jesus (see John 18:10-11)
 11. He was self-confident (see John 13:37)
 12. He was prideful (see Mark 10:28 and John 13:8)
 13. He struggled with legalism and hypocrisy (see Galatians 2)
 14. He was so human that we all relate to him
 15. He was tenderhearted (see Matthew 17:4)
- D. Jesus spoke more to Peter than to any other disciple
- E. Peter died around AD 67-68 in Rome—crucified up-side down
1. They crucified him up-side down
 2. His wife died in the same manner
 3. Herod was going to kill him with a sword (see Acts 12)

III. Who Peter became

- A. An apostle
- B. First there was a name change (then a status change, then a heart change)
 - I. Name change—it's not uncommon for the Lord to change people's names
 - a. Abram was changed to Abraham (see Genesis 17:5)
 - b. James and John were called Sons of Thunder (see Mark 3:17)
 - c. Levi changed to Matthew
 - d. Jesus looked at him and renamed him Rocky he saw both who he was and who he would become (see John 1:40-42 and 1 Samuel 16:7)
 - e. He was often referred to as Simon even though his name was changed
 - i. That was his historical identity
 - ii. When he acted like his old self
 - iii. The two names represented two sides of his character
 2. A status change
 - a. He was changed from a disciple to an apostle
 - b. Apostle speaks of an expedition that would go out and represent a king or kingdom
 - c. Disciples would be changed from disciples to apostles (see Matthew 10)
 - d. The Bible uses the term *apostle* in two ways
 - i. Very strict sense: refers to the original 12 who followed Jesus—handpicked and personally commissioned—there are no more of them
 - ii. A secondary sense refers to those who were sent out representatives (i.e., Barnabas, Paul, Silas, Timothy, Andronicus, and Junia)—missionaries
 - e. Healthy progression—convert, disciple, apostle

- i. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I also send you" (John 20:21)
- ii. Author Hollis Green said, "Churches die when converts don't become disciples, and when disciples don't become apostles."
- f. Three important stages of growth:
 - i. True conversion, genuine repentance, surrender to Christ
 - ii. Become a disciple, deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Christ
 - iii. Discover your sphere of influence in which you are sent out to represent Christ
- 3. A heart change
 - a. After Peter denied Jesus; and after the resurrection
 - b. Jesus went to Peter and commissioned Peter
 - c. Jesus asked three times, "Peter do you love me?" (see John 21:15-19)
 - d. Jesus restored Peter and entrusted His flock to Peter
 - e. Peter had a deep heart change
 - i. Went on to preach at Pentecost (see Acts 2:14-36)
 - ii. Preached to Cornelius (see Acts 10)
 - iii. Oversee the growth of the church in Antioch
 - f. God is patient with leaders; He is developing them
 - g. Peter became the rock

IV. Closing

- A. Peter wrote to the scattered believers in Asia Minor; in newly formed churches
- B. The very first time Jesus uses the word *church* (see Matthew 16:15-18)
- C. Jesus built His church on what Peter said, not on Peter
 - 1. In Greek
 - 2. Peter = pebble, *petros*
 - 3. What Peter had just said about Jesus = large, massive stone, *petra*
- D. Paul said, "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 3:11)
- E. One of the great themes of this letter from Peter is suffering
 - 1. Suffering in the will of God
 - 2. Living victoriously in the midst of hostility
- F. We will learn about:
 - 1. How to live now as we wait for the coming of Christ
 - 2. God's foreknowledge and election
 - 3. Our eternal inheritance, holiness, excellent behavior
 - 4. The Word of God causing growth
 - 5. Our responsibility to human government
 - 6. The marriage relationship
 - 7. Defending the faith
- G. The Leaning Tower of Pisa
- H. You never know when a storm is coming
 - 1. Build on the rock (see Matthew 7:24-27)
 - 2. Each of us should make a stand on the solid rock of Jesus

Greek Terms: Πέτρος; Peter, Peter, a Greek name meaning rock, such as a small rock found along a pathway; πέτρα; rock, a rock, ledge, cliff, cave, stony ground, a mass of connected rock

Hebrew Terms: יְהוָה בֶּן־שֵׁׁם; Simeon bar Jonah, Simon son of Jonah

Publications Referenced: *Why Churches Die* by Hollis Green

Cross references: Genesis 17:5, 1 Samuel, Matthew 7:24-27, Matthew 10, Matthew 16:15-18, Matthew 16:21-22, Matthew 17:4, Mark 1:29-30, Mark 3:17, Mark 10:28, Luke 9:23, John 1:40-42, John 13:8, John 13:37, John 16:7, John 18:10-11, John 20:21, John 21:15-19, Acts 2:14-36, Acts 10, Acts 12, 1 Corinthians 3:11, 1 Corinthians 9, Galatians 2

Topic: Peter

Keywords: Jesus, Christ, foundation, church, hope, apostle, disciple



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Underpinnings of a Rock-Solid Life
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 1:2
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2511

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter skillfully lays the foundational basis for the Christian life to his readers in a single verse. We've been picked by God, placed in His family, and promised future benefits. For anyone who has ever struggled with a weak faith, these truths can be transforming. In this introduction to Peter's letter, let's unpack the meaning of these encouraging realities.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Aging carpenter wanting to retire
 1. Built one last house
 2. Used inferior materials
 3. Boss gave him the house
 - B. We are all building our lives
 1. Foundation is Jesus Christ (see I Corinthians 3:11)
 2. Attach to foundation
 - a. According to the Uniform Building Code in America, homes didn't have to be bolted to their foundations until 1958
 - b. Use truths to attach to foundation
 - i. What we think about God determines what we think about everything else
 - ii. A.W. Tozer said, "What a person thinks about God is the most important thing about that person"
 - iii. Peter pointed them to deep theological truths
 - II. Four truths—the underpinning of a rock-solid life (v. 2)
 - A. We've been chosen by God previously
 1. Elect pilgrims
 - a. Scattered over Asia Minor
 - b. Undergoing persecution
 2. Peter wanted them to know that they were picked by God long ago
 - a. Skip remember being picked for teams as a kid and hated it because of being the last one chosen
 - b. Being chosen by God was a monumental truth for Peter
 - i. Choosing a restaurant
 - ii. Skip got a call from a pastor friend to preach at his church. Surprise! Chose to go to Hawaii

- iii. 13 different times in the Old Testament, Israel is called the "chosen" or the "elect" people of God
 - iv. *Fiddler on the Roof*
 - v. In the New Testament, Christians are called "God's elect" (see Colossians 3:12)
 - vi. Debate about God's election and predestination versus our free will
 - vii. You were picked before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:4)
 - viii. "It's a good thing God picked me before I was born; He never would have picked me afterwards" Charles Spurgeon
 - ix. Altar call—your faith cooperating with His election
 - x. God takes the initiative and we respond (1 John 4:19)
- B. We are known completely—foreknowledge of God
 - 1. Foreknowledge of God—*prognosis*, Greek
 - 2. The same word is used of Jesus' death (see Acts 2:23)
 - 3. Compare God's knowledge to our knowledge
 - a. Our knowledge
 - i. Accumulated knowledge
 - ii. Product of tedious learning
 - iii. Result of long research
 - iv. Augmented by human experience
 - v. Subject to deterioration
 - b. God's knowledge
 - i. Immediate
 - ii. Comprehensive
 - iii. Without deterioration
 - iv. God never needs to research anything
 - v. You can never tell Him something that He doesn't already know
 - vi. He never forgets
 - 4. David was amazed at God's knowledge—His omniscience (see Psalm 139)
 - 5. Jesus displayed this kind of foreknowledge
 - a. Jesus knew of the little donkey He sent His disciples to retrieve (see Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19)
 - b. Jesus knew the thoughts people were thinking (see Matthew 9:4 and Luke 11:17)
 - 6. The comfort: If God knows everything, then He knows the worst about you and He loves you anyway
 - 7. "He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14)
 - 8. He also knows the best about us; He knows our motives and intentions (see 1 John 3:20)
- C. We are growing constantly
 - 1. The One who knows you previously and completely, will help you grow constantly
 - 2. Sanctification
 - a. Marked as different
 - b. God is making you a holy person—not perfect

- c. You are becoming an increasingly obedient person
 - 3. Metaphor from Exodus 24
 - a. Sprinkled blood
 - b. Binding agreement
 - c. You have been saved by the blood of Christ
 - 4. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit (see John 16:8)
 - 5. The Trinity
 - a. God the Father
 - b. The Spirit
 - c. Jesus Christ
 - 6. "God loves you the way you are, but He loves you too much to leave you that way" —Leighton Ford
 - a. Come just as you are and He will change you and clean you up
 - b. "You must be holy" (Leviticus 11:44)
 - c. "Pursue holiness, without which no one can see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14)
 - d. "This is the will of God, even your sanctification" (I Thessalonians 4:3)
 - e. God wants you to be holy
 - 7. How do you know if you're holy?
 - a. You hate what God hates (sin)
 - b. You love what God loves (righteousness)
 - c. When you sin you will have remorse and a desire to change (see Psalm 51)
 - d. Faith is the root of holiness
 - e. Obedience is the fruit of holiness
- D. We are blessed increasingly
- I. Greetings
 - a. Rejoice! *Chairó* in Greek
 - b. Peace! *Shalom* in Hebrew
 - c. Peter used grace and peace; more significant
 - d. You can never experience the peace of God until you experience the grace of God
 - i. If you don't have peace, perhaps you have never experienced the grace of God
 - ii. Caesar Augustus didn't sleep very well
 - iii. Your ability to sleep has to do with a clear conscience before God (see Romans 5:1)
 - iv. Florida building code
 - v. God has given you a building code
- III. Closing
- A. Man in Florida built his home according to the strict Florida building code; it withstood a hurricane, when houses all around were destroyed
 - B. God has given us a building code

Greek Terms: πρόγνωση; *prognosis*, foreknowing, foreseeing; χαίρω; *chairó*, I rejoice, am glad; also a salutation: Hail; χάρις; *charis*, grace, favor, kindness

Hebrew Terms: שָׁלוֹם; *shalom*, peace

Publications Referenced: Uniform Building Code in American; Fiddler on the Roof

Figures Referenced: A.W. Tozer, Charles Spurgeon, Caesar Augustus

Cross references: Exodus 24, Leviticus 11:44, Psalm 103:14, Psalm 139, Matthew 9:4, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 11:17, Luke 19, John 16:8, Acts 2:23, Romans 5:1, I Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 1:4, Colossians 3:12, I Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14, I John 3:20, I John 4:19/p>

Topic: Foundation

Keywords: truth, Spirit, Christ, peace, foreknowledge, sanctification, predestination, grace, holy, holiness, love, grow



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Stepping Stones of the New Birth
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 1:3-5
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2513

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"Born again" wasn't a term invented by the popular press or religious fundamentalists. It was something Jesus told Nicodemus *must* happen for anyone to enter heaven (see John 3:3). Peter certainly heard that term from Jesus and speaks of it here (as well as in I Peter 1:23). It's a term synonymous with being saved and having eternal life. What does this new birth provide? In a word—solidity! Coming to Christ brings hope, inheritance, and power.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. A birth is one of the most exciting things to be a part of
 1. Pain and anguish
 2. The joy eclipses that
 3. Great being a grandparent
 - B. The first steps of a child are also pretty significant
 - C. When we are born again, we take spiritual steps—stepping stones
 1. Hope
 2. Inheritance
 3. Power
- II. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)
 - A. Born again
 1. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again (see John 3:7)
 2. The term has become cliché
 3. Skip's buddy Dino introduced Skip to the phrase *born again*
 4. A better description would be to be born from above; a transformation that occurs on the inside
 - B. Why a new birth?
 - I. A step toward hope
 - a. Peter praises God for His plan in saving people which includes:
 - i. A changed life on earth
 - ii. An inheritance in heaven
 - iii. Security until we get there
 - b. Christians have hope; unbelievers don't (see Ephesians 2:12 and I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - i. "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation" —Henry David Thoreau

- ii. When you're young you start asking, "What is the purpose of life?"
 - iii. See this through the eyes of Peter, a fisherman
 - iv. Routine, monotony, every single day, the same thing
 - v. Jesus walked into Peter's life and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)
 - vi. Hope burned in Peter's heart; life wasn't monotonous anymore
 - vii. Even wealthy, powerful people suffer from boredom, hopelessness
 - viii. King Solomon wrote of vanity (see Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)
 - ix. When Jesus died, hope died in Peter's life (see Luke 24:21)
 - x. At the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter's hope was reborn (see 1 Peter 1:3)
 - xi. That meant all His promises were true (see John 5:24, John 11:25, John 14:6, and John 14:19)
 - 2. Some may ask, "How do we really know Jesus rose from the dead?"
 - a. At Easter time, National Geographic Channel asks that question
 - b. Three evidences:
 - i. Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection before it ever happened
 - ii. Individual and group eyewitness accounts
 - iii. The changed lives of the followers of Christ
 - c. Jewish historian Josephus reported that his followers saw Him alive
 - d. "For me the evidence is conclusive" —Sir Edward Clark, British Lawyer
 - e. Atheist Frank Morison set out to prove the resurrection false and ended up being converted
 - f. "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best-attested to event of the ancient world" atheist, now strong believer, —Lee Strobel
- III. The new birth is a step toward inheritance (v. 4)
- A. Jesus came to the earth and died, bequeathing heaven to us; it's our inheritance
 - B. He rose from the dead and we became joint-heirs with Him (see Romans 8:17)
 - C. It's not just about hope now, it's lasting hope, after we die (see 1 Corinthians 15)
 - D. Your best life is not now
 - E. All of these earthly things will be dissolved (see 2 Peter 3:11-14)
 - F. Be spiritually-minded people, not materialistic people
 - G. Heaven was not just a destination for Peter, it was his motivation
 - H. When Jesus spoke of eternity, he spoke about real life (see Matthew 6:19-24)
 - I. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- IV. The new birth is a step toward power (v. 5)
- A. Kept secure—safeguarded by God
 - B. Our world is increasingly unsafe
 - 1. Each generation says this
 - 2. A woman sensed this and bought a handgun—carried it around in her purse, loaded
 - C. God will keep you, but you have to want to be kept (see Jude 24)
 - D. You are kept for salvation
 - E. Three different ways the New Testament speaks of salvation
 - I. Past: You have been saved by faith (see Romans 10:9)

2. Present: You are being saved right now—sanctification
3. Future: You will be saved from the very presence of sin

V. Closing

- A. This new birth is your only hope for new life
- B. Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7)
- C. If you ever want to see heaven, you must be born again
- D. By God's abundant mercy we have been born again
- E. His mercies are new every morning (see Lamentations 3:22-23)
- F. Abraham Lincoln and the rebellious Southerners who returned, "Like they had never been away"

Publications Referenced: *National Geographic Channel, Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen,

Figures Referenced: Henry David Thoreau, Josephus, Sir Edward Clark, Frank Morison, Lee Strobel, Abraham Lincoln

Cross references: Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, Lamentations 3:22-23, Matthew 4:19, Matthew 6:19-24, Luke 24:21, John 3:7, John 5:24, John 11:25, John 14:6, John 14:19, Romans 8:17, Romans 10:9, I Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Ephesians 2:12, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Peter 3:11-14

Topic: Born Again

Keywords: Salvation, sanctification, hope, resurrection



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Why We Hate Trials (And Why We Love Them)
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 1:6-7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2515

MESSAGE SUMMARY

If the trials of life could only exist by popular demand, we would have voted them away long ago. People, by and large, hate suffering of any kind. Here in the Western world, we have made it our aim to mitigate against any form of it by a multitude of distractions and experiences. There is even a theology that seeks to say God never wants us to suffer—ever. Let's look at five reasons why we hate (and love) trials, and consider how they can be used to make us better people.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Routines and schedules
 - B. Sometimes life hits you by surprise
 - C. Chippie the parakeet—sucked in, washed up, blown over (story told by Max Lucado)
 - D. Rejoice and trials don't seem to fit together
 1. It is possible to rejoice in great suffering
 2. God has the power to save you, secure you, and to send you to heaven
 3. You may not be able to rejoice in your trials, but if you look ahead, you can
 - E. Trials
 1. We hate them and we love them
 2. When the pain stops and we've learned lessons
- II. Trials are diverse
 - A. Trials are as many and as varied as all the colors on the color wheel
 1. Small
 2. Huge
 3. Short
 4. Very long
 - B. In Skip's job, he speaks with people about the trials they are facing; in just one week, all of these trials happened
 1. A mother holding her baby who had died
 2. Someone in Skip's family died
 3. A child molested by a family member
 4. A couple's daughter was arrested on charges of prostitution
 5. Missionaries' lives were threatened
 6. The divorce of a couple who had been married 20 years
 7. Woman was in an automobile accident
 - C. You can categorize trials in three ways
 1. Physical

- a. Cancer, strokes, heart attacks, birth defects, automobile accidents
 - b. People in the Bible suffered (Job, Paul, Simon the leper)
 - 2. Mental or emotional
 - a. We love the book of Psalms
 - b. "I make my own bed to swim in my own tears" King David (Psalm 6:6)
 - c. Elijah the prophet experienced both exhaustion and depression; "It is enough Lord, take away my life" (1 Kings 19:4)
 - d. Dedicated believers are susceptible to depression, especially when they are physically worn out
 - e. Missionary E. Stanley Jones told of one who had a nervous breakdown
 - 3. Spiritual
 - a. We struggle with our own sin and guilt
 - b. Doubts about God
 - c. Unrealistic expectations of God
 - d. John the Baptist while he was in prison (see Matthew 11:3)
- III. Trials cause grief
- A. "You have been grieved" distressed, made heavy
 - 1. When something happens, it grieves you
 - 2. Grief is a normal and healthy human expression
 - B. Be honest; "I'm grieved"
 - 1. "Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?" (Jeremiah 15:18)
 - 2. "There is a time to laugh and there is a time to weep" (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
 - C. In ancient times, Hebrews would grieve
 - 1. Public period of grief that lasted 30 days
 - 2. The Egyptians had a 70 day period of grief
 - 3. Americans are really low on the emotional scale
- IV. Trials can be helpful
- A. Like mom: "Take this medicine, it's good for you"
 - B. There are times God knows you need a trial
 - 1. "If you pinned them against the wall in the dark, in a secret moment, many Christians would probably admit that pain was God's one mistake. He really should have worked a little harder and invented a much better way of coping with the world's dangers" —Philip Yancey
 - 2. Trials can be the will of God (see 1 Peter 3:17, 4:19)
 - 3. When we suffer, we have no idea what need in our life is being met by a sovereign God
 - 4. God is in control
 - C. Trials provide a course correction
 - 1. Parents understand this
 - 2. Children get spanked when they are disobedient
 - 3. Give that child a trial
 - 4. "Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word" (Psalm 119:67)
 - 5. "Pain plants the flag of truth in the fortress of a rebel soul" —C.S. Lewis
 - D. Pain humbles us
 - 1. Paul experienced this (see 2 Corinthians 12)
 - 2. God spoke to Paul

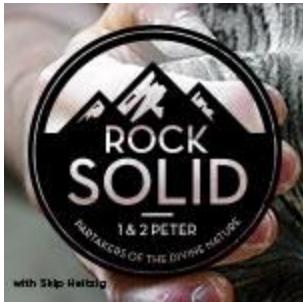
- 3. Paul was taken to heaven
- 4. Paul said, "Lest I be exalted above measure, a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan was given to me to torment me. For three times I asked the Lord to remove it, He said, 'My grace is sufficient for you, My power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)
- E. Trials strengthens us
 - 1. James said, "The testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:3)
 - 2. Patience comes through storms and trials
- F. Trials equip us to deal with and help other sufferers (see 2 Corinthians 1:4)
 - 1. When you come through the trial, you will be able to help others to get through similar trials
 - 2. "You will not have any test of faith that will not fit you to be a blessing" —A.B. Simpson
- V. Trials reveal what kind of faith you have
 - A. Jewelers can tell the fakes by running them through the fire
 - B. You can tell what your faith is like when it is heated up—put in the fire
 - C. A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted
 - D. Jesus gave a parable about different kinds of people who listened four different ways to Him—the seed (see Matthew 13)
- VI. Trials refine us
 - A. When you see Jesus, your life will be that much more refined
 - B. God is out to bless you, not burn you
 - C. Skip has a toaster at home with a setting that will burn the toast—God does not have that setting on His toaster
 - D. "If God puts you in the furnace, His eye is on the clock and his hand is on the thermostat" —Warren Wiersbe
 - E. Job suffered so much and still said, "God knows the way that I take and when He has tested me, I will come forth like gold" (Job 23:10)
 - F. Goldsmith knew that the refining process was done when he could see his reflection in the hot gold
 - G. "We have been predestined to be in the image of Jesus Christ" (Romans 8:29)
 - H. Paul wanted to see Christ formed in the Galatians (see Galatians 4:19)
- VII. Various trials comparison (see 1 Peter 4:10)
 - A. Manifold trials you go through
 - B. Manifold grace of God
 - C. A young woman who wanted to give up and told her mom—three pots on the stove (carrots, eggs, and coffee)
 - D. How do you react in a trial?
 - E. Release a fragrance, add a flavor
 - F. Tell the storm how big your God is

Figures Referenced: Max Lucado, E. Stanley Jones, Philip Yancey, C.S. Lewis, A.B. Simpson, Warren Wiersbe,

Cross references: 1 Kings 19:4, Job 23:10, Psalm 6:6, Psalm 119:67, Ecclesiastes 3:4, Jeremiah 15:18, Matthew 11:3, Matthew 13, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 12, Galatians 4:19, James 1:3, 1 Peter 3:17, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Peter 4:19

Topic: Trials

Keywords: crisis, grief, helpful, strengthen, refine



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Rock Solid Relationship or Relationship on the Rocks?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 1:8-9
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2517

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Why do we insist that having a *relationship* with God is not the same as being a *religious* person? How is a relationship with Him even possible, since He is GOD and thus is unique from all other creatures? Today, the answer to that will be made simple as we consider the simplest components of any relationship, including a relationship with God.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Personal relationship with God—How do you have that?
 1. You can't see Him
 2. It's hard to trust someone you don't see
 3. It's hard to have a relationship with someone who is invisible
 4. We want to see God
 5. Moses wanted to see God (see Exodus 33:18)
 6. "Truly You are a God who hides Himself" (Isaiah 45:15)
 7. We don't have a lot in common with God
 - B. Love and trust—inseparable
- II. Relationship is based on love
 - A. If you violate love or trust, the relationship disintegrates
 - B. The audience Peter was writing to
 - 1. They had never seen Jesus or eaten a meal with Him
 - 2. Converts of those who had personally seen Jesus
 - 3. Jesus prayed about these people (see John 17:20)
 - 4. They believed in Him and loved Him
 - C. How do Christians know that they didn't just make this up?
 1. Skip and Lenya fell in love while they were in separate locations
 2. Love is a choice you make—you don't see Him, but you love Him
 3. The essence of love: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37)
 4. Ask an unbeliever, "Do you love Jesus?" If they say yes, ask a deeper question
 5. What's the proof you love Him "Obey His commands" (see John 14:15-24)
 6. If you don't love Jesus enough to do what He says, then you don't love Jesus
 - D. Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He's not available
 - 1. Call 911; what happens? They respond to the call
 - 2. "Call on me and I will answer you" (Jeremiah 33:3)
 - 3. God is available

- III. Relationship is based on trust
 - A. You can't separate love and trust
 - B. True love trusts (see I Corinthians 13)
 - C. "Now"
 - 1. There will come a time when what was invisible will become visible (see I John 3:2)
 - 2. That was the great hope of Job (see Job 19:27)
 - 3. "We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7)
 - 4. What is faith now will pass away and you will see Him
 - 5. Hymn, It Is Well With My Soul by Horatio Spafford
 - 6. Now we trust and believe and personally lean on and confide in Him
 - D. Which of the disciples showed weak faith?
 - 1. Peter (see Matthew 14:29-31, 16:21-23, and John 21:15-19)
 - 2. Thomas (see John 20:24-29)
 - 3. "Blessed are those who have never seen and yet believe" (John 20:29)
- IV. Relationship based on love and trust satisfies
 - A. Joy; rejoice
 - B. Rejoice with joy inexpressible (above words, above language)
 - C. Satisfaction
 - D. Hard to describe to an unbeliever
 - E. Joy is one of the great themes of God's people in every generation
 - F. The word joy appears 158 times in the Bible
 - G. Paul commanded believers to rejoice; he wrote that command from prison (see Philippians 4:4)
 - H. Joy has little to do with what is going on around you and all about what is going on within you
 - I. Christians in India have a huge joy level
 - J. Joy must be carefully guarded
 - K. "If you have no joy, there must be a leak in your Christianity somewhere" —Billy Sunday
 - L. Joy is not automatic; it is the result of a choice you make
 - M. It is our duty to be a joyful believer (not fake)
 - N. The relationship and joy you have with God now, pales in comparison to what is coming
 - O. "When I met Jesus Christ, I felt that I had swallowed sunshine" —E. Stanley Jones

Publications Referenced: It Is Well With My Soul by Horatio Spafford

Figures Referenced: Billy Sunday, E. Stanley Jones

Cross references: Exodus 33:18, Job 19:27, Isaiah 45:15, Jeremiah 33:3, Matthew 16:21-23, Matthew 22:37, John 14:15-24, Matthew 14:29-31, Matthew 16:21-23, John 17:20, John 21:15-19, I Corinthians 13, I Corinthians 16:22, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Philippians 4:4, I John 3:2, John 20:24-29

Topic: love, trust, joy

Keywords: Jesus, God, relationship, trust, love, invisible



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Our Bedrock Salvation
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 1:10-12
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2519

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God has always planned on saving you. You were never an afterthought or a last-minute consideration. Not only have you been chosen before time began (1 Peter 1:2), but throughout the ages your salvation has been expected and planned for. The spokesmen of the Old Testament wrote about Jesus' coming and the new covenant of grace, which you are now a part of. All this makes our salvation more secure than ever, built on the bedrock of His promises.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Dave Ellen saved Skip's son's life
 1. Nate fell through the ice on a frozen lake
 2. Nate didn't remember who saved his life, just that it was the scariest moment of his life, when he almost died
 3. Skip didn't know that Dave Ellen saved Nate; he just knew that it was one of the scariest moments of his life
 4. Dave filled in both Nate and Skip on the rest of the story
 - B. That's what we have in the book of Peter
 1. Saving a life is wonderful
 2. Saving an eternal soul is even more wonderful
 - C. Peter's audience had been suffering oppression and persecution and trials
 1. Suffering causes your eyes to look downward
 2. You are weighed down
 3. You need encouragement to look up and get your thoughts refocused in the right place
 - D. The theme of the book is salvation
 1. *Salvation* appears 400 times in Scripture
 2. It has a broad scope of meaning; physical salvation to eternal salvation from sin
 3. "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you" (1 Peter 1:10)
 - E. God's great desire is that all men be saved (see 1 Timothy 2:3-4)
 1. When you said, "Yes" to Jesus---when God said, "Yes" to you---that's salvation
 2. Skip was saved watching Dr. Billy Graham on television
 - a. God was getting a bum deal
 - b. Skip was getting a killer deal
 - c. We need to stop and think about what it means to be saved---what our salvation means to us

- d. You have a great insurance policy---it's so great, even the angels are checking it out

- II. Prophets predicted it

- A. Spokesmen for God, "And now, a word from our Creator"

- 1. They proclaimed God's Word
 - 2. They predicted future events
 - 3. They were like archers shooting arrows of truth

- B. About 330 predictions were made about Jesus

- 1. Born of a virgin (see Isaiah 7:14)
 - 2. Born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2)
 - 3. Born in the tribe of Judah (see Genesis 49:10)
 - 4. His ministry would begin in Galilee (see Isaiah 9:1)
 - 5. He would work miracles (see Isaiah 35:5-6)
 - 6. He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (see Zechariah 9:9)
 - 7. He would be betrayed by a friend (see Psalm 41:9)
 - 8. He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver (see Zechariah 11:12)
 - 9. He would be wounded and bruised (see Isaiah 53:5)
 - 10. His hands and feet would be pierced (see Psalm 22:16)
 - 11. He would be crucified between two thieves (see Isaiah 53:12)
 - 12. His garments would be torn and those around would cast lots for them (see Psalm 22:18)
 - 13. His bones would not be broken (see Psalm 34:20)
 - 14. His side would be pierced (see Zechariah 12:10)
 - 15. He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (see Isaiah 53:9)
 - 16. He would rise from the dead (see Psalm 16:10)
 - 17. That's just 16 predictions
 - 18. Odds of one man in history fulfilling all 330 predictions (Dr. Peter Stoner explains)
 - a. Visualize the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars
 - b. Premark one and send someone in blindfolded to find it
 - c. The more predictions, the higher the odds
 - 19. There are about twenty-five books in the world that claim to be Scripture; all but the Bible are missing predictive prophecy

- C. The prophets proclaimed it, but they often didn't understand it

- 1. Isaiah asked, "How long?" (see Isaiah 6)
 - 2. Habakkuk asked, "How long?" (see Habakkuk 1)
 - 3. Daniel said, "This vision troubled me" (see Daniel 7)
 - 4. There were basically two things they wanted to know: who and what
 - 5. It's like twenty-five men trying to put together a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle without a picture
 - 6. Jesus said, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have written! Ought not Christ to have suffered and enter into his glory? (Luke 24:25-26)
 - 7. Jesus told his disciples, "Many prophets and righteous men desire to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it." (Matthew 13:17)
 - 8. We study the Old Testament so we can understand the New Testament

- a. Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst. Him you shall hear" (Deuteronomy 18:15)
 - b. "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4)
 - c. Our salvation was never an afterthought---it was given to and through prophets, fulfilled in Christ
- III. Preachers proclaim it
- A. This is the only Scripture where prophets, preachers, and angels are talked about in the same section
 - B. Who are "those who preached to you?"
1. Primarily, the apostles
 2. Peter preached, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)
 3. It was preached to anyone who would listen
 4. Now, 2000 years after Peter, you are hearing what others have been faithful to proclaim
 5. Now it's your turn---you are commissioned to preach the gospel
 - a. Are you preaching the gospel?
 - b. Do you want to not offend someone?
 - c. The power comes from the Holy Spirit
 - i. The Holy Spirit animated the prophets
 - ii. The Holy Spirit activated the preachers
- IV. Angels ponder it
- A. Angels desire to look into
 - 1. They want to know about salvation
 - 2. They want to stoop down and take a peak
 - a. Angels were at the birth of Christ
 - b. Angels were at the tomb of Christ
 - c. Now they are interested as they look down on us
 - B. Why are we such a wonder to them?
 - 1. Angels can't be saved
 - 2. Salvation is for humans
 - 3. God gave His best to earth's worst
 - 4. Perhaps they are fascinated when a drug addict becomes a preacher, or a criminal becomes a missionary, or a blasphemer becomes a born again child of God
 - 5. They ponder and they rejoice (see Luke 15:10)
 - 6. Perhaps they are curious because of what Paul wrote about humans judging the angels (see 1 Corinthians 6:3-4)
 - C. You could do something today to make the angels marvel---get saved

Publications Referenced: Science Speaks by Dr. Peter Stoner

Figures Referenced: Dr. Billy Graham

Cross references: Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 18:15, Psalm 16:10, Psalm 22:16, Psalm 22:18, Psalm 34:20, Psalm 41:9, Isaiah 6, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:1, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 53:5, Isaiah 53:9, Isaiah 53:12,

Daniel 7, Daniel 12:4, Micah 5:2, Habakkuk 1, Zechariah 9:9, Zechariah 11:12, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 13:17, Luke 15:10, Luke 24:25-27, Acts 4:12, I Corinthians 6:3-4, I Timothy 2:3-4

Topic: Salvation

Keywords: Jesus, God, salvation, preachers, prophets, angels, prophecy



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	How To Walk In The Dark
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 1:13-18
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2523

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Holiness is an uncomfortable subject for most believers. We have no problem assigning holiness to God as we sing, "You Are Holy, Oh Lord!" But our minds get muddled when we think of our own holiness because we don't want to appear *holier than thou*. So what does it mean to be holy? And how can we live holy lives around unholy people? In short, how can we be "children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) while walking in a dark world?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. The difference between a song and a hymn
 - B. Spiritual metaphor of darkness and light (see John 8:12 and Ephesians 8:14)
 - C. What we've covered so far
 1. You have been hand-chosen by God (vv. 1-2)
 2. God has given you a living hope (v. 3)
 3. You have an incorruptible inheritance in heaven (vv. 4-5)
 4. Your suffering is temporary (vv. 6-9)
 5. You have what the prophets predicted and the angels ponder (vv. 10-12)
 - D. Robert Louis Stevenson growing up in Scotland
 1. Lamplighters light the street lamps
 2. "Punching holes in the darkness"
 3. How do you punch holes in the darkness—live for Christ in a dark world?
 4. Prepare your mind, shape your conduct, and focus your will
- II. Prepare Your Mind: Think
 - A. Gird the loins of your mind—think clearly
 1. Old phrase meaning to cinch up as in a robe
 2. Don't trip on the hem of your robe
 3. Modern term would be to roll up your sleeves
 - B. Be sober—think clearly, be morally decisive
 1. It's more than just not being drunk
 2. Studies show that our subconscious minds govern our actions
 3. <v>Proverbs 23:7</v>
 4. If you walk in the darkness in your mind, you walk in the darkness in real life
 - C. A Christian should set his or her hope on the coming of Jesus Christ—think hopefully
 1. We're in a long distance race, not a sprint
 2. Jesus at the finish line should be our motivation
 3. <v>Matthew 25:23</v>

4. Distractions can be disastrous; don't get distracted in this dark world

III. Shape Your Conduct: Act

A. Negative and positive (see Ephesians 2:1-10)

1. Who we were before Christ: doomed, dead, prisoner to our lusts, full of sin, obeying Satan, in the bullseye of God's wrath

2. Vs. who we are after Christ

B. We have to cut out the past—say no to the old life

C. The word "no" is a spiritual word

1. Should I compromise? "No!"

2. Just say no and walk away

D. Say "yes" to our Father

1. What does holiness mean? Candle-lit cathedrals, monks chanting?

a. The primary attribute of God is holiness (see Isaiah 6:3)

b. If we are Christians, there ought to be a family resemblance

i. Don't tarnish your Father's reputation—His good name

ii. Reflect God's holiness

2. W-H-O-L-E-ness

a. Become whole, complete, well-rounded

b. The closer you follow God, the more you become like Him

c. Light bulbs—you've got to plug them into the power source

3. Say no to the old paths, you say yes to your Father, and that shapes your conduct

4. Be holy in all of your conduct—every department of your life

5. Jesus is a resident in your life, not a tourist; He wants the key to every room

E. "How little people know who think holiness is dull. When one meets the real thing, it is irresistible. Even if 10 percent of the world's population had it, would not the whole world be converted before the year's end?" —C.S. Lewis

1. The world doesn't understand holiness; we have to show them

2. Lighthouse with a broken out glass pane

a. We have a few dark spots

b. Part of our Christian growth is to remove the dark spots and replace them with holiness

IV. Focus Your Will: Choose

A. Convictions = firmly held beliefs

B. Based on written Scripture

1. Be holy because God says so in the Bible

2. Signature phrase of Billy Graham: "The Bible says"

C. Based on future judgment

1. God's judgment is the light at the end of the tunnel

2. 1 Corinthians 4:5

3. Jesus sees you and so do I

V. Closing

1. If you want to punch holes in the darkness, think clearly, live holy, and choose decisively

2. You will be the most enlightened person in the bunch

Figures Referenced:Robert Louis Stevenson, C.S. Lewis

Cross references: Proverbs 23:7, Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 25:23, John 8:12, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Ephesians 2:1-10, Ephesians 5:8, Ephesians 8:14

Topic: Holiness

Keywords: Jesus, God, salvation, holy, holiness, thoughts, actions, will



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Where You Fit In God's Plan
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 1:18-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2527

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God's plan always involves people, and you are one of those people. God's plan includes *you*. Just think of it. God had *you* in mind when He put His plan together for the whole world. So where do you fit in that plan? When did this plan have its beginning? How much did this plan cost, and what is your part in it? Today we make that discovery by noting five vital truths:

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. How does the world value people?
 1. Outward beauty
 2. Personal wealth
 3. Accomplishments
 - B. How does God value us?
 1. He looks at us through a different lens
 2. He chooses the foolish things to confound the wise (see I Corinthians 1:27)
 3. "We buy ugly houses" brainchild of Ken D'Angelo
 - C. The A-Team
 1. "I love it when a plan comes together"—Hannibal Smith
 2. God loves it when a plan comes together
 3. God has a plan
- II. Your Preciousness
 - A. Redeemed
 1. Set free by paying a price
 2. Technical term for paying money to set a prisoner of war free
 3. Redemption infers value
 - B. The love of God (see John 3:16)
 1. Dwight L. Moody looked up every reference to God's love
 2. We struggle with God's love because it is foreign to us
 3. Human love vs. God's love
 4. A bracelet bought in Paris worth more because of what was inscribed on it
 5. Your value comes from the fact that you are loved by God
 6. According to scientists, the most precious substance in the universe, very rare, is antihydrogen
 7. To God, you are more precious than antihydrogen
- III. Your Predicament
 - A. Aimless conduct

1. You are aimed in the wrong direction
2. Before he died, Elvis Presley wrote that he felt so alone sometimes
3. Actor George Clooney said, "I'm lonely"
4. King Solomon summed up his whole life as emptiness (see Ecclesiastes 1)
5. Jesus said, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)

B. Tradition from your fathers

1. Are you trusting in traditions to save you?
2. There are two religions in the world: the religion of human achievement and the religion of divine accomplishment

IV. Your Price

- A. The precious blood of Christ
- B. Buying a diamond ring for your fiancé
- C. You do have a set price—you cost everything; the life blood of the Son of God
- D. "Salvation is free, but it is not cheap" —Vance Havner
- E. "Your safety is determined by the lowest bidder on a government contract" —Astronaut Alan Shepard
- F. When God purchased your soul, He didn't go for a lowest bid
- G. Jesus' blood was precious, He was the only person who never sinned
 1. Lambs were used for redemption and for a substitute
 2. When Adam and Eve sinned, God took the skin of animals to cover them (see Genesis 4)
 3. At the first Passover it was one lamb for one family (see Exodus 12)
 4. On the Day of Atonement, it was one lamb for a whole nation (see Leviticus 23)
 5. John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." One lamb for one world (John 1:29)
 6. His blood is the only antidote to the sin virus for the whole world
 7. "An extreme condition demands an extreme remedy" —Joseph Parker
 8. How to Clean Practically Anything, a great little book put out by Consumer Reports
 9. The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin (see 1 John 1:7)
 10. There are churches that don't want to talk about the blood
 - a. They don't want a bloody religion
 - b. They want happy songs
 - c. "I don't think we need a theory of atonement at all I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping down and weird stuff like that." —Delores Williams
 - d. Illustration of two trains that collided—a bright red flag that had faded to a dirty yellow
 - e. Tell people the truth about hell and heaven and how to get to heaven
 - f. Blood atonement is central in the Bible
 - g. "Nothing but the Blood," hymn by Robert Lowry

V. Your Predestination

- A. You were never an afterthought to God—you were a forethought
- B. Adam and Eve's sin was not a surprise
- C. God's redemption is as eternal as His power (see Revelation 13:8)

VI. Your Part

- A. The believing, the faith—that is your part
 - B. You can't work for it or pay for it
 - C. You can't clean up your life enough to be good enough for God
 - D. Come as you are and let God clean up your act
 - E. Do you truly believe?
 - 1. Do you lean on Him?
 - 2. Do you trust Him?
 - 3. You can talk about the greatness of a parachute, but will you jump out of the plane?
 - 4. You must believe in His death, His resurrection, that He is Lord, and He ascended to glory
- VII. Closing
- A. You have a God who says, "You are worth everything"
 - B. No sin is too great, no life is too evil
 - C. We all come the same way—we all must be redeemed
 - D. Religion, tradition, money, and sincerity can't redeem you
 - E. Only His blood can redeem

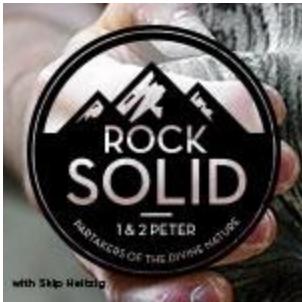
Publications Referenced: How to Clean Practically Anything, by Consumer Reports, "Nothing but the Blood," by Robert Lowry

Figures Referenced: Ken D'Angelo, Hannibal Smith, Dwight L. Moody, Elvis Presley, George Clooney, Vance Havner, Alan Shepard, Joseph Parker, Delores Williams

Cross references: Genesis 4, Exodus 12, Leviticus 23, Ecclesiastes 1, Mark 8:36, John 1:29, John 3:16, I Corinthians 1:27, I John 1:7, Revelation 13:8

Topic: God's plan

Keywords: Salvation, blood, redemption, faith, value



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Rock Solid Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 1:22-2:3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2529

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter's love for his Friend and Lord, Jesus Christ, was at one time on shaky ground when he denied that he even knew Jesus. His love would even get questioned by Christ later on (John 21:15-17). But now Peter knows that love for Christ and love for His people is all part of the same package. A relationship with God includes an affection for God's people. Four components of a rock-solid love are given by the very man who learned what true love is.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Our society is becoming less personal
 - B. To like or follow someone today doesn't mean what it used to
 - C. Forbes magazine says, "Recent studies have found that despite being more connected than ever before, more people feel more alone than ever before."
 - D. In coffee shops, you see everyone alone together—it's an oxymoron; they are looking at a screen—virtual communication
 - E. Harvard Business Review found that teen performance went up 50% when teens socialized more and emailed less
 - F. One thing we should be good at as a church—love; personal not virtual
 - G. God is all about bringing the alone person into a family (see Psalm 68)
 - H. "Sincere love of the brethren" (v. 22)
 - I. Peter writes to his friends
 - I. You are elect
 2. You have a living hope
 3. It does not fade away
 4. You have what the prophets predicted, preachers proclaimed, and what the angels ponder
 5. Live holy lives in obedience to God
 6. God redeemed you at an incredible price
- J. You usually don't think of love in the context of sports
 1. Vince Lombardi said that you had to teach fundamentals, give discipline, and care for and love each other
 2. "The difference between mediocrity and greatness is feeling that these guys have a love for each other" —Vince Lombardi
- K. Four basic instructions on how to have a winning team among believers
 1. Demonstrate your personal liberty
 2. Celebrate your spiritual family

- 3. Radiate a mutual loyalty
 - 4. Cultivate scriptural dependency
- II. Demonstrate your personal liberty
- A. You have been cleansed in the past, and you have new capabilities in the present
 - 1. You should love because you are a saved person (see Galatians 5:22-23)
 - 2. The New Testament is filled with commandments to love one another
 - 3. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. For by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, by the love that you have for one another." (John 13:34-35)
 - B. Our salvation should affect every relationship in life
 - 1. Once we have been saved, we have been set free to love other people
 - 2. "If your father and mother, sister and brother, if the very cat and dog in your house are not happier for you being a Christian, it's a question whether you really are." — Hudson Taylor
 - C. Sincere love
 - 1. *Anupokritos*: without hypocrisy—don't be phony in your love
 - 2. Paul said, "Let love be without hypocrisy" (Romans 12:9)
 - 3. Like plastic fruit
 - 4. *Sincere*, in Latin, means without wax
 - 5. "Hypocrisy is to do the devil's work in God's uniform" — Matthew Henry
 - 6. Judas Iscariot is someone who had insincere love (see Matthew 26:49 and John 12:5-6)
 - 7. Real love will heal people's hearts
 - 8. "I'm convinced nine out of every ten people seeing a psychiatrist don't need one. They need somebody who will love them with God's love, and they will get well." Dr. Paul Tournier
- III. Celebrate your spiritual family
- A. You are in a spiritual family because you've had a spiritual birth
 - 1. We are in the same family because of our second birth
 - 2. We call on the same heavenly Father; we trust in the same Savior; we all have the same Holy Spirit living inside of us
 - B. Blood is thicker than water
 - C. "You can be a good doctor without loving your patients, you can be a great lawyer without loving your clients, but you cannot be a good Christian without love." — D.L. Moody
 - D. Some of us have really messed up; love each other in spite of it
 - E. We will get through this
- IV. Radiate mutual loyalty
- A. The command: Love each other fervently
 - 1. How do you command someone to love?
 - 2. It's something you choose to do
 - B. Words for love
 - 1. *Philadelphia, phileo*, brotherly love, family love
 - 2. *Agape*, divine love, sacrificial love
 - 3. First, we love because we are brothers and sisters
 - 4. Second, we love because He commands us to
 - 5. Fervently and deeply

- C. Love is not just a warm feeling; you've got to work on it
 - 1. Work on treating people like God would treat them (see John 3:16)
 - 2. Delivering shoe boxes in Baghdad, Iraq
 - 3. "We're here in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to tell you that God loves you and loves your children."
 - 4. Until then, they believed that it was the Christians of the world who hated them
 - D. Keep loving (see Philippians 1:9 and 1 Thessalonians 3:12)
 - 1. How fervent is your love for your spouse?
 - 2. What acts of your will do you show your children or your parents?
 - 3. Your friends? Your home group? In your church?
 - 4. "The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis or any other disease like that, rather, it's the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love. The terrible indifference toward one's neighbor who live at the roadside assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease." — Malcolm Muggeridge
 - E. What is your limit to love?
 - 1. It's overflowing (see Romans 5:5)
 - 2. We have an infinite capacity, by God's grace, to love people
 - 3. No one in your life should ever be love starved
- V. Cultivate scriptural dependency
- A. Good growth requires good food
 - 1. You need to be nourished in your love
 - 2. The Bible is love food, it nourishes love
 - 3. The Bible tells us how to love
 - B. God's Word was preached to us and it gave us life
 - 1. Incorruptible seed
 - 2. The seed brought forth fruit
 - 3. The fruit proves the seed is there (see Galatians 5:22)
 - C. When the Bible gives you a command, God will give you the ability to do it
 - 1. If you don't feel like loving that unlovely person in your life, do it anyway
 - 2. If you don't feel like forgiving that nasty person in your life, do it anyway
 - 3. If you don't feel like caring for that belligerent jerk, do it anyway
 - 4. If you don't feel like humbling yourself before that prideful person, do it anyway
 - D. With a pure heart; when you make a decision to show love, the feelings will follow—the feelings follow the act of love
- VI. Closing
- A. The apostle John had to be carried when he was older
 - B. His sermons were five words long: "Little children, love one another"
 - C. Jesus' command to love one another is still the most basic and the most difficult for us to do
 - D. We can do it because we've been set free

Greek Terms: ἀνυπόκριτος, anupokritos--unfeigned, without hypocrisy; *agape*, agape--love; φιλέω, phileo, love of friendship

Latin Terms: *sine cera*--without wax

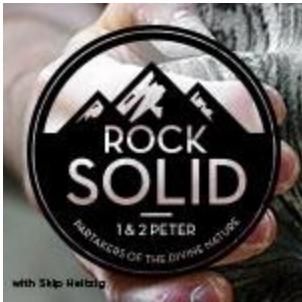
Publications Referenced: Forbes magazine, Harvard Business Review

Figures Referenced: Hudson Taylor, Matthew Henry, Dr. Paul Tournier, D.L. Moody, Malcolm Muggeridge

Cross references: Psalm 68, Isaiah 40, Matthew 26:49, John 3:16, John 12:5-6, John 13:34-35, Romans 5:5, Romans 12:9, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 1:9, 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Topic: love

Keywords: Fruit, Scripture, commandment, love



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Got Milk?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 2:1-3
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2531

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Babies need milk to survive and to thrive. And newborn babies need and crave it a lot. So too, those who have been spiritually born-again need spiritual milk so that they can grow and be mature. As believers grow, they will begin to enjoy more solid spiritual food. But here Peter is addressing our appetites?those things we desire and crave. He gives us a three-part instruction that will curb and train our appetites in such a way that maximum growth will be achieved.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Got Milk? A successful ad campaign
 - B. Interesting milk facts
 1. Poppea, Nero's second wife, bathed in donkey milk
 2. Cows with names make more milk
 3. The average cow produces ninety glasses of milk a day
 4. Most cows give more milk when they listen to music
 5. Milk is good for cooling your mouth after spicy food
 - C. Babies desire milk for food; we should crave spiritual milk—spiritual truth
- II. Be Mindful of What You've Tasted (v. 3)
 - A. Therefore
 1. Peter was speaking about being born again (see chapter one)
 2. He was also speaking of the Word of God
 3. He spoke of the Word as milk, nutrition
 - a. There is encouragement in the Bible for those who delight in God's Word, God's truth
 - b. Blessed is the man whose delight is in God's Word (see Psalm 1)
 - c. Job said His words were more important than necessary food (see Job 23:12)
 - d. God's Words brought joy and rejoicing to Jeremiah's heart (see Jeremiah 15:16)
 - e. Psalm 119 has 184 references to the Scripture, the Word of God, and the testimonies of God (see Psalms 119)
 - f. "Your statutes are my delight" (Psalms 119:24)
 4. The theme of salvation: delight in, crave after, desire the Word of God
 - B. A second response to salvation is to love one another
 - C. The third response to salvation is that we would crave this food (His Word) in order that we might grow

1. "You are what you eat"
 2. What do you eat?
 3. What do you crave?
- D. To grow spiritually
 1. Appetizer—taste it, it's so good, you are going to want more
 2. Don't be tempted by junk food—push that aside
 3. Make room for the main course
 4. Be mindful, be careful, be faithful
 5. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious, but aside the bad stuff
 - a. You've tasted that God is gracious, you've experienced it for yourself
 - b. God tastes better than sin
 - c. David said, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34)
 - d. Think back to your salvation experience—remember how that felt
 - i. Survey your blessings since you've come to know Christ (see Isaiah 51:1)
 - ii. Think of how many prayers He's answered
 - iii. How many times has He sent you a word of encouragement or provision at just the right time?
 - e. When you've tasted God's goodness, you're going to want more
- III. Be Careful to Avoid Junk-Food (v. 1)
 - A. Some things will make you lose your appetite
 - I. The fingernail in the salad
 - a. Spit it out; lose your appetite
 - b. Relational sins—horizontal sins that will take away your appetite for vertical truth
 - c. Food should give you the nutrients you need in order to grow
 - B. Five junk foods
 1. Malice—ill will; a complaining, grumpy person (see Matthew 12:34)
 2. Deceit—to bait a hook; fishing is deceiving fish; cover the hook with something the fish like to eat
 3. Hypocrisy—to wear a mask; hypocrites pretend to be something they are not
 4. Envy—what goes on in your heart when someone else is blessed; or you're joyful that some misfortune happened to another person
 5. Evil speaking or slander—gossip, backbiting, rumor; it could be a raise eyebrow, it could be a sentence you left unfinished
 - C. When you forget how gracious God has been to you, you start getting ungracious toward others
 - D. Your bitterness will kill your appetite for His sweetness, or His sweetness will kill your bitterness and dispel it
- IV. Be Faithful to Feed on Truth (v. 2)
 - A. Babies change rapidly—they eat a lot
 1. They will let you know when they are hungry
 2. They can't live without milk—it's necessary for life
 3. Peter uses this metaphor about babies and milk to encourage them to crave God's truth like a baby craves milk
 4. Desire, crave; *epipotheó* in Greek
 5. A farmer named Ole, a Lutheran, who craved beef

- B. What is your spiritual appetite?
 - 1. What do you crave?
 - 2. On a scale of one to ten evaluate your own spiritual hunger
 - 3. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6)
 - C. Skip used to listen to several cassette tapes during the day to go through the whole Bible
 - D. Lenya used to go to church every single night of the week—she just couldn't get enough
 - E. Passion—craving, desire, yearning
 - F. J.C. Penney on a stock clerk with a goal
 - G. Does a baby want two percent or skim milk? No, whole milk—the real stuff; they're trying to put on weight
 - 1. Don't mix it with anything else and contaminate it
 - 2. "That you may grow thereby"
 - 3. You cannot grow spiritually without a steady diet of God's Word
 - H. Imagine an adult in diapers with a Binky; sad isn't it?
 - 1. Ask yourself: "Am I in the same place spiritually that I was a year ago or five years ago?"
 - 2. Why?
 - 3. "All Scripture is inspired by God and useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 4. Scripture is God's way of preparing us in every way—fully-equipped for every good thing God wants us to do
- V. Closing
- A. You were given the appetizer when you were first saved—He tastes so good
 - B. Don't feed on junk food—it'll take away your spiritual appetite
 - C. Clear your plate for the real food—the vertical, spiritual stuff
 - D. Some common Christian philosophies in regards to church
 - 1. I'll show up and occupy the seat: "I went to church"
 - 2. Others will dress up, show up and listen up: "I listened to the sermon"
 - 3. Take it another step—grow up; you can be a spiritual giant, or a spiritual midget—it's directly proportionate to your desire

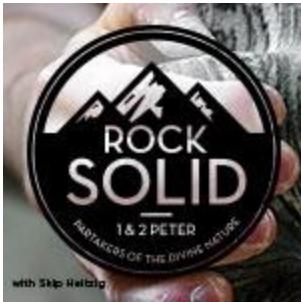
Greek Terms: ἐπιποθέω; epipotheó, long for, strain after, desire greatly

Figures Referenced: Nero, Poppaea, J.C. Penney

Cross references: Job 23:12, Psalm 1, Psalm 34, Psalm 119, Isaiah 51:1, Jeremiah 15:16, Matthew 5:6, Matthew 12:34

Topic: spiritual growth

Keywords: growth, Scripture, the Word, prepared



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	This Old House
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 2:4-10
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2532

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God has been building His "house" since He first made the world. This is not a physical home nor a temple of worship as much as an assembly of peoples whom He has gathered to Himself. The stones He chooses are human beings in relationship to Christ, the cornerstone foundation. Let's consider God's site-plan for this construction project today.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Newlywed son-in-law, "use two coats"
 - B. This old house—the church of Jesus Christ
 1. God is always interested
 2. Always building
 3. Still not finished
 4. Adding stone by stone as the years go on
 - C. Skip's dad was a builder—he loved building projects
 - D. In Israel, everything is made of stone, not two-by fours
 - E. "Living Stone" is an oxymoron
 1. Pet rocks
 2. The rock Peter spoke of had all the strength and solidarity of a rock, but it's alive
 3. Jesus is alive and lives forevermore (see Rev. 1:18)
 4. Paul spoke of the rock that followed the Israelites around in the wilderness and quenched their thirst (see I Cor. 10)
 - F. Peter also spoke of a "living hope" and the "living Word of God"
 - G. Peter had in his mind the temple in Jerusalem
- II. The Basis: Christ
 - A. What kind of living stone is He?
 1. The cornerstone: the most important part of the building
 2. The largest and heaviest stone set at the foundation
 3. It was a massive stone
 4. It provided foundation, symmetry, measurement for the rest of the structure
 - B. Jesus Christ should be the foundation for your faith; not just a fine example, or a tradition of people
 - C. He is the chief cornerstone
 - D. It all begins for us when we come to Him; It's what He tells us to do (see Matt. 11:28)
- III. The Building: Us
 - A. When you come, you become

- I. The word *Christian* means little Christ
 - 2. You are not a dead, inanimate rock any more
 - 3. You share His life and strength
 - 4. You are a living stone
 - B. King of Sparta in Ancient Greece used to brag about the mighty walls of Sparta; Jesus will point to you and I and brag about the stones of the building
 - C. Simply stated: it means we share His life and His strength
 - D. Christianity is the only religion where the life of the One we worship becomes our life (see Col. 3:4; 2 Peter 1:3-4)
 - E. Jesus is all about building people up
 - 1. He's not all about property and temples (see Acts 7:48; 17:24)
 - 2. Peter is speaking of a spiritual house
 - 3. An interesting house: the Winchester Mystery House—a house that was never finished
 - 4. This spiritual house that God is building is not done yet
 - 5. Every person who comes to Christ—another stone is added
 - 6. Peter is speaking of a spiritual house
 - F. We are a holy priesthood; we don't go to the temple; we are the temple; we have access like a priest
 - 1. We have a responsibility to be holy
 - 2. Spiritual sacrifice: your body (see Rom. 12:1)
 - a. Your hands, feet, and mouth belong to God; give them to Him for His purpose
 - b. A sacrifice of praise (see Heb. 13:15)
 - c. Good works: sharing with people is a sacrifice (see Heb. 13:16)
 - d. Another sacrifice is when we give financially to God's kingdom, His work (see Phil. 4:18)
 - G. Building people up is a wonderful but messy endeavor
 - 1. We don't always agree
 - 2. We don't always get along on every theological issue
 - 3. You are going to be in heaven with people you disagree with
 - 4. Every family has people who are different
 - 5. There were arguments even among the apostles
 - 6. God puts us all together and builds us up
- IV. The Blueprints: Scripture
- A. The building is built on what God said in the Old Testament
 - B. Through the building commission of heaven
 - C. Through the architect: God
 - D. Into the hands of the Old Testament prophets
- V. Two Builders
- A. Wannabe builders
 - 1. The Jewish Sanhedrin—the caretakers
 - 2. Self-imposed builders of God's work on earth
 - 3. They looked at Jesus through the measuring implements of their religion, and they rejected Him
 - 4. People still reject Him today

5. Why should we care what the world thinks of us? They don't get Jesus, the most important One God sent. Their opinion holds no value
- B. The real builder: God
1. God has a measuring line
 2. God examined Jesus according to the measurements of His own perfection
 3. God approved the cornerstone (see Matt. 3:17; 17:5; Luke 3:22; 2 Peter 1:17)
 4. Two men went to the Louvre in Paris and looked at a classic work of art
 5. The leaders and the people rejected Jesus—they got rid of Him (see Acts 4:8-12)

Figures Referenced: King of Sparta

Cross references: Matthew 3:17; 11:28; 17:5; Luke 3:22; John 14:2; Acts 4:8-12; 7:48; 17:24; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10; Philippians 4:18; Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 13:15-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1:17; Revelation 1:18

Topic: God's House

Keywords: builder, Jesus, God, church, Christian, foundation, cornerstone, rock, rejected, build, Scripture, elect, chosen, precious, approved, sacrifice, living



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Maximum Impact
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 2:11-12
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2536

MESSAGE SUMMARY

How can Christ-followers make the most meaningful impact on the unbelieving world? That was in Peter's mind when he wrote this letter to scattered believers facing hostility from their neighbors. Four principles that transcend time stand out here; these will encourage us and empower us as we seek to influence our world for Christ and leave a lasting impression.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. What do you think is the best way to impact the world for Christ?
 1. People go to two different extremes
 2. Matthew 5:16
 - B. "Onward, Christian Soldiers" rewritten for modern Christians: "Backward, Christians soldiers, fleeing from the fight, with the cross of Jesus nearly out of sight"
 - C. Peter wrote to Christians who were scattered around Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey
 1. I Peter 1:1
 2. These believers were also suffering; I Peter 1:6-7
 3. Peter knew they needed encouragement to shine their light brightly and to show the unbelieving world the validity of their faith
 - D. The most effective way you can make maximum impact: your life lived well
 - E. Context: I Peter 2:13-17
 - F. Four principles will help you make maximum impact
- II. Realize Your Identity (I Peter 2:11a)
 - A. Peter used the word *beloved* eight times in 1 and 2 Peter
 1. Like Billy Graham: "God loves you"
 2. So that your incentive to do what He says to do is because you love the One who loves you
 - B. Sojourners (Travelers)
 1. Literally means alongside the house
 2. We live alongside people who make this world their home
 - C. Pilgrims (Visitors)
 1. A traveler; someone who stops by temporarily but is on the move
 2. You're loved by God, but you are not a local —you're a foreigner
 3. John 15:19
 4. I John 2:15
 5. Philippians 3:20
 6. Because we are citizens of heaven, we will always be square pegs in round holes

- 7. When we forget who we are, we start living like perpetual citizens of earth rather than eternal citizens of heaven
- D. Knowing our identity will give us proper balance in life
 - 1. It will also give us proper incentive
 - 2. Samuel Morris heard the Lord say, "You're not home yet"
 - 3. We need to remember we're loved by God, but we're just passing through
- III. Resist Your Impulses (1 Peter 2:11b)
 - A. Knowing who we are will help us know what to do when certain impulses and temptations come
 - B. The Internal Battles
 - 1. If you're going to live a godly life on the outside, it begins by living a godly life on the inside
 - 2. Your soul is saved, but it's incarcerated by your human fallen nature, the flesh
 - 3. I Corinthians 10:13
 - 4. Everyone has the impulse to do wrong things
 - 5. "Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it —his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toy, his uncle's watch. Deny him these wants, and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous, were he not so helpless.... If permitted to continue in the self-centered world of his infancy, given free rein to his impulsive actions to satisfy his wants, every child would grow up a criminal, a thief, a killer, a rapist" —Minnesota Crime Commission
 - C. The Spiritual War
 - 1. Galatians 5:17; lusts = wars
 - 2. "I have had more trouble with D.L. Moody than with any other man who has ever crossed my path" —D.L. Moody
 - 3. War means to carry out a long-term military campaign; how the Romans fought and conquered
 - 4. Galatians 5:19-21
 - 5. The solution: Galatians 5:16
 - 6. If we live a Spirit-led life, we will have the power to abstain from fleshly lusts
 - 7. To abstain is to hold them away from you; don't let them in
 - 8. John Bunyan's *The Holy War*: when the Enemy comes, close the gate
 - 9. We're in a war zone; Ephesians 6:11
- IV. Reveal Your Integrity (1 Peter 2:12a)
 - A. What is private and inward must eventually become public and outward
 - B. Before Your World
 - 1. "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (v. 12, NIV)
 - 2. Unbelievers study us; they're watching to see if we fail
 - 3. Jesus: Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34; John 8:41
 - 4. Paul: Acts 24:5
 - 5. Early Christians in the Roman Empire were accused of being cannibals (see Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; 1 Cor. 11:23-25), incest, and atheism
 - 6. Peter was saying live so noble a life that any of those accusations won't stick
 - C. For Your God

- D. We as Christians are onstage; the bright light of the unbeliever is on us
 - E. What are they seeing?
 - F. "A saint is one who makes it easy to believe in Jesus" —Ruth Graham
 - G. "Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died" —Erma Bombeck
- V. Remember Your Intention (v. 12b)
- A. The ultimate goal is what it will do to unbelievers
 - B. "Day of visitation" is an Old Testament phrase used to describe when God visits the earth with blessing or judgment
 - C. God Glorified in Blessing
 - 1. Ruth 1:6
 - 2. God showed up with blessing
 - D. God Glorified in Judgment
 - 1. Zechariah 10:3
 - 2. Peter was speaking of the second coming of Christ; it'll be a day of good news for some and a day of bad news for others
 - 3. How can a person who is observing a Christian glorify God on the day of visitation?
 - a. Your lifestyle will push them right over into receiving Christ themselves
 - b. Or Philippians 2:10-11
 - c. The first is better
- VI. Closing
- A. To Christians: life is built on character
 - 1. Character is built on choices and decisions
 - 2. Every decision you make, large or small, does to your life what a sculptor's chisel does to a block of marble —shapes it
 - 3. As it shapes who you are, it shapes how people looking at you will view the God you say you serve
 - B. To the unbeliever: no Christian over the last 2,000 years has been perfect
 - 1. Complaining about hypocrites in the church is no excuse
 - 2. In the last day, you're not going to have to sit before hypocrites to be judged; you'll only stand before God
 - 3. There's room for one more hypocrite
 - 4. I Timothy 1:15
 - 5. Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36

Figures referenced: Billy Graham, Samuel Morris, D.L. Moody, John Bunyan, Ruth Graham, Erma Bombeck

Cross references: Ruth 1:6; Zechariah 10:3; Matthew 5:16; 11:19; 16:26; 26:26-28; Mark 8:36; 14:22-24; Luke 7:34; John 8:41; 15:19; Acts 24:5; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 11:23-25; Galatians 5:16-17, 19-21; Ephesians 6:11; Philippians 2:10-11; 3:20; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 1:1, 6-7; 2:11-17; 1 John 2:15

Topic: Witnessing

Keywords: impact, witness, witnessing, gospel, unbelievers, identity, heaven, temptations, battle, spiritual warfare, flesh, Spirit, Enemy, Devil, glory, good news, character, decisions, choices



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The World's Hardest Activity
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 2:13-17
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2545

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Some people are just gifted at music or naturally talented with their hands. Others find that sports come easy, while others can perform math functions with total ease. But there is something that practically everyone finds difficult and that is *submission*. To abdicate our will to that of another, even for the sake of order and peace, is extremely tough. But there are higher goals and loftier purposes for believers to live submissive lives.

OUTLINE

I. The Principle of Submission (v. 13)

II. The Particulars of Submission (vv. 13-14)

A. The King

B. Governors

C. Law Enforcement

III. The Purpose of Submission (vv. 13, 15-16)

A. The Upward Purpose (v. 13 “For the Lord’s sake”)

B. The Outward Purpose (v. 15 “to silence the ignorance of foolish people”)

IV. The Practice of Submission (v. 17)

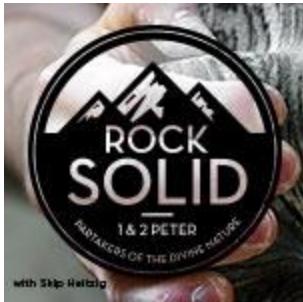
A. Towards People

B. Towards God

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. In verse 13, what is the first reason given for our submission?
2. How does this principle influence your understanding of submission?
3. Who should we submit to? In what ways can we do this?
4. Why should we submit?
5. How do we differentiate submitting to God and submitting to people? In other words, when does submitting to God take precedence over submitting to people?
6. What are some examples of this?
7. What did God reveal to you in this passage?

8. Is there anything that applies directly to you or to someone you know? How can you take aim at changing a negative behavior in a biblical way?
9. Who was this passage originally directed to?
10. How does this passage apply to believers?



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Take This Job And Love It
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 2:18-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2557

MESSAGE SUMMARY

I want to make you a promise today: If you can learn and master the four principles in our text, your job will never be the same. The tedium, tension, and labor will give way to a higher motive that will bring authentic joy and deep satisfaction. As Peter addresses slaves in the ancient Roman world, let's apply it to a much more modern and humane situation?your place of employment.

OUTLINE

I. A Practical Command (v. 18a)

Principle #1:

II. A Potential Predicament (vv. 18b, 20)

Principle #2:

III. A Powerful Consideration (vv. 19-20)

Principle #3:

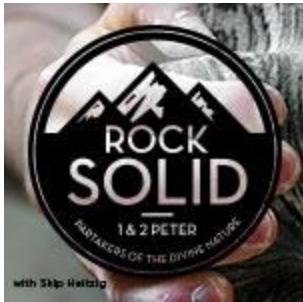
IV. A Personal Calling (v. 21)

Principle #4:

CONNECT QUESTIONS

- I. What principles are revealed in these verses? Take some time to discuss these principles one at a time.

2. How are these principles played out in your everyday life? Are there areas where you struggle?
3. What type of servants/laborers should we be?
4. What should be our motivation for having a Christlike attitude toward our vocation (see vv. 20-21)?
5. What did God reveal to you in this passage?
6. Is there anything that applies directly to you or to someone you know? How can you take aim at changing a negative behavior in a biblical way?
7. Who was this passage originally directed to?
8. How does this passage apply to believers?



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	You Remind Me of Someone!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 2:21-25
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2594

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Whom do you remind people of? At work or in society at large, is it evident that you are a Christ-follower? Jesus is always our supreme example for how to live a godly life in an ungodly world. Peter told us that we should submit to government as well as to management, and now he tells us why we should—because Jesus did and He's the one we follow.

OUTLINE

- I. Like Jesus, Live with Endurance (v. 21)
- II. Like Jesus, Forgo Vengeance (vv. 22-23a)
- III. Like Jesus, Rest in Confidence (v. 23b)
- IV. Like Jesus, Love with Extravagance (vv. 24-25)
- V. Like Jesus, Display Patience (v. 25)

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What attributes of Christ are revealed in I Peter 2:21-25?
2. Why should we have those same attributes in our lives?

3. How is that possible?
4. What characteristics do you most struggle with appropriating? What steps can you take to look more like Jesus in those areas?
5. How does the fact that Jesus embodies all of these attributes affect your relationship with Him?
6. What did God reveal to you in this passage?
7. Is there anything that applies directly to you or to someone you know? How can you take aim at changing a negative behavior in a biblical way?
8. Who was this passage originally directed to?
9. How does this passage apply to believers?



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Irresistible Beauty of a Tender Heart
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:1-6
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2597

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The most attractive people in the world are those who display depth of character and pleasant personalities. Solomon insisted that “[outward] beauty is passing” (Proverbs 31:30). As Peter speaks to a common issue in the early church (Christian wives married to unbelieving husbands), he also gives us three marks of a tenderhearted woman: in her actions, attitudes, and admiration.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Marriage magnifies the personality you already have
 - B. A New Jersey classified ad: "Honey, please come home. The children miss you, the lawn hasn't been mowed in three weeks, and the garden needs a worm like you. Your loving wife, Gretchen."
 - C. Submission is not an easy topic to talk about
 1. Responses range from nervous laughter to outright scorn
 2. New Mexico congressmen involved in controversy for citing the Bible, saying that a wife should voluntarily submit to her husband, while her husband should lovingly lead and sacrifice for her
 - D. In 1 Peter 3, Peter deals with four major areas of social interaction: the society, the workplace, the home/family, and the church
 - E. Verses 1-7 are addressed to wives and husbands; verses 1-6 are addressed to women in an unequally yoked marriage.
 1. Paul uses the phrase *unequally yoked* (see 2 Corinthians 6:14) to refer to the marriage of a believer and an unbeliever; they are married legally, not spiritually
 2. In ancient times, it was assumed the wife would follow whatever religion her husband was part of; therefore there were issues when a wife converted to Christianity, already seen as a subversive movement
 3. Unequally yoked spouses should not divorce or separate; there is something else that should and can be done
 - F. "I have no way of knowing whether or not you married the wrong person. I do know that many people have a lot of wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful. I'll be the first to admit that it is possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all."—Zig Ziglar
- II. Three Marks of a Tenderhearted Woman
 - A. Her Actions Speak Louder than Her Words

- I. "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe [or watch, or carefully scrutinize] your chaste conduct accompanied by fear" (1 Peter 3:1-2)
 - a. Treating the wrong person like the right person and discovering you may have married the right person after all; the Lord uses relationship to win the unbelieving spouse
2. The Greco-Roman culture gave women basically no rights
 - a. An unmarried woman living at home was under a Roman law known as *patria potestas*—the absolute authority of the Roman father over the child.
 - b. A Roman father even had the right to execute his own children without any legal repercussions
 - c. When a Roman woman married, those rights passed to her husband, her new owner
3. Why are Peter's words to wives six times longer than his words to husbands?
 - a. The position of being a wife in those days was much more complicated and difficult: If a husband converted to Christianity, the wife would follow
 - b. If a wife converted to Christianity, not be the case; there would be trouble
4. There are two basic principles Peter (and Paul) tell the wife of an unbelieving husband to adhere to: continuation and submission.
 - a. Continuation—Stick with your husband; don't leave him because you're unequally yoked.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 7:14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband."
 - ii. That is, the spouse is placed in a special, set-apart position for accessibility by God's Holy Spirit into the life of that person because of the influence of that believer; God has a unique access to reach and save a person.
 - b. Submission: Likewise in verse 1 refers to the previous chapter, in which Peter told believers to submit to government, to those in the workplace, and to Jesus Christ or the Father's will.
 - i. Submission does not infer moral, intellectual, or spiritual inferiority.
 - ii. Citizens must submit to government leaders, yet these leaders are not superior or better than any citizen.
 - iii. A master is over a servant, but it doesn't mean the master is intellectually better, superior, or loftier
 - iv. A Christian woman and a Christian man are equal: "There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).
 - c. Men should not turn into military leaders because of the verses that call for wives to submit
 - i. Submission does not imply the superiority of a male or inferiority of a female
 - ii. Submission for the functionality of the relationship.

- d. What about a believing wife having to submit to an unbelieving husband?
 - i. It doesn't mean you can or should submit to him when he's telling you to do something sinful or against God's will
 - ii. It does mean to respond to him, to relinquish your rights and serve his needs
 - iii. "The husband does not replace Christ as the woman's supreme authority. She must never follow her husband's leadership into sin, but even where a Christian wife may have to stand with Christ against the sinful will of her husband, she can still have a spirit of submission. She can show by her attitude and behavior that she does not like resisting his will and that she longs for him to forsake his sin and lead in righteousness so that her disposition to honor him as head can again produce harmony" —John Piper
- e. "Be submissive to your own husbands that even if some do not obey the word" - this word refers to God's Word -- "they, without a word" -- this word refers to the wife's word -- "may be won by the conduct of their wives" (v.1)
 - i. Does not mean that a wife never has to say anything about her testimony or the gospel
 - ii. We have been "born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, through the word of God" (1 Peter 1:23)
 - iii. The time does comes when the husband has heard it all and heard enough, and he needs something stronger than just words—a life that he can see
 - iv. It's like when you're young and your parents tell you the same speech over and over again...
 - v. Nagging, badgering, and arguing with your husband will not convert him; high-pressure Christianity is never effective, especially in the home
 - vi. The unbelieving husband of a believing wife already feels threatened: His wife is in love with somebody else that he can't even see, and he has been demoted to number two
 - vii. A balance of influencing your husband without alienating him
- f. Peter's counsel in this situation: Be a good wife!
- g. "The silent preaching of a lovely life"—William Barclay
- h. Tension in home between believing mother and unbelieving father: "She served her husband as her master and did all she could to win him for You, speaking to him of You, and by her conduct, by which You made her so beautiful, finally, when her husband was at the end of his earthly span, she gained him for You" —Augustine

B. Her Attitude Is Her Prettiest Feature

- 1. "Do not let your adornment be merely outward - arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel - rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and a quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" (v. 3)
- 2. This is not a legalistic ban on fashion or style; everybody appreciates beauty; a \$17 billion a year industry

- a. Even 2,000 years ago, women dyed their hair bold colors and wore wigs, the most popular color of which was blond, and which have been found in Christian catacombs
 - b. Examples of physical beauty/fashion in the Bible include the description of the bride in Song of Solomon and the robe and ring given to the prodigal son by his father in the New Testament (see Luke 15:22)
 - c. It is possible for an unkempt wife to discourage her husband.
3. "If the barn needs painting, paint it."
- a. Don't just paint the house—furnish it with holiness and character.
 - b. "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:30)
4. There's always a promise and allure of beauty in the world, but Peter's saying here, "Hey, it's fine to look good, but get a spiritual makeover—incorruptible beauty."
- a. The world's idea of beauty is all about youth, but incorruptible beauty makes a woman look and be more beautiful as the years go on
 - b. You can be stunning on the outside and ugly on the inside.
5. The hidden person of the heart is the real you—your reputation and character—and you need to be very concerned about it.
- a. Do you spend as much time and energy on the hidden person of the heart as on getting ready in the morning?
6. Two types of furnishings for the hidden person of the heart: gentle and quiet
- a. Gentle means meek, which doesn't mean you're a cowering person, but rather that you have power under control.
 - i. Being meek means your spirit, your mouth, your responses, and your emotions are under God's control.
 - b. "Quiet" means "tranquil, undisturbed," like a glassy lake.
 - i. A wife can set the tone of the whole house by her tranquility of heart.

C. Her Admiration Is More Biblical than Conventional

1. When a woman of God looks for role models and examples to follow, she'll look in the Bible, not in *People* magazine.
2. Verse 5-6: "For in this manner, in former times [reaching backwards], the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."
3. Jewish women would always look back to the heroines of their past, like Ruth (see Ruth 3:11) and the Proverbs 31 woman.
4. At the time Peter was writing, he was basically saying, "Hey, look to gals like Sarah, not Cleopatra! Look to biblical role models."
5. We should follow suit as people who take all their cues from the Bible.
 - a. The Bible is useful to teach us whatever is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right (See 2 Timothy 3:16).
6. Other books may give you information or inspiration, but the Bible provides transformation.
7. Why did Sarah call Abraham *lord*?

- a. *Lord* is not just a term of deity, but of respect—like *sir*; I respect you; I honor you; I submit to you.
- b. Peter uses Sarah and Abraham's marriage as an example; their marriage was not perfect: He made some bad decisions and she had to go along with them (see Genesis 12).

III. Closing

- A. This message is a call to focus on the hidden person of the heart
 - 1. Choose good character, not just good cosmetics
 - 2. Adorn yourself with gentleness, not just jewelry
 - 3. Let your "bling" be goodness, not gold
- B. "Which is very precious in the sight of God" (v. 4); God is watching you.
 - I. If we lived under that awareness, most of our problems would go away

Figures referenced: Zig Ziglar, John Piper, William Barclay, Augustine

Cross references: Genesis 12, Ruth 3:1, Luke 15:22, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 7:14, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23

Topic: Marriage

Keywords: marriage, submission, wives, husbands, unbelievers, unequally yoked, evangelism, beauty



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Four-Sided Fortress of a Husband's Love
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 3:7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2599

MESSAGE SUMMARY

If life is to be *rock solid*, then family relationships—especially marriage—must be rock solid. No wonder Peter speaks to husbands after addressing wives. In his directive toward submission, he addresses citizens (and not government officials); he addresses servants (and not their masters). But when it comes to the home, he addresses *both* wives and husbands. Let's consider how a husband's love can make a woman feel firmly secure.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Ancient fortresses
 1. Typically had four sides to keep residents safe
 2. Same with marriage; four applicable principles from I Peter 3:7 form a fortress to protect those within a marriage
 - B. Love doesn't appear in this text, but the verse is a description of how a husband's love ought to operate
 - C. All humans on earth are incompatible with all other humans on earth; we're all sinners
 1. You can either tear up the picture of the perfect partner you have in your mind and accept your actual partner, or tear up the partner and accept the picture
 2. "In any marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, grounds for marriage"—Robert Anderson
 - D. I Peter 3:1-7 for context
- II. Submission is Mutual ("*Husbands, likewise...*")
 - A. Peter's theme of submitting to every ordinance of man (see I Peter 2:12-13)
 - B. Likewise—husbands don't submit in the same way wives submit, but there is a mutual level of submission
 - C. Ephesians 5:22
 1. Verse 21 is actually the beginning of Paul's thoughts on husbands and wives
 2. Verse 22 literally says, "Wives to your own husbands..."
 3. *Submit* is implied from verse 21 and continues to be implied in verse 25, 6:1, and 6:5 (for wives, husbands, children, and servants)
 - D. How do husbands submit?
 1. Ephesians 5:25
 2. There is no greater act of submission than the willingness to die for another person
 3. Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and to the need of mankind by dying on the cross

- 4. Does not mean the husband stops being the leader
- E. Yield sign on both sides of a bridge
 - 1. To avoid a head-on collision, both drivers need to yield
 - 2. "When grace changes the heart, submission out of fear changes to submission out of love"—William Hendriksen
- III. Consideration is Essential ("dwell with them with understanding")
 - A. Understand what God's purpose for marriage is and what you and your wife's roles are
 - B. Above all, understand *her*
 - 1. Husbands should be lifelong students of their wives
 - 2. You have to know her well if you're going to love her well
 - C. Genesis 2:18
 - 1. *Comparable* = suitable; a counterpart
 - 2. Hebrew: "I am going to make a helper *like-opposite* him"; suggests polarity
 - D. Book on brain physiology states that men are different from women in aptitude, skill, behavior, communication, physically, etc.
- IV. Cooperation is Practical
 - A. A Husband Should Promote Honor ("giving honor to the wife")
 - 1. (*To*) *honor* = to assign/assess value to a person; priceless, precious
 - 2. A husband should treat his wife with respect, kindness, courtesy, and chivalry
 - 3. "After interviewing hundreds of wives and daughters, there is one consistent plea that is commonly asked by them of all of their fathers and their husbands: please be comforting instead of lecturing and criticizing"—Gary Smalley
 - B. A Husband Should Provide Strength ("as to the weaker vessel")
 - 1. Weaker vessel—does not mean a wife is weaker intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually
 - 2. On a physiological, scientific level, women are *generally* weaker than men
 - 3. A man should know his wife so well that he can offer strength for her areas of weakness
 - 4. Treat your wife like fine china, not like paper plates; like silverware, not plastic ware
 - C. A Husband Should Pledge Companionship ("heirs together")
 - 1. Could mean physical life or spiritual, everlasting life
 - 2. Your wife's soul is as precious to God as your soul; treat her as a daughter of the living God
 - 3. "Woman was not taken from man's head to be above him; she was not taken from his feet to be walked on by him; but she was taken from his side to be close to him, from under his arm to be protected by him, from near to his heart to be loved by him"—paraphrased from Matthew Henry
 - 4. Your wife doesn't want more things, she wants more of you
- V. Division is Unprofitable ("that your prayers be not hindered")
 - A. *Hinder* = to cut in, to interrupt
 - 1. Military term for blowing up a road so that an enemy can't advance toward you on that road
 - 2. Satan's desire is to cut in between a husband and God
 - 3. Luke 22:31—true of every husband
 - 4. The sin of unforgiveness can hinder your prayers from being answered
 - a. Matthew 6:14-15

- b. Never go to sleep at night without forgiving your spouse
 - B. Evasion of husbandly duty will bring interruption to heavenly bounty
- VI. Closing
- I. Tear up that picture that you have in your mind of the perfect partner and accept the imperfect partner
 - 2. You're married to an imperfect person—and so is your spouse

Figures Referenced: Robert Anderson, William Hendriksen, Matthew Henry, Gary Smalley

Cross references: Genesis 2:18, Matthew 6:14-15, Luke 22:31, Ephesians 5:21-22, Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 6:1, Ephesians 6:5, 1 Peter 2:12-13, 1 Peter 3:1-7

Topic: Marriage

Keywords: marriage, submission, wives, husbands, love, understanding, honor, strength, companionship



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	How To Attract Flies
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:8-12
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2600

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The old saying "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" fits perfectly with Peter's letter. He's been telling Christians how to live in plain view of the unbelieving world. Now he goes into the church and tells us how to treat each other. It's his hope that an exhibition of real, Christian love will provide a base of satisfying fellowship for us and attract unbelievers. But how?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. As followers of Jesus, the watchword isn't me, but you
 - B. "You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" —Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*
 - C. First Peter 2:11-3:12 deals with how believers live their lives before an unbelieving world
 - D. Three areas of social interaction: government, workplace, home
 - 1. Our general role in all of these? Submission
 - 2. Fourth area: the church—"all of you" (3:8)
 - E. Tertullian records Roman government sending spies into churches (2nd century AD)
 - F. How to attract flies? By three sweet things...
- II. By Our General Attitude (v. 8)
 - A. Five-fold description of the attitude of the believer is summed up in one word: love (see Matthew 20:37-40)
 - B. Be of one mind, or like-minded
 - 1. Does not mean uniformity
 - 2. "If two people agree on everything, one of them isn't thinking"
 - 3. Early church disagreements and arguments
 - a. Paul and Barnabas argued over John Mark (Acts 15:37-39)
 - b. Apostles argued over who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Mark 9:33-34, Luke 22:24)
 - 4. Having one mind = cooperation in the midst of diversity
 - a. Jesus prayed for this (John 17:20-21)
 - b. We must agree on the core issues of Christianity
 - C. Having compassion
 - 1. *Sumpathes* (Greek), meaning to feel an emotion or to hurt together
 - 2. First, think the same things; now, feel the same things
 - 3. "Your hurt in my heart"
 - 4. Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26

- D. *Love as brothers*
 - 1. Or, love one another as brothers *should*
 - 2. Perhaps Peter had Andrew in mind as he wrote this
 - 3. I John 3:14
 - E. *Be tenderhearted*
 - 1. *Eusplagchnos* (Greek), literally meaning having good bowels; intestines, kidneys, or guts were where the deepest emotions were believed to have resided
 - 2. Be deeply concerned for others
 - 3. The church ought to be the place where the walking wounded feel at home
 - F. *Be courteous*
 - 1. Or be *humble-minded*; this was considered weakness in Greco-Roman culture
 - 2. Humility is the grease that keeps the gears of relationships running smoothly
 - 3. "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and the taller you grew in Christian grace, the more easily you could take them. I have now come to realize that God's gifts are on shelves one below the other, and it's not a matter of growing taller but of stooping lower" —paraphrased from F.B. Meyer
- III. By Our Gentle Response (v. 9)
- A. Bless back that you might get a blessing
 - B. This might have been a topic close to Peter's heart (see Matthew 26:51-52)
 - C. What separates Christianity from all other belief systems, including Judaism?
 - 1. We *love our enemies*
 - 2. Jews had to have laws to limit vengeance: *lex talionis* (Latin; see Exodus 21)
 - 3. Imprecatory Psalms
 - D. Persecutions on earth today will add blessings to you in heaven tomorrow (Matthew 5:11-12)
- IV. By Our Genuine Motivation (vv. 10-12)
- A. Why should we do any of this?
 - B. Because God says so in His Word
 - 1. Peter quotes the Old Testament (Psalm 34)
 - 2. It takes the whole Bible to make a whole believer
 - 3. This is the way to have a good life: if you love life, then love people
 - 4. *Joie de vivre* (French), describes someone who is a lover of life—vs. Solomon (see Ecclesiastes 2:17)
 - C. Because God is watching
 - 1. *Watching* = superintending, watching over with care, protecting, listening to
 - 2. You don't need to worry about the people who do you evil; God sees it, notices, and will take care of it
 - D. This whole passage (1 Peter 3:8-12) describes God's character (Romans 5:8)
- V. Closing
- A. We are not the company of the faultless; we are the company of the forgiven
 - B. We should open our doors to the unlovely and the hurting and show Christ's love
 - C. That's how to attract flies

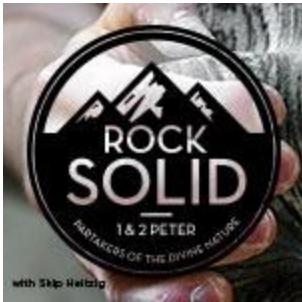
Figures Referenced: Benjamin Franklin, Tertullian, F.B. Meyer

Greek/Hebrew words: *sumpathes, eusplagchnos*

Cross references: Exodus 21, Psalm 34, Ecclesiastes 2:17, Matthew 5:11-12, Matthew 20:37-40, Matthew 26:51-52, Mark 9:33-34, Luke 22:24, John 17:20-21, Acts 15:37-39, Romans 5:8, Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26, 1 Peter 2:11-3:7, 3:8-12, 1 John 3:14

Topic: Love

Keywords: love, church, relationships, witness, unbelievers, non-Christians, blessing, enemies, humility, compassion, one mind



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	When Holiness Meets Hostility
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:13-17
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2604

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Faith is not neutral. It's a powerful and dynamic force that changes behavior (if it is genuine faith). Unbelief is also a powerful force, and when believers try to live out their faith in an unbelieving environment, there are some predictable and unavoidable results. Let's consider four truths from Peter's pen that will be helpful when God's holy people meet up with a hostile world.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. What does a preacher say when he hits his thumb with a hammer?
 - B. The world is always watching Christians; what happens when your holiness meets the world's hostility?
 - C. Graham Staines and his two sons burned to death in India because they were Christians
 - D. Peter offers the believer two possibilities
 - 1. You do good and the world leaves you alone
 - 2. You do good and the world harms you
- II. Normally, Goodness Is Profitable (v. 13)
 - A. Doing good usually works out for the believer
 - 1. Verse 13 is a rhetorical question
 - 2. Answer? Nobody!
 - B. The history of Christianity is, in part, the history of societies benefitting from the goodness of Christians who live in them
 - 1. Human and women's rights
 - 2. Hospitals and education
 - 3. Eradicating slavery (England); child labor laws
 - 4. Alexis de Tocqueville saw the impact of Christianity on American culture
- III. Eventually, Persecution Is Inevitable (vv. 14, 17)
 - A. Isaiah 8:12
 - B. Being righteous will not make you immune to trouble
 - 1. John 3:19
 - 2. 2 Timothy 3:12
 - C. The world will tolerate you, but not for long
 - D. If people's eyes are adjusted to darkness and you shine a light on them, they will not be happy with you
 - E. Jesus Christ went about doing good (see Acts 10:38), but the world still killed Him
 - F. Persecution is the result of obedience; great persecution is the result of the Great Commission

- G. People will eventually ask you why you do good things; when you say you do them because you love Jesus, sparks will fly
 - H. John 15:18-20
 - I. Christians aren't better than anyone else, but we are better off than everyone else, and we have a better message; John 14:6
 - J. Blessed are those who are persecuted for *righteousness' sake* (see Matthew 5:10)
 - 1. You can be persecuted for being obnoxious, but you won't be blessed for it
 - 2. Matthew 10:16
 - 3. The Lord is looking for sharpshooters, not grenade launchers
 - 4. *Blessed* means honored by God
- IV. Practically, Reasons Are Beneficial (v. 15)
- A. People will ask why you're doing what you're doing—you need to be ready to share your reasons
 - B. Better translation of "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" is "set apart Jesus Christ as Lord in your heart"
 - 1. In the early days of the church, a Christian wouldn't get in trouble for saying "Jesus Christ is God," but "Jesus Christ is Lord," because *Lord* was the title reserved for Caesar, considered the lord above all gods
 - 2. Setting apart Jesus as Lord needs to start inwardly with your heart before you can take it outwardly to the world
 - 3. The only way you can stand publicly is because you can kneel privately, like Daniel (see Daniel 1:8)
 - C. Defense = *apologia* (Greek)
 - 1. We get *apology* and *apologetics* from it, meaning to have a defense or to offer an explanation
 - 2. Can also mean, in reference to ancient lawyers, to stand in a courtroom and give good, compelling reasons on behalf of a client
 - 3. This world is a living courtroom; believers are always on trial
 - 4. Unbelievers have really good questions—Christians ought to have really good answers
 - 5. Do you know why you believe what you believe?
 - D. The Bible encourages Christians to think
 - 1. "Love the Lord your God... with all your *mind*" (see Matthew 22:37; emphasis added)
 - 2. "Any Christian who cannot present a biblically clear explanation of their faith will be insecure when strongly challenged by unbelievers. In some cases, that insecurity can undermine their own assurance of salvation. The world's attacks can overwhelm them"
 - E. Meekness and fear means gentleness and respect
 - 1. The goal is not winning the argument; the goal is saving the soul
 - 2. It takes time
- V. Inwardly, Conscience Is Indispensable (v. 16)
- A. Your conscience is a divinely implanted mechanism whereby you either feel accused or excused, convicted or confirmed
 - B. At salvation, your conscience is cleansed—Hebrews 9:14
 - C. You must win the inward war with sin to keep your conscience clear
 - D. Acts 23:1

- E. Peter's point: a clear conscience will help you face a hostile world
- VI. Closing
 - A. Graham Staines' wife Gladys and daughter survived
 - I. Gladys wrote a letter that was published in Indian newspapers
 2. She said she would stay in India to spread God's love
 - B. That's how a Christian should respond to having their thumb hit with a hammer—with love, forgiveness, and grace

Figures Referenced: Graham Staines, Gladys Staines, Alexis de Tocqueville, Caesar

Greek/Hebrew words: apologia

Cross references: Isaiah 8:12, Daniel 1:8, Matthew 10:16; 22:37, John 3:19; 14:6; 15:18-20, Acts 10:38; 23:1, 2 Timothy 3:12, Hebrews 9:14, 1 Peter 3:10, 13-17

Topic: Persecution

Keywords: persecution, persecuted, suffering, righteousness, witness, holiness, hostility, conscience, goodness, light, darkness, apologetics, defense



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	A Reason For Every "Ouch!"
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:18-22
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2607

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Perhaps the most common word in our language is the tiny word, "Ouch!" Every day, it's repeatedly expressed in variant forms around the world. It's a word that conveys pain and suffering. Peter's audience knew all about suffering, but they didn't always know how it could actually be used for anything good. Christ's own sufferings provide the best example of both the power and usefulness of suffering.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Pain is a messenger that demands all of our attention
 - B. If you're in pain, you couldn't care less about reasons for suffering; you're more concerned about the resources while you're suffering
 - C. God's truth won't make you immune to problems and pain, but it can protect you from the bullets of doubt as to the purpose and reason for suffering
 - D. 1 Peter 3:18-22 is hard to teach because:
 1. It is difficult to understand
 2. It promises suffering
 - E. Four things mark the path of Jesus' suffering: crucifixion, resurrection, proclamation, exaltation
- II. Jesus' Crucifixion Shows Purpose (v. 18)
 - A. If ever there was anyone who suffered for doing nothing wrong and everything right, it was Jesus Christ
 1. He died an excruciatingly painful death by crucifixion
 - a. *Excruciating* literally means from the cross
 - b. Persians invented crucifixion around 300 B.C.; the Romans perfected it
 2. He sweated drops of blood, endured six illegal trials, was wrongly accused, was beaten by a flagellum, then crucified on Golgotha
 - B. Most of us will never experience anything near to what Jesus experienced; Hebrews 12:4
 - C. The benefit behind His suffering was "that He might bring us to God" (v. 18)
 1. The veil in the temple was torn in two (Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38)
 2. Signifies that Jesus opened the way to God
 - D. The very worst thing that did happen became the very best thing that could happen
 - E. "Suppose you're the devil. You're the enemy of God, and you want to kill Him but you cannot. However, He has this ridiculous weakness of creating and loving human beings whom you can get at. Aha! Now you've got hostages. So you simply come down into

the world, corrupt humankind, and drag some of them to hell. When God sends prophets to enlighten them, you kill the prophets. Then God does the most foolish thing of all; He sends His own Son and He plays by the rules of the world. You say to yourself, 'I can't believe He's that stupid. Love has addled His brains. All I have to do is inspire some of my agents—Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas, the Roman soldiers—and get Him crucified.' And that is what you do. So there He hangs on the cross, forsaken by man and seemingly forsaken by God, bleeding, and crying 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' What do you feel now as the devil? You feel triumph and vindication. But, of course, you couldn't be more wrong. This is His supreme triumph and your supreme defeat. He struck His heel into your mouth and you bit it and that blood destroyed you"

—Peter Kreeft

III. Jesus' Resurrection Shows Permanence (vv. 18-19)

- A. Jesus' crucifixion led to His resurrection, which makes Him alive permanently; Hebrews 7:25
- B. "It is finished" (John 19:30)—refers to our redemption, but also His suffering
- C. The resurrection changes the playing field; it ensures eternal life
- D. Romans 8:18
 - 1. If you're a believer, this earth is the closest you'll ever get to hell; it's all uphill from here
 - 2. If you're an unbeliever, this earth is the closest you'll ever get to heaven; it'll get a lot worse
- E. Heaven is so unlike our earthly experience that the Bible often has to describe it in negatives; Revelation 21:4

IV. Jesus' Proclamation Shows Planning (vv. 19-21)

- A. When Peter wrote these words, he had no idea they would become some of the most difficult words in the New Testament; he probably had a simpler meaning behind them
- B. "A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means" —Martin Luther
- C. "But made alive by the Spirit"
 - 1. If Peter here wanted to say Jesus physically resurrected, he would have said, "Jesus died in the flesh and was made alive in the flesh"
 - 2. There is no capitalization and there are no definite articles in Greek
 - 3. Best translation: "being put to death in the flesh but made alive *in spirit*"
 - 4. Jesus physically died and lay in the tomb for three days, but His spirit was very much alive
- D. "By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison"
 - 1. Jesus had a proclamation to make
 - 2. He did not go to hell and preach the gospel to lost people
 - 3. He spoke to spirits, meaning either angels or demons
 - 4. While His body was in the tomb, He went to the spirit realm
 - 5. Acts 2:27, 31—Jesus went into Hades, the abode of the spirits (not hell)
- E. "Who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah..."
 - 1. These spirits had something to do with the antediluvian era
 - 2. Genesis 6:2, 4
- F. Jesus' proclamation was possibly an announcement of His victory

1. I Corinthians 2:8
 2. He was victorious over Satan's plan
 3. God has a greater purpose for our suffering
- V. Jesus' Exaltation Shows Power (v. 22)
- A. The right hand is the place of prestige, power, and authority
 - B. Philippians 2:9-11
 - C. Jesus did suffer a painful death, but after His crucifixion came proclamation, resurrection, and exaltation
- VI. Closing
- A. Jesus' suffering eventually led to glory, and so will yours
 - B. We are an embattled minority in a hostile world, just like Noah and the eight—but God will keep you; your future is secure
 - C. Nicene Creed
 1. Written in Nicaea around 325 A.D.
 2. All 318 delegates, except for about 12, had suffered physical persecution for Christ
 3. They saw a reason for their *ouch!* and that what God has planned for us is not even worthy to be compared to our present suffering
 - D. What happened in the life of Christ happens for the follower of Christ; your suffering is all for a reason
 - E. The ultimate reason for Jesus' *ouch!* was you—Hebrews 12:2

Figures referenced: Peter Kreeft, Martin Luther

Cross references: Genesis 6:2, 4; Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; John 19:30; Acts 2:27, 31; Romans 8:18; I Corinthians 2:8; Philippians 2:9-11; I Peter 3:18-22; Hebrews 7:25; 12:2, 4; Revelation 21:4

Topic: Suffering

Keywords: suffering, pain, hardship, persecution, doubt, crucifixion, resurrection, exaltation, the way, one way, eternal life, everlasting life, Jesus, death, heaven, hell, Satan, the devil, spirit, spirits, spirit realm, victory, victorious, purpose, plan, reason, God's plan, glory



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Invisible War
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 3:18-22
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2609

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In every war, strategy plays a role. Each side plans and makes movements in accordance to what it learns about the other side's tactics. If information is leaked, a counteroffensive can be launched. This can be seen in the grand and most profound war of the universe: *The Invisible War*. In this battle, Satan and his minions wage war against God, His angels, and His people. We'll consider it by looking again at one of the most enigmatic texts in the New Testament. Let's unravel it.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. There are things that go on around us that we are not aware of, even though they are very real
 - B. Common saying: "C'mon, man, get real"
 - 1. We live in the real world
 - 2. But there's a *really* real world
 - a. 2 Corinthians 4:18
 - b. All the things we do not see
 - C. In this passage, Peter says that between Jesus' death and resurrection, He went somewhere and preached a sermon
 - 1. This is difficult for us to understand 2000 years later
 - 2. We're coming over it again with a different pair of glasses
 - II. There Is a Coexisting Invisible World (v. 19)
 - A. In verse 18, Peter speaks of two realms
 - 1. Flesh: the realm of what you see; the real world
 - 2. Spirit: the realm of what you don't see; the *really* real world
 - a. Heaven and the angels
 - b. The spirits in prison
 - B. Thirty-four out of sixty-six books of the Bible speak about angelic beings
 - 1. Seventeen books in the Old Testament; *angel* appears 103 times
 - 2. Seventeen books in the New Testament; *angel* appears 165 times
 - C. The Greek word *angelos* means a messenger, typically speaking of a spirit being
 - 1. An angel is a non-corporeal spirit being; Hebrews 1:14
 - 2. On some occasions, they are made visible or assume human form
 - 3. There are many of them
 - a. Luke 2:13-14
 - b. In the 1100s, Albertus Magnus came up with a precise number

- c. Revelation 5:11 (see ESV and NKJV)—more than one hundred million angels
- 4. Hebrews 13:2
- D. Satan began as an angel
 - 1. See Ezekiel 28 (and Isaiah 14)—Satan is called "the anointed cherub who covers" (see v. 14) or guards
 - 2. God did not create Satan as a wicked being—He created something very good with a will of its own, and Satan acted on that will, desiring to usurp God's authority
 - 3. Luke 10:18
- E. Revelation 12:4
 - 1. As many as a third of the angelic host fell in the rebellion with Satan
 - 2. The fallen angels became a highly organized network with rankings and titles
 - 3. Ephesians 6:12
- III. There Is a Conflict in the Invisible World (vv. 19, 22)
 - A. There is a group of spirits incarcerated in some prison somewhere
 - B. Ever since the fall of Satan, there has been a cosmic conflict between the angelic forces of good and evil
 - C. Daniel 10 (see vv. 13 and 20)
 - 1. Implies that demons are assigned by Satan to geographical regions
 - 2. If the prince of Persia was that bad, what do you think the prince of Hollywood is like? Or Albuquerque, New Mexico?
 - D. One of the first rules in warfare is you have to know who your enemy is and how he works—2 Corinthians 2:11
 - E. In God's book, He reveals what His plans are for the future—Genesis 3:15
 - 1. Genesis 4—Satan possibly inspired Cain to kill Abel
 - 2. Genesis 6:5—Satan inspired such wickedness on the earth that God decided to destroy the world's population
 - 3. Genesis 27:41—Satan possibly inspired Esau to want to kill Jacob
 - 4. Exodus 1:22—Pharaoh was possibly an agent of Satan trying to destroy the Jews
 - 5. 1 Samuel 19—King Saul sought to kill David
 - 6. 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22—King Ahaziah's mother put to death all royal heirs in Judah, except Joash
 - 7. Matthew 2:16—Herod commands all baby boys in Bethlehem to be killed: a satanic attempt to destroy the seed
 - 8. Matthew 4:5-7—Satan takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple hoping Jesus would jump
 - 9. Luke 4:16-30—Jesus is taken to the brow of a hill to be pushed over
 - F. It's all attack and counter-attack
 - G. Revelation 12—the woman is Israel (see Genesis 37) and the dragon is Satan
 - H. God's plan of salvation involves the existence and continuance of a nation—if you can destroy that nation, you can defeat God
 - 1. Haman (see Esther 3:6)
 - 2. Hitler
- IV. There Are Convicts in the Invisible World (v. 20)
 - A. "Spirits in prison" (v. 19)
 - I. Revelation 9:1-2 calls this prison "the bottomless pit," the abyss

- 2. Greek *abusos*
 - 3. It's the realm of fallen spirits
 - 4. These spirits did something really bad to be incarcerated in this prison
 - 5. Other demons do not want to go there; see Luke 8:31
 - 6. Revelation 20:1-3
- B. What did the spirits do to get put here?
- 1. Jude 6-7
 - 2. 2 Peter 2:4
 - 3. Incarcerated at the time of Noah
 - 4. Genesis 6:1-8
 - a. Sons of God is the Hebrew term *bene haelohim*, the Old Testament term for angelic beings
 - b. They are sons of God because they're direct creations of God
 - 5. According to the oldest Jewish interpretations and earliest church fathers, these were fallen angels that acted so wickedly that they overstepped their boundaries and entered the human realm to cohabit with women
 - a. These demons possibly possessed men in order to get to women
 - b. Produced a generation of children that were unredeemable
 - c. No one responded to Noah's message of judgment (see 2 Peter 2:5), so God judged the earth and incarcerated these demons in prison
- C. The fact that Peter mentions this but does not give any detail shows that his original audience was far more familiar with it than we are
- D. These are powerful demons, so much so they need to be incarcerated—but that's the point: God, being all powerful, incarcerated them
- V. There Was Conquest in the Invisible World (v. 22)
- A. Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison (see v. 19)
- 1. Greek *kerusso*, meaning to make a proclamation—though not in terms of evangelism
 - 2. Evangelistic preaching is the Greek *euaggelizo*
 - 3. Kerusso also means to herald something, to make an announcement
 - 4. A herald was somebody the king would dispatch to a town to make an announcement or, after the war was won, make a proclamation of victory
- B. These spirits in prison, thinking Jesus was finally gone, were soon to be disappointed when the resurrected Christ came and proclaimed victory over them
- VI. Closing
- A. These demons, incarcerated in the abyss, will one day be released
- 1. They will be re-incarcerated again with the devil and all his angels after this time
 - 2. See Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10
- B. One-third of the angels fell; they are demons and hate you
- 1. However, two-thirds did not fall
 - 2. Satan and his demons are way outnumbered
 - 3. 1 John 4:4
- C. Walk away encouraged that you are on the winning team and have stepped out of darkness into light
- D. As you walk in the real world, keep in mind whose side you're on

Figures referenced: Albertus Magnus

Greek/Hebrew words: angelos, abussos, bene haelohim, kerusso, euaggelizo

Cross references: Genesis 3:15; 4; 6:1-8; 27:41; 37, Exodus 1:22, I Samuel 19, 2 Kings 11, 2 Chronicles 22, Esther 3:6, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Daniel 10, Matthew 2:16; 4:5-7, Luke 2:13-14; 4:16-30; 8:31; 10:18, 2 Corinthians 2:11; 4:18, Ephesians 6:12, I Peter 3:18-22, 2 Peter 2:4-5, Hebrews 1:14; 13:2, I John 4:4, Jude 6-7, Revelation 5:11; 9:1-2; 12; 20:1-3, 7-10

Topic: Spiritual Warfare

Keywords: spiritual warfare, invisible world, spirit world, spirits, spiritual, spiritual attack, war, strategy, angels, demons, Satan, the devil, Lucifer, fallen angels, unseen, Jesus, Jesus' death, realms, heavenly, world, flesh, conflict, good v. evil, good vs. evil, good and evil, the enemy, the bottomless pit, the abyss, conquest, sons of God, proclamation, herald, announcement, victory



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Should I Get Soaking Wet?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 3:20-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2614

MESSAGE SUMMARY

So what's the deal with baptism? Why do Christians practice it? What does it have to do with my relationship to God? Peter raised the issue of baptism in this letter, but he tied it into what happened during the time of Noah and the great flood. What on earth could one have to do with the other? Let's unravel these verses and then relate them to our current understanding of Christian baptism. Does this really save a person?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. How perplexing baptism must seem to unbelievers!
 - B. Christians don't even agree on how you should baptize
 - 1. Immersion
 - 2. Affusion
 - 3. Aspersion
 - C. This text is both encouraging and perplexing
 - 1. What is an antitype? What's Peter, a fisherman, doing saying "antitype"?
 - 2. Baptism saves us? If so, what type of baptism?
 - 3. He calls baptism "the answer of a good conscience toward God" (see v. 21)
 - D. Matthew 28:19-20
 - 1. Ever since Jesus uttered these words, people have been baptizing—because Jesus said to do it
 - 2. Acts 2:41
 - 3. John Chrysostom, A.D. 404
 - 4. Patrick of Ireland, A.D. 430
 - 5. Augustine, A.D. 597
 - 6. Boniface, A.D. 680-755
 - E. Baptismal regeneration—some cite verse 21 to back up this belief
- II. Baptism Relates to the Past (vv. 20-21)
 - A. Noah's Flood: The Type
 - 1. An *antitype* is something formed after some pattern; or, that which corresponds to a type
 - 2. Flood waters of Noah are the type
 - 3. Baptismal waters of the believer are the antitype
 - B. Baptism: The Antitype
 - 1. Baptism, then, corresponds to the waters that Noah and his family sailed on

2. Just as Noah was placed in the ark that kept him from the flood of judgment, so too, we are immersed in Christ; He is our ark of safety that enables us to sail over the sea of judgment
3. Noah in the ark is a figure of believers that get baptized
4. There was only one doorway in the ark—one way of salvation that you go through
 - a. So it is with Jesus
 - b. John 14:6

III. Baptism Recalls a Principle (v. 21a)

- A. Baptism is a visible practice of an invisible principle
- B. Its Meaning
 1. Greek *baptizó* meaning to dip, dunk, or drown; to be immersed in something—anything
 2. Began as a secular Greek word, not a religious word
 3. Aristotle wrote about the Phoenicians coming to an uninhabited land with a seacoast that, when the tide came in, was wholly *baptized*
 4. I Corinthians 10:2
 5. Luke 12:50
 6. Matthew 20:22
 7. I Corinthians 12:13
 8. Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16 (the three baptisms)
- C. Its Origin
 1. Three requirements for converting to Judaism:
 - a. Instruction by a scribe
 - b. Circumcision if you were a male
 - c. Immersion in water—or baptism
 2. "As soon as he grows whole of the wound of circumcision, they bring him to baptism; and being placed in the water, they again instruct him in some weightier, and in some lighter, commands of the law. Which being heard, he plunges himself, and comes up, and behold, he is as an Israelite in all things" —J.B. Lightfoot
 3. Symbolized a Gentile leaving the pagan world and coming to a whole new life
 4. A *mikvah* is a pool for baptism, for cleansing before entering the temple
- D. Its Practice
 1. How did baptism come to be a Christian thing?
 2. John the Baptizer
 - a. Dunked people in the Jordan River (a river being considered *living water*, or moving and alive)
 - b. He wasn't baptizing Gentiles to make them Jews; he was baptizing Jews
 - c. It was a baptism unto repentance (see Mark 1:4 and Matthew 3:5-6)—these Jews were admitting that they were outsiders and that their religion wasn't enough

IV. Baptism Reveals Power (v. 21b)

- A. Jesus' power through His resurrection
- B. The Power of a Saved Life
 - I. When Noah and his family walked into that ark, they said goodbye to the old life

- 2. When we come to Christ, we leave the old life, enter Jesus Christ, and start a brand new life
 - C. The Power of a Good Conscience
 - 1. The only baptism that saves is a dry one, not a wet one
 - 2. Do you have to be baptized to be saved?
 - a. No—you have to be saved to be baptized
 - b. Acts 8:26-39
 - c. Mark 16:16
 - d. Baptism follows faith
 - e. Luke 23:42-43
 - 3. Acts 2:38
 - a. *For* in Greek is *eis*, meaning for, in order that, or because of
 - b. Modern translations say, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ as an expression of the remission of your sins"
 - 4. I Corinthians 1:14-17
 - D. Why should I be baptized?
 - 1. Instruction
 - a. Jesus commanded it
 - b. John 14:15
 - 2. Identification
 - a. Romans 6:3-4
 - b. It makes your salvation personal
- V. Closing
- A. Jesus was immersed in suffering so you could be immersed in salvation
 - B. He was immersed in pain so you might be immersed in peace
 - C. He was immersed in death so you and I can be saturated and immersed in life

Figures referenced: John Chrysostom, Patrick of Ireland, Augustine, Boniface, Aristotle, J.B. Lightfoot

Greek/Hebrew words: baptizó, mikvah, eis

Cross references: Matthew 3:5-6, 11; 20:22; 28:19-20, Mark 1:4; 16:16, Luke 3:16; 12:50; 23:42-43, John 14:6, 15, Acts 2:38, 41; 8:26-39, Romans 6:3-4, I Corinthians 1:14-17; 10:2; 12:13, I Peter 3:20-21

Topic: Baptism

Keywords: baptism, baptize, baptizing, antitype, baptismal regeneration, the flood, Noah, Noah's flood, the ark, Jesus Christ, salvation, Judaism, John the Baptist, death, burial, resurrection, faith



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Just Counting Time Or Making Time Count?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 4:1-6
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2617

MESSAGE SUMMARY

There is a certain amount of time allotted to us all, and we all decide how we are going to spend it. But none of us knows exactly how much of it we have left. So a huge question for all of us is: *What will you do with the time you have left?* Some never face that issue honestly, thinking that they'll always have plenty of time. Today, let's consider four solid principles that will make the time you have left really count.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Time is a gift, but an elusive gift
 - B. Most Bible commentators believe Peter sensed his martyrdom right around the corner while writing this letter
 - C. Psalm 90:12
 - D. Your life is like a coin: You decide where to spend it
 - E. But don't just spend your time, invest your time
 - F. "You can't kill time without injuring eternity" —Henry David Thoreau, paraphrased
 - G. Peter mentions two things twice in this paragraph:
 1. Time
 2. The will of God
 - H. In whatever time you have left, use it to do the will of God
 - I. Four ways of making time count
- II. Resist Your Sin (v. 1)
 - A. Arm yourself
 1. Military phrase: Speaks of being prepared
 2. Soldier putting on gear to go into battle
 - B. For the believer, the battle always begins in the realm of the mind
 1. I Peter 1:13
 2. Behavioral scientists tell us human behavior is determined by the subconscious mind
 3. Proverbs 23:7
 - C. We need to have a militant attitude toward sin
 1. Romans 6:12
 2. If you don't make time to battle sin, sin will take time away from your life
 3. We should hate our sin because it killed Jesus
 4. Jesus had a militant attitude toward sin; see Luke 9:51
 - D. What's our ultimate goal when it comes to sin? To stop doing it!

- I. That isn't going to happen on this earth
- 2. However, if ever there was a battle worth fighting, it's this one
- 3. Genesis 4:7, James 4:7, Matthew 26:41; 6:13
- E. Suffering will help you resist sin: It cuts away and tempers your life
- III. Relish God's Will (v. 2)
 - A. The best of your time is when you use the rest of your time to invest your time in doing the will of God
 - B. Matthew 6:33
 - C. The will of God for your life is the most important and exciting thing about your life
 - 1. Make it your life ambition to find out what God's will is for your life
 - 2. Pursue His will above your own
 - 3. It will happen supernaturally naturally
 - D. God's will is never a burden; it's a blessing
 - 1. Matthew 11:30
 - 2. 1 John 5:3
 - 3. The will of God is not an encumbrance; it's an enablement
- IV. Renounce Your Past (v. 3)
 - A. We all wasted enough time doing bad stuff
 - B. Some of you can relate to one or all of these things, while others cannot relate to a single one—outwardly, at least
 - 1. The most dramatic testimony is God keeping a person from a young age through a lifetime
 - 2. We often parade ex-cons and famous musicians for coming to Christ
 - 3. The real power is found in keeping a life through a lifetime
 - C. No matter how much time you spent for the flesh, it was enough
- V. Reach the Lost (vv. 4-6)
 - A. If you don't evangelize, you will fossilize
 - B. *Dissipation* is the desire to do evil, wicked things
 - C. Unsaved people do not understand when God changes a life
 - 1. They think it strange that you don't wreck your life with drugs and alcohol, but that you sober up, buy a Bible, and go to church
 - 2. Acts 26:24
 - D. Be patient with them and preach to them
 - 1. They're blind; see 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - 2. They're dead; see Ephesians 2:1
 - 3. They may be judging you right now, but God will judge them (see v. 5)
- VI. Closing
 - A. Remember: don't just spend your time, invest your time
 - B. Whatever choice you make now determines the outcome in eternity

Figures referenced: Henry David Thoreau

Cross references: Genesis 4:7, Psalm 90:12, Proverbs 23:7, Matthew 6:13, 33; 11:30; 26:41, Luke 9:51, Acts 26:24, Romans 6:12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Ephesians 2:1, James 4:7, 1 Peter 1:13; 4:1-6, 1 John 5:3

Topic: Time

Keywords: time, life, the will of God, God's will, mind, militant, military, attitude, battle, fight, sin, investing, invest, testimony, flesh, evangelize, evangelization



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Living Like There's No Tomorrow
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 4:7-11
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2633

MESSAGE SUMMARY

People have been predicting the end of the world since the beginning of the world. But Scripture declares there *will* be an end. For some, their world could end this week or this year when death pays them a visit. But with whatever time we have left, we should live with a sense of imminence and anticipation that God's kingdom is around the corner. What elements can make our lives stronger as we await the end of the age?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Today used to be yesterday's tomorrow
 1. We bank on the idea that we're just going to have more tomorrows
 2. But the more tomorrows we get under our belt, the shorter they look
 - B. One day, we will have no more tomorrows left
 - C. How would you live if you had no more tomorrows?
 - D. There's a problem with Peter's statement, "The end of all things is at hand" (v. 7)
 1. He wrote that two thousand years ago
 2. John, Paul, and Peter all taught the imminent return of Christ: He could return at any moment
 3. Revelation 22:20
 - a. How soon is soon?
 - b. "I call all times soon" —Aslan in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, C.S. Lewis
 - E. "The last days" refers to the time between the first and second coming of Christ
 1. We are living toward the end of the last days
 2. But every generation should be living in the anticipation and expectation that the Lord could come back
 - F. Whether you have one or thousands of tomorrows left, how should you live?
- II. Pray Harder (v. 7)
 - A. Because Time Is Short
 1. The end of all things is near
 2. "Be serious and watchful in your prayers" (v. 7)
 - a. Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46
 - b. Jesus said to His disciples, "Watch and pray"
 3. Prayer isn't huge on our priority list
 4. The loss of passion over time: prayer becomes professional and contained
 5. As your tomorrows become fewer, you should pray harder

- B. Because Prayer Is Powerful
 - 1. What will sustain you more than anything else is a solid prayer life
 - 2. Revelation 2:1-4
 - a. "You don't love me... as you did at first!" (v. 4, NLT)
 - b. You're going through the motions of devotions, but there's an erosion of devotion
 - c. You can tell in a restaurant who's married and who's not: the married ones are not talking much, and the dating ones are (paraphrased from James Dobson)
- III. Love Deeper (vv. 8-9)
 - A. Love is the identification mark of the Christian—the birthmark
 - B. Fervent
 - 1. Some translations: "love deeply"
 - 2. Literally means strenuously
 - 3. In ancient times, described a horse at full gallop or an athlete who would stretch or strain their muscles to win the race
 - C. When you love people, give it all you've got
 - 1. Hold nothing back in your love for them
 - 2. Love people like you're trying to win the Love Olympics—like you're trying to win a gold medal in love-ology
 - D. When Others Offend (v. 8—covering love)
 - 1. Proverbs 10:12
 - 2. When somebody wrongs you, you have two choices: cover it up and forgive, or expose what that person has done
 - 3. This kind of love will not air dirty laundry; it does not want to expose weaknesses or cause humiliation
 - 4. There is a time to go public; Matthew 18:15-17
 - 5. This kind of love is protective: it stretches itself out in order to cover
 - E. When Others Are in Need (v. 9—recovering love)
 - 1. *Hospitality* is a New Testament word that literally means to love the stranger
 - a. The early church met in homes
 - b. Preachers and evangelists traveled from place to place and needed a place to stay
 - 2. Go out of your way to show kindness to God and His guests
 - 3. This kind of love is proactive
 - 4. How fervent is your love?
 - 5. Greek word for grumbling is *goggusmos*
 - a. It's an onomatopoeic word
 - b. You can have the right action but the wrong attitude
 - F. The biggest disease today is lovelessness
 - 1. This should never be the case when Christians are around
 - 2. Romans 5:5; if God is doing the pouring, you have an unlimited capacity to love
 - 3. No one in your circle should ever be love-starved
- IV. Serve Smarter (vv. 10-11)
 - A. These two verses have five truths
 - 1. Every Christian has a spiritual gift
 - 2. Your gift may be different from somebody else's gift

- 3. Whatever gift you have, you should use it to help other people
 - 4. Some gifts are noticeable and others are unnoticeable, but all of them are helpful
 - 5. The reason we share our gifts with other people is to glorify God
- B. For the Glory of God
- 1. Verse 11 seems to infer that if you are not involved in sharing the gift God has given to you, God is not getting as much glory as He could
 - 2. You could be hindering the display of God's glory by not sharing yourself with somebody else
 - 3. "Manifold grace" (v. 10)
 - a. *Manifold* means many-colored
 - b. Used to describe a garment that had many colors
 - c. God's grace is not monotone or monochromatic
- C. From Your Spiritual Ability
- 1. Everyone has a gift; everyone should share that gift so God's manifold grace shines through
 - 2. Paul's description is the body of Christ; I Corinthians 12:4-31
 - 3. Every single spiritual gift, including the one you have, is needed
 - a. No gift is too small; no person is too insignificant
 - b. No one is more important than anyone else; they just have a different function
 - 4. The gift comes from God to you, and then from you to somebody else
 - 5. When you serve God's people today, you're making sure that Jesus Christ is represented tomorrow
 - 6. God has no hands but yours; He has no feet but yours; He has no mouth but yours
 - a. We're the expression of Jesus Christ by what we do
 - b. If we don't do it, that part of the glory of God is diminished
- V. Closing
- A. We belong to the greatest organization in the world
 - 1. We have a product that works universally
 - 2. We have offices worldwide
 - 3. We have a pretty good benefits package
 - 4. We have a retirement package that's off the charts
 - B. The problem is we're running out of tomorrows; all we have is today
 - C. Today, what will your anthem be: less for Christ, or more for Christ?
 - D. When prayer is fervent, love is preeminent, and serving is prominent, then God is glorified, the church is edified, and the world is notified that God is real

Figures referenced: C.S. Lewis, James Dobson

Greek words: goggusmos

Cross references: Proverbs 10:12; Matthew 18:15-17; 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 12:4-31; I Peter 4:7-11; Revelation 2:1-4; 22:20

Topic: Christian Living

Keywords: return of Christ, Christ's return, second coming, days, life, short, imminent return, pray, prayer, love, fervent, offense, offend, hospitality, serve, serving, spiritual gifts, gifting, God's glory, grace, manifold, spiritual ability, body of Christ, the church, edification



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Dos and Don'ts of Suffering
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 4:12-19
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2641

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Pain and suffering dominate our world. To some, that poses an insurmountable roadblock to faith in a good and loving God. How can a loving God let such unlovely things happen all around the globe every day for millennia? Not only is this a deal breaker for unbelievers, but it presents a quandary for believers who want to make sense out of everything in life. The apostle Peter weighed in on these issues in a very personal way to his fellow Christians.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Suffering in our world makes us want to avoid it at all costs; suffering in our personal world makes us want to question God's love
 - B. Most people would say God made one mistake in creating this world: He has allowed so much pain and suffering (see *Where Is God When It Hurts?* by Philip Yancey)
 - 1. Where is no God when it hurts?
 - 2. "I notice that these atheists are never asked to speak at such places as Sandy Hook Elementary School" —Yancey (paraphrased)
 - 3. A Christian can say, "What happened was tragic; however, we believe there is a good God who will make all things work together for your good if you trust Him"
 - C. Peter wrote about suffering twenty-one times in I Peter
- II. Don't Be Surprised by Suffering (v. 12)
 - A. Don't think it's weird, bizarre, or unusual when you suffer—it's not
 - B. This is some people's favorite reason to reject the God of the Bible
 - 1. "How could a God of love who's all-powerful ever allow evil to exist?"
 - 2. Formal term: *theodicy*
 - C. If only bad people had bad things happen, we would do better with it; we have a problem with innocent people suffering
 - D. Whenever you ask why there's so much evil in the world, you only ask that because you have some notion that there is supreme good
 - 1. If there is no God, then where did we get the standard of goodness by which we measure evil?
 - 2. The problem of good; the moral argument
 - 3. "If the universe is so bad...how on earth did human beings ever come to attribute it to the activity of a wise and good Creator?" —C.S. Lewis
 - E. If more than ninety percent of all the people who have ever lived on earth have believed in God, where did that notion come from?

- F. If there's no God, there are no ultimate values; if there are no ultimate values, there's no such thing as good or evil
 - G. *Fiery trial* (v. 12)
 - 1. Peter penned this letter at the end of AD 64
 - 2. In the summer of AD 64, Rome burned; most people believe Caesar Nero started the fire
 - 3. The population nearly revolted, and Nero blamed the Christians
 - 4. He put many of them on poles, doused them in pitch, and used them as torches to light up the imperial gardens at night
 - 5. This began a two-hundred-year reign of terror against Roman believers
- III. Don't Be Scared by Suffering (vv. 13-14)
- A. We have no right to expect better treatment from this world than Jesus received
 - 1. Peter took suffering and extolled it
 - 2. It's a position of honor; you're suffering with Christ
 - B. Someone asked C.S. Lewis, "Why do the righteous suffer?" and he answered, "Why not? They're the only ones who can take it"
 - C. As believers, we're not naive concerning evil
 - 1. It exists
 - a. We're not like Christian Science
 - b. Mary Baker Eddy: evil, disease, and death is all an illusion
 - 2. God allows evil to exist, and He's in absolute control of the universe He made
 - a. Open theism or process theology says God is in the process of becoming a better God
 - b. It says He doesn't know what will happen tomorrow; every day, He's learning new things
 - 3. God has a purpose for it
 - a. It makes you pure; I Peter 1:6-7
 - b. It humbles you
 - I. Paul had the temptation toward pride
 - II. 2 Corinthians 12:7
 - c. It makes you depend on God like nothing else
 - I. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10
 - II. God's power is attracted to human weakness; I Corinthians 1:27
 - III. His power kicks in when my power runs out
 - IV. No one is ever too weak to be powerful; we're only too strong
- IV. Do Be Selective in Suffering (vv.16-17)
- A. If you're going to suffer—and you will—make sure it's for the right reason
 - B. *Christian* (v. 16)
 - 1. You only find this word three times in the whole Bible
 - 2. Early Christians called themselves believers, the Way, or brethren
 - 3. *Christian* was a derogatory nickname given by Romans and Greeks who wanted to set them apart from the rest of the Roman Empire
 - 4. Most people of the Roman Empire were called *Kaisarianos*, followers of Caesar
 - 5. Christians were given the name *Christianos*, followers of Christ
 - 6. Over time, early believers embraced the name *Christian*
 - C. Proverbs 11:31
 - D. What did Peter mean in verse 17?

- I. Simply what he had already been saying: the work of a loving God using suffering to purify His church
- 2. We are saved through difficult times; Matthew 7:13-14
- 3. The only weird thing about persecution is if you don't get any
- 4. Acts 14:22
- 5. Think of how horribly painful it will eventually be for the unbeliever
- 6. If God purifies His church through suffering, what about the end of the ungodly?
- E. Suffering in this world makes us long for heaven, but this world is all the heaven that some people will ever see
- V. Do Be Sensitized by Suffering (v. 19)
 - A. Verse 19: underline this
 - 1. Some of you have been told that suffering is never in the will of God
 - 2. You better change your thinking
 - B. Commit is a banking term that means to deposit something for safekeeping
 - 1. When you deposit your trust in God's bank, you will get dividends of blessings in your account
 - 2. He won't let anything you deposit go to waste; every bit of trust you deposit will be rewarded
 - C. Better translation: "And continue to be doing what is right and what is good"
 - 1. If doing good is what got you in trouble in the first place, you'd think, "I better not do any more good"
 - 2. Peter said, "Don't do that; commit that to God and continue to do good"
 - D. Peter never saw suffering as academic; it was real
 - 1. John 9:1-12
 - 2. The disciples asked, "Why?"—the question that never goes away
 - 3. Jesus never answered the question; He healed the blind man
 - 4. Verse 4: "Right now the answer theologically, academically, philosophically as to why there's evil in the world doesn't matter much to him; what matters to him is that he can't see. I'm going to fix that"
 - E. Christians started the first hospitals and orphanages
 - F. Christianity was birthed into a hostile, brutal, Greco-Roman world that saw life as disposable
 - 1. We don't want to deal with the problem in a classroom or discussion group
 - 2. We want to do more; we want to be active; we want to do it practically
- VI. Closing
 - A. We're His hands and His feet; we're the body of Christ
 - B. Why can't "acts of God" be when He enacts love and compassion through the life of one of His children?
 - C. Matthew 25:40; James 1:27
 - D. Rather than dealing with suffering academically, we want to enter into it

Figures referenced: Philip Yancey, C.S. Lewis, Caesar Nero, Mary Baker Eddy

Greek/Hebrew words: *Kaisarianos, Christianos*

Cross references: Proverbs 11:31; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:40; John 9:1-12; Acts 14:22; 1 Corinthians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:27; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-19

Topic: Suffering

Keywords: suffering, pain, evil, good, morality, trials, purpose, weakness, power, persecution, purification, will of God, acts of God



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Profile of A Good Shepherd
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 5:1-4
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2643

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"The church needs leaders who serve and servants who lead." So said one notable pastor. Peter doesn't address just the suffering flock of believers in this letter; he also has encouragement for the leaders of the flock—the pastors. What are the characteristics of a shepherd who serves among God's flock? What are his responsibilities, and how can a church flourish under such leadership? Here, Peter places himself and fellow shepherds under the microscope.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Sheep are timid and require care
 - B. The figure of a shepherd is one of the most heartwarming pictures of the relationship God has with His people
 - C. Passages of Scripture are driven by verbs; here, it's *shepherd* (v. 2)
 - D. In the Bible, the Lord is often seen as a shepherd
 1. Psalm 23:1; 100:3
 2. Shepherds are put in a good light because of their care
 - E. Sheep, on the other hand, are not always put in the greatest of light
 1. Isaiah 53:6
 2. The only time sheep are placed in favorable light is when they are placed under the good supervision of a good shepherd
 3. Sheep require constant oversight, leading, rescue, and cleaning, or they will die
 4. "Sheep do not 'just take care of themselves,' as some might suppose. They require, more than any other class of livestock, endless attention and meticulous care.... The behavior of sheep and human beings is similar in many ways.... Our mass mind (or mob instincts), our fears and timidity, our stubbornness and stupidity, our perverse habits are all parallels of profound importance" —Phillip Keller
 - F. Peter did not address the people of God as a "flock" to put anyone down
 1. He did it to raise the bar of integrity
 2. Anyone who's going to be a leader of God's flock has to meet certain criteria
 - G. Peter had three main responsibilities or qualifications for leaders
 - H. *Elder* (v. 1)
 1. Greek *presbuteros* (Presbyterian)
 2. Refers to somebody who is mature, often older, and wiser
 3. Borrowed from the Old Testament: elders of the children of Israel
 - I. *Overseer* (v. 2)

- I. Greek *episkopos* (Episcopal)
 - 2. A bishop
- J. Shepherd (v. 2)
 - 1. Verb form: second person plural imperative
 - 2. Greek *poimén*
- K. All three of these words describe one person
 - 1. *Elder* describes his maturity
 - 2. *Bishop* describes his responsibility
 - 3. *Pastor* describes his ministry
- II. A Personal Relationship With Christ (v. 1)
 - A. Peter didn't come off as someone superior
 - 1. He came to them as a fellow elder
 - 2. A *witness* (v. 1) sees and hears something and then tells others what he has seen and heard
 - B. Peter wrote as one who had a personal encounter, thus a personal relationship, with Christ
 - C. When a relationship with Christ is real and being cultivated, that person has a base from which to share and minister to others
 - D. As a shepherd grows, so grow the sheep; if a shepherd is stagnating, the sheep will be stagnating
 - 1. Church leaders should be always growing
 - 2. 2 Peter 3:18
 - 3. They need their own, personal relationship with the living, resurrected Christ
- III. A Practical Gifting to Serve Christ (vv. 2-3)
 - A. *Entrusted*: as if God says, "I entrust you to take My flock and be a steward over them"
 - B. A shepherd must be called; how do you know if you have a calling?
 - 1. A gifting accompanies the calling
 - 2. You can tell by the fruit
 - 3. Ephesians 4:11-12
 - C. *Among you* (vv. 1, 2)
 - 1. A term of practical accountability
 - 2. If you're gifted, others among you will recognize that
 - 3. You can teach techniques; you can't transmit gifting
 - D. James 3:1
 - E. Acts 20:28; do not touch the ministry unless the Holy Spirit gives it to you
 - F. "All are not called to labor in word and doctrine, or to be elders, or to exercise the office of a bishop; nor should all aspire to such works, since the gifts necessary are nowhere promised to all; but those should addict themselves to such important engagements who feel, like the apostle, that they have 'received this ministry.' No man may intrude into the sheep-fold as an under-shepherd; he must have an eye to the chief Shepherd, and wait his beck and command. Or ever a man stands forth as God's ambassador, he must wait for the call from above; and if he does not so, but rushes into the sacred office, the Lord will say of him and others like him, 'I sent them not, neither commanded them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord'" — C.H. Spurgeon
 - G. Gifted to Feed His Flock
 - I. KJV: "feed the flock of God" (v. 2)

2. One of the primary callings of a shepherd is to feed sheep
 3. John 21:15-17
 4. Psalm 23:1-2
 5. Pastors are spiritual chefs
 - a. Called to slave over a stove of Scripture, to take time to prepare a meal that is palatable, edifying, and understandable
 - b. A pastor worth listening to is one who has thought through truth in the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - c. 2 Timothy 2:15
 6. Ezekiel 34:2
 7. If you want strong sheep, teach them all of the Bible
 8. 2 Timothy 4:3
 9. Shepherds in the Middle East lead their sheep to new grass in ravines where it's dark
 - a. Sheep hate the dark
 - b. But the shepherd knows that's where the greenest food is
- H. Gifted to Lead His Flock
1. Overseer literally means somebody who sees over, who looks over a group of people and sees what they need
 2. There's no room for laziness on pastoral staffs in any ministry
 - a. J. Vernon McGee: "Because they're lazy"
 - b. "If you plan to be lazy, there are plenty of avocations in which you will not be wanted; but, above all, you are not wanted in the Christian ministry. The man who finds the ministry an easy life will also find that it will bring a hard death" —C.H. Spurgeon
 3. Overseer, not overlord
 4. The greatest sermon ever preached is a sermon by example
 - a. Sheep cannot be driven; they have to be led
 - b. A leader is somebody who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way
- IV. A Powerful Desire to Please Christ (v. 4)
- A. Up to this point, Peter was encouraging a suffering group of people; he said the same things to pastors
 - B. Our motivation for ministry is to please Jesus Christ
 1. He's a lot easier to please than a lot of people
 2. If you get into the ministry and try to please people, you'll be like a dog chasing its tail
 - C. "Qualifications of a pastor: the mind of a scholar, the heart of a child, and the hide of a rhinoceros" —Stuart Briscoe
 - D. Ephesians 6:6
 - E. In the end, you will not stand before a group of peers; you will stand before One, the Chief Shepherd
 - F. "The crown of glory that does not fade away" (v. 4)
 1. The Olympic Games in Athens
 2. The wreath of leaves died in about a week
 3. You can labor for different kinds of crowns, but the best way to labor is for God's approval

4. Labor for Jesus to say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21, 23)

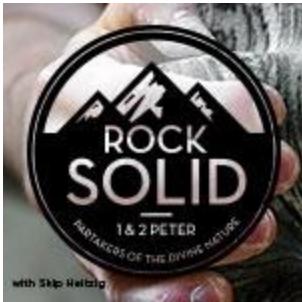
Figures referenced: Phillip Keller, C.H. Spurgeon, J. Vernon McGee, Stuart Briscoe

Greek words: presbuteros, episkopos, poimén

Cross references: Psalm 23:1-2; 100:3; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 34:2; Matthew 25:21, 23; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; 6:6; 2 Timothy 2:15; 4:3; James 3:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Peter 3:18

Topic: Leadership

Keywords: shepherd, sheep, the flock, leadership, leader, elder, bishop, pastor, overseer, the church, teacher, gifting, calling, the Word, the Bible, church staff, crown, glory



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	The Upright Walk of A Bowed-Down Man
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 5:5-7
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2650

MESSAGE SUMMARY

One website I came across recently stated that "the more in control you are of your life, the more assured and confident you'll become." The same website warned readers to not trust others. That is, unfortunately, the by-product of our proud world. But walking among others means we sometimes need to bend low in humility for the sake of solidarity and unity. Peter's words on this are timeless.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Proverbs 16:18
 - B. Pride is the oldest sin in the universe, and it shows no signs of weakening with age
 - 1. Pride put Lucifer out of heaven
 - 2. Pride put Adam and Eve out of the garden
 - C. Pride is your greatest enemy; humility is your greatest friend
 - D. "Be humble or you'll stumble" —D.L. Moody
 - E. Peter's audience was a group of sufferers
 - 1. He addressed the subject of suffering twenty-one times in this letter
 - 2. I Peter 4:12
 - 3. When suffering is present, good leadership should also be present; those who feed God's suffering sheep also calm God's suffering sheep
 - F. Not only does the church need good leaders; it needs good followers
 - 1. The pressures on the outside of the church produce pressures on the inside of the church
 - 2. Peter wrote to those who were younger than to everyone else
 - G. There are three compliant characteristics of those who are upright
- II. Responding to Authority Helps Leadership (v. 5a)
 - A. Nothing is more helpful to those who are in authority than those who will compliantly respond to that authority
 - B. Peter wrote a lot about submission
 - 1. I Peter 2:13, 18; 3:1, 22
 - 2. Submission is part of every single realm of life because submission is a foundational attitude for all of life
 - 3. You can't be saved without submission: to be saved, you have to repent and live in submission to an alien will

- 4. You cannot follow Christ unless you are willing to submit to Christ
 - C. *Younger people* probably refers to young men
 - 1. Often young men are more impulsive, aggressive, and headstrong and have a tougher time with submission
 - 2. Youth can be a dangerous time
 - a. Those who are younger often think themselves infinitely wiser than the older generation
 - b. I Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 10:1-15
 - D. "The error of youth is to believe that intelligence is a substitute for experience" — Lyman Bryson
 - E. All of society is built on submission
 - 1. Hebrews 13:17
 - 2. Submission to any authority on earth is an act of faith
 - 3. People are spared when there is submission
- III. Living in Humility Enhances Fellowship (v. 5b)

- A. Here, Peter addressed everyone
- B. Submission and humility are the lubricants, the oil when the gears get tight in relationships
- C. Keeps Others Accessible to You
 - 1. Submission in Greek is *hupotasso*, a military term meaning to line up under somebody's authority
 - 2. Voluntarily adapt yourselves to each other, or blend with one another
 - 3. Be willing to surrender your rights
 - 4. *Humility*
 - a. Means to get low or low-lying
 - b. Sometimes translated lowness of mind; Philippians 2:3
 - 5. The Greco-Roman culture, especially the Greeks, despised the quality of humility
 - 6. The Bible always sees humility as a virtue, not a vice
 - a. Jesus was humble
 - b. Philippians 2:5-8
 - 7. "Be clothed with humility"
 - a. Slaves would tie an apron around their waist
 - b. Literally, put on the clothing of a slave
 - c. "Wear the 'overall' of humility in serving each other" (J.B. Phillips New Testament)
 - 8. If you think you have humility, it shows that you don't have it; it's a slippery virtue
 - 9. "Lord, make me humble, but don't let me know it" —D.L. Moody
 - 10. Humility isn't thinking badly about yourself; humility is simply not thinking of yourself at all
- D. Keeps God from Fighting You
 - 1. Proverbs 3:34
 - 2. Quickest way to pick a fight with God is to be proud
 - a. God hates pride
 - b. Matthew 23:12 ; Luke 14:11
 - 3. The branch that bears the most fruit is the one bent lowest to the ground

IV. Resting in Sovereignty Acknowledges Lordship (vv. 6-7)

A. Permits God to Promote You

1. If pride is a barrier to God's blessing, then humble yourself
2. "The mighty hand of God" was often used in the Old Testament to describe God's power of delivering His people who were in trouble
3. A reminder that the believer rests in God's sovereignty, God's ability, His lordship
 - a. You acknowledge His lordship in the act of submission and that He is capable
 - b. As you surrender to the will of God, it's in hopes that He will raise you up
4. God loves the attitude of surrender, submission, humility, and compliance
5. Micah 6:8
6. Trust God enough with your life that you don't live for people's affirmation, but you're willing to wait for God's exaltation

B. Prohibits Trouble from Consuming You

1. Care could also be translated as anxiety, worries
2. This verse is a soft pillow for a tired heart
 - a. It's the secret to a tranquil life
 - b. It's the key to a stable and calm outlook
3. Matthew 6:25
4. Greek word for care is *merimna*
 - a. Merizó, to tear or divide + *nous*, the mind
 - b. James 1:8
5. When stress comes your way, you can either carry the worry or cast the worry and let Him carry it
 - a. If I carry it, I'm going to be torn, distracted, and disturbed
 - b. If I let Him carry it, I won't be consumed by it
6. All
 - a. We say, "This is one of the little issues of life; I don't need to bother God with it. He's so busy being God, after all!"
 - b. By the end of your day, you're carrying the weight of all your little cares
 - c. Parents love the fact that their child wants to connect with them
 - d. "Madam, can you mention anything in your life that is big to God?" —G. Campbell Morgan
7. The one message you need to walk away with is that God cares for you

C. You have to decide what kind of a God you believe in

1. A close, personal, caring God?
2. Or a cold, aloof, passive God?

V. Closing

A. Submission, humility, and resting are not instantaneous or natural things

1. It takes a period of time, and it's supernatural
2. It's part of the sanctification process

B. When relationships get hard in your life, check the oil; humility and submission keep the gears running smoothly

- C. Burdens will accumulate throughout the day; learn to cast them as soon as you get them
 - 1. "Lord, it's Yours"
 - 2. It takes humility to do that; it takes letting God be God and run the universe
 - 3. You must resign as the Chief Universe Operator

Figures referenced: D.L. Moody, Lyman Bryson, G. Campbell Morgan

Greek words: *hypotasso*, *merimna*, *merizó*, *nous*

Cross references: 1 Kings 12:1-15; 2 Chronicles 10:1-15; Proverbs 3:34 ; 16:18; Micah 6:8 ; Matthew 6:25 ; 23:12; Luke 14:11 ; Philippians 2:3 , 5-8; Hebrews 13:17 ; James 1:8 ; 1 Peter 2:13 , 18; 3:1, 22; 4:12; 5:5-7

Topic: Humility

Keywords: pride, humility, humble, authority, leadership, submission, relationships, surrender, lordship, worry, anxiety, burdens



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Lion Alert!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	I Peter 5:8-9
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2667

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Just think what would happen if a lion from our local zoo escaped and was wandering around the park, looking for a fresh kill. Can you imagine the pandemonium that would erupt if such a misfortune occurred? Imagine no more! Our Enemy is far more dangerous and formidable and is on the prowl to destroy the spiritual lives of the residents of planet Earth, especially those who belong to Christ. Let's consider the battle and the potential outcome.

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. What if the lion doesn't sleep tonight? What if the lion's on the prowl and wants to destroy?
 - B. We have an Enemy
 - C. This is a sobering statement
 1. Similar to Jesus' statement to Peter
 2. Luke 22:31
 - D. Our Enemy is real, invisible, and deadly—far deadlier than any lion on this Earth
 - E. Ephesians 6:12
 - II. His Identity—*You Have an Enemy*
 - A. Devil, or *diabolos*, means the slanderer
 1. Term used thirty-five times in Scripture
 2. Another fifty-four times, he's referred to as Satan
 3. Five times as the Evil One
 4. Eight times as the Wicked One
 - B. Genesis 3 to Revelation 20: his work spans all of human history
 - C. A lot of people deny the existence of a literal Devil
 1. Barna polled born-again Christians and found that about half leaned toward the idea that the Devil is just a symbol of evil
 2. In another poll, 65 percent of Christians said they didn't believe in the Devil
 - D. How much stock do you put in the words of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning the Devil?
 1. Where do you derive your authority?
 2. Jesus never referred to the Devil as an "it" or "that," but a "he" and a "him"
 3. Luke 10:18
 - E. "I believe Satan to exist for two reasons: first, the Bible says so; and second, I've done business with him" —D.L. Moody

- F. This lion often wears a disguise
 - 1. Matthew 7:15; 10:16
 - 2. He doesn't come off as an enemy, but a friend
 - 3. He questioned God; Genesis 3:1
 - G. About the Devil in *The Passion of the Christ*: "I wanted it this way because that is how the Enemy is. Evil looks good until you turn it around a little and see the whole spectrum, then you see the ugliness" —Mel Gibson
 - H. Everyone has a relationship with Satan
 - 1. He's either your friend or your enemy
 - 2. It's better that the Devil be your enemy than your friend
- III. His Strategy—*Your Enemy Has a Plan*

- A. Devour (v. 8)
 - 1. A very strong word meaning to gulp down
 - 2. "He is looking for someone to eat" (v. 8, NIV)
- B. How does the Devil devour people?
 - 1. He wants you to burn in hell forever
 - a. John 10:10
 - b. Matthew 25:41
 - 2. He wants to make the Christian weak
- C. Satan is hungry, and gullible, ill-prepared Christians are on his menu
- D. Perhaps the imagery of the lion came to Peter because of his contact with Roman believers; perhaps he had actually seen people fed to the lions
- E. Job 1:8
 - 1. Better translated: "You have been considering My servant Job, have you not?"
 - 2. Consider was a military term of a general who would survey a town before laying siege to it
- F. Satan is actively studying you
 - 1. All of us have weaknesses
 - 2. Whatever temptation he sends your way is custom-made for your personality
- G. Satan operates within parameters
 - 1. He can only act by permission of God, in line with God's purposes
 - 2. Mark 5:12-13
 - 3. In the fire of a trial or temptation, God has His eye on me and His finger on the thermostat
 - 4. I Corinthians 10:13

IV. His Territory—*Your Enemy Is Active*

- A. Satan has access to the entire world geographically, but his focus of attack is on believers specifically
- B. Satan is the ruler of this world
 - 1. John 12:31
 - 2. God allows Satan certain liberties and freedoms
- C. Job 1:6-7
 - 1. Satan has access to heaven and earth
 - 2. Satan is not in hell and never has been; he will one day
 - 3. When he gets there, he will not be in charge; he will be in chains

- D. We have an invisible army in a visible world
- E. The Devil has four principle targets
 - 1. Jesus Christ
 - a. Genesis 3:15
 - b. Revelation 12:4
 - c. He is always against the gospel and Jesus
 - 2. Holy angels
 - a. Daniel 10
 - b. Revelation 12:7
 - 3. The nation of Israel—the object of God's plan
 - 4. Believers

F. What are his tactics?

- 1. Devil means slanderer
 - a. Revelation 12:10
 - b. He attacks us by accusation
- 2. Persecution

V. His Frailty—*Your Enemy Must Be Engaged*

- A. Your Enemy cannot be ignored; you have to engage him
- B. The Devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping saint
- C. Our Inner Weaponry
 - 1. It begins in the mind and has an outworking in your life
 - 2. "Be sober" (v. 8)
 - a. Be self-controlled and disciplined; think clearly
 - b. Don't allow yourself to be intoxicated by the amusements of this world
 - c. The battle always begins in the mind; Proverbs 23:7
 - 3. "Be vigilant" (v. 8)
 - a. Be alert; be watchful
 - b. Matthew 26:36-45
 - c. Watch out for attacks in weak areas
- D. Our Outer Weaponry
 - 1. Be resolute (see v. 9)
 - a. James 4:7
 - b. In the faith—the truth embodied in the Scripture
 - c. Jude 1:3
 - d. Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:1-12
 - e. Christians need to know their Bibles
 - 2. Be together
 - a. Second person plural; Peter wrote to a group of people
 - b. If you think you can live the Christian life by yourself, you're dead meat
 - c. We need the herd

VI. Closing

- A. As brutal a lion the Enemy is, he's only a second-rate lion
- B. Jesus is called the lion of the tribe of Judah
 - 1. Revelation 5:5
 - 2. C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*

3. Amos 1:2
 4. The true lion-king roared from Zion, "It is finished!" (see John 19:30)
- C. One day, Satan is going to be fired eternally (see Rev. 20:10)
D. 1 John 4:4

Figures referenced: D.L. Moody, Mel Gibson, C.S. Lewis

Greek words: diabolos

Cross references: Genesis 3; Job 1:6-8; Proverbs 23:7; Daniel 10; Amos 1:2; Matthew 4:1-10; 7:15; 10:16; 25:41; 26:36-45; Mark 5:12-13; Luke 4:1-12; 10:18; 22:31; John 10:10; 12:31; 19:30; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4; Jude 1:3; Revelation 5:5; 12:4, 7, 10; 20

Topic: Satan

Keywords: enemy, devil, Satan, lion, spiritual warfare, evil one, wicked one, hell, slanderer, battle



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	A Rock-Solid Finish
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	1 Peter 5:10-14
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/2685

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter ended his letter with a few nuggets of distilled truth. In just a couple of verses, he concentrated everything he had already said. To his suffering audience, Peter offered assurance of God's perfect plan that began when they trusted in Christ and wouldn't end until they were firmly secure in the glories of heaven. Though pain is part of the process of perfection, the finish line is worth it!

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. In these final verses, Peter talked about his audience's finish line
 1. Good athletes think about winning the race
 2. "When the gun fires you must concentrate for every second on the way to that finish line. You should know exactly how long it will take you to and think about every step of the race you are about to run" —Maurice Greene
 - B. It's more than just finishing up; it's about finishing well
 - C. Live your life like an athlete; run your race with no regrets
 - D. As Peter closed his letter, he summed up in verses 10-11 all of the great truths he had talked about
 - E. Verses 12-14 are his own personal note
 1. Up till this moment, he dictated his letter
 2. To Silvanus (Silas), a scribe, or amanuensis
 - F. Six things Christian athletes on the track of life need to know to make it to the finish line
- II. God's Character: "*God of all grace*"
 - A. This is one of the great titles of God
 - B. Paul called Him the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3)
 - C. Exodus 34:6
 - D. The one thing Peter wanted to leave his audience with was that their God is the God of all grace
 1. How many Christians forget this?
 2. Psalm 86:15
 - E. This is the very covenant with which we relate to God—a covenant of unmerited favor
 1. John 1:17
 2. Under the law, God demands righteousness from man; under grace, God gives righteousness to man
 3. Under the law, righteousness is based on our good works; under grace, it's based on His good, finished work on the cross

- 4. Under the law, it only takes one sin to make you a sinner; under grace, it only took one Savior to fix it all
- F. Grace is how God deals with you; it is:
 - 1. **G**od's
 - 2. **R**iches
 - 3. **A**t
 - 4. **C**hrist's
 - 5. **E**xpense
- G. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- H. God treated Jesus Christ like you deserve to be treated so He can treat you like Jesus deserves to be treated
 - I. You need to know God's grace to make it to the finish line; you're saved by it and you're secured by it
- III. God's Calling: "*called us to His eternal glory*"
 - A. God's purpose for my life includes eternal life
 - B. John 17:24; the Father will answer this prayer one day
 - C. This truth is based on the first truth: because God covers us in His grace, He can call us to His glory
 - D. This raises our horizon
 - I. It lets us see beyond the pain of the race
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 15:19
 - E. We often forget this
 - F. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - G. Live looking forward to what's beyond life
 - H. There's grace to make it through this life, and there's glory that we're called to afterward
 - I. "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither" —C.S. Lewis
- IV. God's Condition: "*by Christ Jesus*"
 - A. You will not automatically enjoy God's grace in life and God's glory in heaven
 - B. The first two truths are dependent on this third truth
 - C. You don't enjoy these things just because you're alive
 - I. You don't get to heaven just by being born; you get to heaven by being born again
 - 2. John 14:6; heaven is exclusive
 - D. When you take Jesus Christ, you take the whole package: the grace to live through all the tough stuff and the glory that will follow in the end
 - E. One of the biggest surprises in heaven will be who's not there—and who is there
- V. God's Curriculum: "*after you have suffered a while*"
 - A. Pain happens to every person, but purposeful pain happens only to the child of God
 - 1. Romans 8:28
 - 2. Sodium and chlorine are poisonous on their own, but if you combine them, you get table salt
 - 3. The right combination of harmful things can actually be beneficial
 - B. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
 - I. When he said "thorn in the flesh," Paul was referring to a sharp impaling stick

2. "A thorn in the flesh was given to me"—implies that God gave it to him
 3. Why would God allow Paul to go through pain like that?
 - a. It was good for him
 - b. Psalm 119:71
 - c. Satan wanted to destroy him; God used it to develop him
 4. Job 2:10
 - C. "A while" is a deliberate comparison to the word "eternal"
- VI. God's Commitment: "*perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you*"
- A. This is God's intention
 - B. These four words are synonyms
 1. Peter stacked up the verbiage to make a point
 2. God really does use suffering to bring a real benefit
 - C. "The Word of God says that when we are persecuted for our faith, we are to count it all joy. When I think that all of these trials and persecutions are being recorded in heaven for me, my heart is filled with complete joy.... I always wanted God to make me a godly man. I did not realize that in order to become a godly man we need to become like steel under pressure. It is a hard process of warm and cold to make steel. The process in my life today is one day I was told I will be freed on bail to see my family and kids on Christmas (they are all lies) and the next day I am told I will hang for my faith in Jesus. One day there are intense pains after beatings in interrogations, the next day they are nice to you and offer you candy. These hot and colds only make you a man of steel for moving forward in expanding His Kingdom" —Saeed Abedini
- VII. God's Compensation: "*to Him be the glory and the dominion*"
- A. What does God get out of all of this?
 - B. This is a benediction
 1. There is a principle behind it
 2. When this life is over, including all the suffering and trials, we'll see that everything God did and allowed was perfectly justified
- VIII. Closing
- A. The worst place you can be in a race is sleeping on the side of the track
 - B. Finish well; make the kind of choices today that you'll never have to look back on with regret
 - C. Start here; start now

Figures referenced: Maurice Greene, C.S. Lewis, Saeed Abedini

Cross references: Exodus 34:6; Job 2:10; Psalm 86:15; 119:71; John 1:17; 14:6; 17:24; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 15:19; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 4:16-18; 5:21; 12:1-10; 1 Peter 5:10-14



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Building A Forever Faith
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 1:1-11
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3005

MESSAGE SUMMARY

To build a home or a commercial building requires having the right people and the right materials in place. There is a critical path for the work to follow. And there are blueprints and building codes for the builders to follow. It's the same when it comes to building a spiritual life. As Peter began his second letter, he spoke to the need of spiritual growth. To build a "forever faith," Peter shared four important principles to build successfully.

STUDY GUIDE

Built in Italy in 1173, the Leaning Tower of Pisa sinks one-twentieth of an inch on one side every year and is now seventeen feet out of plumb. The only reason it is uniquely famous is because it leans, and experts say that it is eventually going to fall. Does your life resemble a freaky tourist attraction or a rock solid structure built on faith---helpful, permanent, and worth following? From 2 Peter 1:1-11, Pastor Skip gave four prerequisites for every Christian to build a forever faith.

To start, we need the right investor---God---for two reasons. First, He has "divine power" (v. 3) that created the heavens and the earth, gives life, and raises the dead. Because of this, whatever God expects you to attempt He enables you to achieve by His power. Second, our investor has made "great and precious promises" (v. 3). An investor in a project is the one who writes the checks, and God's promises are the checks He writes. We can take heart that God has promised we can escape the old life and that He will give us all materials necessary to build a new one if we believe.

Next, we must follow the building code in order to experience spiritual development and growth (see vv. 5-7). This is our part in the building project; God provides the power and the promises, and we follow up by cooperating in these ways. We are to be "giving all diligence" (v. 5), exerting every ounce of our effort to this process. Salvation is a free gift, but sanctification is teamwork with God that requires us to add to our faith a lavish supply of the following supplements: virtue---moral excellence with which to fulfill your purpose; knowledge---intimate knowledge of God; self-control---to hold onto one's self, as a disciplined athlete controls his body; perseverance---to bear up under the load, to hang in there; godliness---literally *God-likeness*, worshiping well; brotherly kindness---affection, friendship love; love---agape, self-sacrificial love. These are progressive steps that build upon one another.

Furthermore, build with growth in mind (see v. 8). Growth is productive: Peter used the word *abound*, referring to one who keeps getting more until they are overflowing. If you grow until your life is overflowing, then you will never be barren, idle, or unproductive. Bearing fruit is the goal of the Christian life, and the idea of fruit is growing to the point that other people are being blessed. Do not be content to just be a gulper---only taking in---but be a gusher, flowing outwardly toward other people. Growth is also preventative, because it cures spiritual blindness. The idea in verse 9 is that of a

person squinting to the point that they lose sight of where they came from and cannot see where they are going. Instead of that, be wide-eyed and know where you are going, because a growing believer is a steady and stable believer.

Lastly, plan for the move (see v. 11). Always build and grow with the ultimate endgame of heaven in mind. There's a difference between just getting into heaven and having an abundant entrance, as when a hometown hero returns. Paul said that our works will be tested; some will receive an abundant entrance and others will enter smelling like smoke (see 1 Corinthians 3:15). But when you stand in heaven and look back at your life, you will not regret any of the sacrifices you made for the Lord---not one of them. The gains of heaven will more than compensate for your sacrifices on earth.

The Leaning Tower was recently recalibrated to stand until the year 2300, but experts say one day it will collapse because it wasn't built on the right foundation; *Pisa* means *marshy ground*. Is your life built on the solid rock of Jesus with the endgame in mind, or on shifting sand?

Adapted from Pastor Skip's Teachings

Things to Ponder and Discussion Questions

- A growing believer is a steady and stable believer. As we begin our weekly studies from 2 Peter, the core of this first chapter is about making progress spiritually. Are you growing up and growing strong, or are you just growing old?

- Consider two overarching principles of spiritual growth: 1) Spiritual growth has nothing to do with age. 2) You can grow as much as you want to grow. With these in mind, have you grown as much as you should have thus far in 2014? What changes can you make so that you grow more, starting now and continuing through 2015?

- Spiritual maturity is measured by your cooperation with God's operation. God's promises are not ornaments to be amused by, but they are implements to grow by. If all you do is underline God's promises, that is not enough---you must act on them in order to benefit from them. What is keeping you from cooperating with God and, by faith, "cashing God's checks"?

- Which of these describes your faith? Faulty: the general belief of the unsaved, shared by the demons, who "believe---and tremble" (James 2:19). Firm: the faith of the saved person who is spiritually growing and developing. Flowing: the believer who stays so connected to God that their life is constantly overflowing and blessing those around them. Salvation moves you from faulty to firm, but how does practicing the supplements Skip mentioned (see vv. 5-7) help you move from firm to flowing?

- Are you squinting to the point that you have lost sight of what you were saved from and cannot see where you are going? What is God's cure for such blindness?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Do you want your life to resemble some freaky tourist attraction that leans like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, or something solid, helpful, and permanent?
 - B. 2 Peter is different than 1 Peter
 1. In 1 Peter, Peter was concerned about dangers from the outside: persecution, oppression
 2. In 2 Peter, Peter was more concerned about dangers from the inside: deception, false teaching
 3. At the core of 2 Peter 1 is spiritual growth
 - C. Are you growing up, or are you just growing old?
 - D. Growth is a normal part of life
 1. The Christian life begins with birth (see John 3:3)
 2. It continues with growth, development, and maturity
 - E. Overarching principles about spiritual growth
 1. Your spiritual growth has nothing to do with your physical age
 - a. "Many men are seventy years old, and are nevertheless little children in grace; and, on the other hand, there are a few who at twenty are as solid, and profound, and spiritual, as veterans of eighty" —C.H. Spurgeon
 - b. Physical age and spiritual maturity aren't necessarily equal
 2. You can grow spiritually as much as you want to grow; the secret is using what God has provided
 - F. There are four prerequisites you need to build a forever faith
- II. Get the Right Investor (vv. 3-4)
 - A. It all begins with God
 - B. He has power
 1. Divine power can create the universe, sustain all natural forces, heal the sick, raise the dead
 2. Matthew 28:18
 3. You can grow as much as you want because you have access to God's power
 4. God has invested His power in your spiritual growth
 - a. Philippians 4:13
 - b. Strengthens means *puts His power into me*
 5. What God expects you to attempt He also enables you to achieve by His power
 - C. He has promises
 1. An investor writes checks, which will do you no good unless you cash them
 2. The money in the bank is the power; the check that is written is the promise
 3. A promise is only as good as the one who makes the promise
 4. God has promised we can escape from our old life and go in a new direction
 - a. But you have to cash the check
 - b. You have to take and apply that promise to your life
 5. You can tell how mature a Christian is by how that person treats God's promises

6. His promises are great because they're from a great God and they lead to a great life

7. When you are born again, the life of God gets attached to your life

III. Follow the Building Code (vv. 5-7)

A. This is your part

B. This seems contradictory, paradoxical; how can you add anything to everything?

C. It requires cooperation

1. You must have cooperation with God's operation

2. *Giving all diligence* (v. 5) literally means *make every possible effort or intensively exert yourself*

- a. This is not speaking about salvation; salvation is a gift (see v. 1)

- b. Sanctification is teamwork

3. Spiritual growth is never accidental; it is always intentional

- a. Philippians 2:12-13

- b. God gives you the power and makes the promise, but you must work out your own salvation

D. It requires supplementation

1. He's given the power, and He makes the promises, but we add the perks, and He'll give you everything you need to pull that off

2. Virtue

- a. Moral excellence

- b. Something that fulfills the purpose for which it was made

3. Knowledge

- a. Greek *gnosis*, which means *an expert, full knowledge; the ultimate knowledge*

- b. A growing, personal, authentic knowledge

4. Self-control

- a. Self-control bridges the gap between what we know and what we do

- b. Greek word meaning *to hold one's self together*; speaks of a training athlete

5. Perseverance

- a. To bear up under the trial

- b. "Hang in there"

6. Godliness

- a. Literally, *God-likeness*

- b. Speaks of being right with God and therefore right with other people

7. Brotherly kindness; *philadelphia*

8. Love; *agape*, sacrificial love

9. One will lead to another

IV. Build with Growth in Mind (vv. 8-10)

A. You should build with future growth in mind, not plateau

B. *Abound* (v. 8) means to have so much you overflow

C. Building with growth in mind is productive

1. *Barren* means *idle, unproductive*; literally *something that has stopped working*

2. Fruit is an ever-expanding life that blesses other people

3. Matthew 13:8; Mark 4:8

4. John 15:4

5. Fruit refreshes other people

D. Three different kinds of faith

- 1. Faulty, fake; James 2:19
- 2. Firm: genuine, saving faith
- 3. Flowing
 - a. It is productive, and others get the benefit of that fruit
 - b. Genesis 49:22
 - c. John 7:37-38
- E. Don't be a gulper; be a gusher
- F. Someone who is always adding and growing can see where they've come from and where they're going
 - 1. Maybe you've forgotten you are engaged to Christ
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 11:2
 - 3. A growing believer will be a steady believer
- V. Plan for the Move (v. 11)
 - A. All that you're building now is for the next place you're going to be; build now with that move in mind
 - B. Greeks used the term *abundant entrance* to describe an athlete who won in the Olympics and was greeted back home
 - C. In heaven, you will never regret the hours you spent doing the Lord's work
 - D. You are to build and plan for the move
 - E. Some will get a more glorious entrance into heaven than others
 - 1. I Corinthians 3:13-15
 - 2. How are you going to arrive?
 - 3. The gains of heaven will more than compensate for all the losses of earth
- VI. Closing
 - A. If you build on marshy ground, the tower is going to fall, so you need to build on a solid foundation
 - B. Make sure your life is built on the right foundation

Figures referenced: C.H. Spurgeon

Greek words: gnosis, philadelphia, agape

Cross references: Genesis 49:22; Matthew 13:8; 28:18; Mark 4:8; John 3:3; 7:37-38; 15:4; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Philippians 2:12-13; 4:13; James 2:19; 1 Peter; 2 Peter 1:1-11

Topic: Spiritual Growth

Keywords: faith, spiritual growth, maturity, power, God's promises, sanctification, works, fruit, heaven, foundation



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	How To Live And Die Well
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 1:12-15
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter lived his life knowing the brevity of it. Here, he wrote as an older man in his seventies. Realizing there was more road behind him than ahead of him, he gave a model for us. Essentially we have here an excellent example of how to live well and how to die well. Let's answer the question *How can I live and die well?* by considering four keys passed along by Peter himself.

STUDY GUIDE

We are creatures of time bound for eternity, so the question is how do we make our time count for eternity? From 2 Peter 1:12-15, Pastor Skip gave four keys unique to the book of 2 Peter on how to live and die well.

The first key is to live with death in mind. Peter's impending death was on his mind throughout this passage. Heaven was what motivated him to serve God's people (see v. 11), and he revealed his belief that his own death was imminent. He spoke of his death cryptically and symbolically, describing it as putting off his tent (see v. 14). Then he spoke of it plainly, referring to his "decease" (v. 15). The word *decease* is the Greek word *exodos*, and Peter's intent in using that word was to describe the leaving of this place (earth) and the journey to another place (heaven). This passage—and the entire epistle—reveals that Peter was living with his own death in mind, knowing that it was unwise to wait until the point of death to do so. Solomon essentially put it this way: "If you want to live more wisely, take a tour of a mortuary!" (see Ecclesiastes 7:2, 4). Thinking about dying improves your living, because you don't know when you'll die, and you need to realize that this lifetime is costing you your life.

The next key is to live like you're camping out. Peter referred to his body and this life as a tent (see vv. 13, 14). This is a familiar first century picture of Middle Eastern nomads who lived in portable tents. Tents are not only portable but also temporary. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:1 that "we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed"—taken down—"we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." It is an interesting and fitting word to describe our earthly bodies. When we think of a tent, we think of something temporary, flimsy, and without much beauty. Yet, tent camping has some advantages. It enables us to appreciate the little things, and it makes us more aware of what's necessary in life. When you tent camp for a long period of time, you cannot wait to get home. Jesus told us that in His Father's house, there are many mansions as our final destination after we leave this tent (see John 14:2). So, live life like you're camping out, and don't make it all about the tent. Rather, be motivated to decorate your heavenly mansion by sending riches ahead in the form of laying up treasure in heaven (see Matthew 6:20).

Furthermore, we are to live for the benefit of others. Although Peter was at end of his life and his tent was unraveling, it is clear where his focus and energy was directed. In chapter 1 alone, he used the

word your four times and the word you ten times; he was thinking about others. Not only that, but Peter was also living for the benefit of others by reminding them of and waking them up to truths they already knew (see vv. 12-13). He knew that we often need to be reminded of life-shaping truths that motivate us to live for others and not for ourselves. We also need to be regularly roused from the lethargy and drowsiness we have toward the implications those truths have on our lives. Peter's most dramatic experience with this was in the garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus literally had to wake him up from self-serving sleep three times and stimulate him for the mission at hand (see Matthew 26:36-46).

The last key is to live for a legacy that outlives you. One of the reasons Peter felt the Lord was telling him his time was up was because of an earlier promise Jesus gave him: "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go" (John 21:18, NLT). Here, Jesus not only indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God, but also that he would grow old before dying. But until then, Peter wanted to make sure he was leaving the people of God with something lasting, because the way to live well and die well is to live for something that outlives you. As Moses prayed, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). We would do well to pray and live the same.

Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

- How are you investing your life on earth so that it makes a difference for eternity?

- "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). How does this perspective influence your daily choices, career choices, family choices, and life goals?

- A wise person once said, "A man is wrapped up in himself makes very small package." In what ways is your life focused on living for the benefit of others rather than yourself

- Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). A Native American proverb says, "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such manner that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice." Are you more passionate about this life—your "tent"—or about eternity and the mansion that awaits? What would someone looking at your life say your passion is?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Most people want to know about living well
 1. "The unexamined life is not worth living" —Socrates
 2. But how to die well is equally as significant
 - B. "How we deal with death is at least as important as how we deal with life" —Captain Kirk
 - C. "You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and is then extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly" —Polycarp
 - D. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
 - E. We are creatures of time, but we are bound for eternity
 - F. How will we spend our time to make it count for eternity?
 - G. "As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death" —Leonardo da Vinci
 - H. How do you live and die well?
- II. Live with Death in Mind
 - A. Through this entire passage, Peter was aware of his looming death
 1. Verses 11-12
 2. Entering heaven one day became his motivation for everything he did
 - B. Peter believed his own death was imminent
 1. The Lord revealed to Peter that he didn't have much time left
 2. Peter spoke of his death cryptically (see v. 14)
 3. Peter spoke of his death plainly (see v. 15)
 - a. The word decease is the Greek word exodos
 - b. Leaving one place on your way to another place
 - C. Peter was in his seventies when he wrote this
 1. The older you get, the more you think about death, but it is unwise to wait that long
 2. It is wiser to live with death in mind
 3. Ecclesiastes 7:2, 4; 12:1
 4. Taking a stroll through a cemetery can be more helpful than a weekend in Vegas
 - D. When you spend some time thinking about the end of your life, you're dealing with the basics, and you become real
 1. Because you don't know when death is going to come
 - a. Hebrews 9:27
 - b. God has made an appointment for your death; the problem is, He didn't tell you when that appointment is
 2. Because it makes you live more wisely
- III. Live Like You're Camping Out
 - A. Tent (vv. 13-14) speaks of nomads traveling in tents, temporary shelters, on their way from one place to another
 - B. When a person dies, it's like taking down one's tent
 1. 2 Corinthians 5:1
 2. Paul was a tentmaker; Peter was a fisherman but knew the metaphor
 - C. A tent is something temporary, flimsy, and not all that beautiful
 - D. Camping in a tent
 1. You're down to the basics

- a. You boil life down to its irreducible minimum
 - b. You realize how much stuff you can live without
 - 2. You cannot wait to get home
 - E. Our body, like a tent, is temporary; after a while, the threads unravel, the flaps get worn, and the tent leaks
 - 1. We have the tendency to try to make our tents last forever
 - 2. James 4:14
 - 3. John 14:2
 - 4. The real you is not your tent; the real you is your spirit
 - F. After a while, the body ceases to be helpful
 - 1. It's not accurate to say believers die; it's more accurate to say they move
 - 2. Philippians 1:21; only the believer can make that statement
 - G. Don't make life all about your tent
 - H. You can send supplies up ahead for your mansion
 - 1. Matthew 6:19-20
 - 2. You can start decorating now
- IV. Live for the Benefit of Others
- A. Peter's focus was on others
 - B. 2 Peter 1
 - 1. The word *your* appears four times
 - 2. The word *you* appears eleven times
 - C. Peter lived for the benefit of others in two ways
 - 1. He reminded them (see v. 12)
 - a. A good teacher will do this
 - b. Jesus often repeated Himself in His parables and sermons
 - c. Solomon did this in Proverbs; David in Psalms
 - d. You need to be reminded simply because you forget
 - 2. He woke them up (see v. 13)
 - a. *Stir up* could be translated *arouse, wake up from lethargy or drowsiness*
 - b. Sometimes it's so easy to become drowsy and lethargic in the light of the gospel truth
 - c. In the coming text, Peter wrote head-on about the danger of false prophets and teachers in the church
 - D. Even nearing death, Peter lived his life for others
 - 1. "A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small package"
 - 2. The tendency of most people is to make life all about themselves
 - 3. But the Bible says if you want a joyful life, think about others more than yourself
- V. Live for a Legacy that Outlives You
- A. After 2,000 years, we are still being instructed and nourished by 1 and 2 Peter
 - B. John 21:18-19; this explains passages like Acts 12:1-6
 - C. What are you leaving behind? What is your legacy? What are you leaving the next generation?
 - 1. The example of a well-lived life
 - 2. Having your affairs in order
 - 3. Are you passing your faith on to the next generation?
- VI. Closing
- A. Living well is seen in these four keys

- B. "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced; make sure that you live your life in such a manner that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice" —Native American proverb
- C. Psalm 90:12
- D. Right now, we can live well and thus die well

Figures referenced: Socrates, Captain Kirk, Polycarp, Leonardo da Vinci

Greek words: exodos

Cross references: Psalm 90:12; Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; 7:2, 4; 12:1; Matthew 6:19-20; John 14:2; 21:18-19; Acts 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 1:21; Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14; 2 Peter 1:11-15

Topic: Legacy

Keywords: life, death, Christian living, eternity, heaven, wisdom, tent, body, service, legacy



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Is It True? How Can I Know?
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 1:16-21
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Truth is a slippery word. Definitions get assigned to it that are contradictory, purely individual, and without any validation. Peter wanted his readers to know things. He was giving them truth that was both personally familiar and prophetically verifiable. How can we today know that what we believe in and hope for is actually true?

STUDY GUIDE

No one can say absolutely that there is no absolute truth—that would be an absolute statement and therefore a self-contradiction. Yet one of the most common questions posed by unbelievers is how can anyone say they have a corner on the market when it comes to absolute truth? The Bible makes truth claims in absolutes; how can we know if it is true? In 2 Peter 1:16-21, Peter addressed this issue, countering falsehood through three lines of reasoning: what he had seen, what he had heard, and what he had read. We can boil his reasoning down to two types of evidence: subjective and objective.

Peter's subjective evidence was his personal experience (see vv. 16-18). Peter referred to the prevailing falsehood of the day as fables. This word has a negative connotation in the New Testament, identifying stories that were made up and not based on facts. Conversely, while the Bible also records some incredibly outlandish events, every one of them is based on actual places, real people, and definite dates, all producing events that are verifiable. Peter reported what he himself saw. He referred to being one of the "eyewitnesses of His majesty," effectually saying, "We saw it with our own eyes!" Peter saw and heard many amazing things as he walked with Jesus for three years, but Jesus' majesty was never clearer than at His transfiguration. When Jesus temporarily took on the glory He will have at the second coming, Peter wasn't the only witness. James and John were there too, along with Moses, Elijah, and Jesus—plus God Himself bearing witness! Peter heard God claim Jesus as His beloved Son (see v. 17). When other witnesses are involved in an event, the chance of fabrication is diminished. Hallucinations are individual, not collective. John echoed Peter's words of eyewitness, too (see 1 John 1:1-3). Furthermore, one of the strongest arguments for the absolute trustworthiness of the gospel is the way most of the disciples died—as martyrs, their deaths testifying to the certainty of what they saw and heard. No one dies for what they know is a lie and a conspiracy; the disciples died for the truth they had seen and heard.

As powerful as their eyewitness is, it's still subjective; you need an outside account to corroborate it. Peter's second line of evidence, then, was objective, and it came from what he read: the scriptural evidence (see vv. 19-21). Over and over again, the Bible confirms truth. Peter said, "[W]e have the prophetic word confirmed," literally, made more certain. Predictive prophecy is one of the most confirming proofs of Scripture's claims. Additionally, the Bible is enlightening. It truly is the "light that shines in a dark place" (v. 19). The Scriptures are the only dependable light we have in this dark world.

Psalm 119:105 declares, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." As dark as this world is, the light of God's Word is sure and unerring. Furthermore, Peter declared that "prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (v. 21). This verse and 2 Timothy 3:16 are the two most important verses regarding divine inspiration. When Peter said the Bible's writers were "moved," he used a sailing metaphor denoting how wind carries a ship along to a destination. The inspiration of the Bible was not mechanical dictation (robotic repetition), conceptual inspiration (God planted the general idea, and the writer wrote it as he understood and/or preferred it), or natural inspiration (from high levels of creativity). Rather, the writers wrote with their own personalities and styles—raised their sails, so to speak—and the Holy Spirit filled those sails and carried them to God's intended destination of recorded truth as they wrote under divine control. When we add human experience to divine revelation, we have a powerful combination: truth set on fire!

When you study the Bible, do you resemble a butterfly—flitting from Bible study to Bible study, as long as it is not too heavy or deep? Or do you study like the botanist who comes in with a magnifying glass, takes detailed notes, and studies the intricacies, but whose life remains unchanged by the truth discovered? Or are you like the bee that comes in empty, dives in, and drinks deeply of each flower, probing Scripture and coming away full of truth to use as fuel to live the Christian life?

Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

- When has your experience combined with God's Word to set the truth on fire in your life and in someone else's life?

- When temptation and opportunity converge, we are faced with choices. How do you allow the certainty of God's truth to influence you in those moments?

- When your parent, your child, or your friend disappoints you, how does truth anchor you and act as your compass so that you maintain Christlikeness toward them?

- When you are tempted to pursue a person, place, or thing that the truth clearly tells you is not in the will of God, how does truth come to your rescue in that moment?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Is there such a thing as absolute truth?
 - B. A significant number of people say there is no such thing as absolute truth
 - 1. But this is self-contradictory
 - 2. How can you absolutely say there is no absolute truth? That statement is an absolute statement
 - C. Epistemology: a section of study that deals with truth
 - D. The Bible makes truth claims, some of which are absolute
 - 1. John 14:6
 - 2. How can we know the message we have received is really true?
 - E. The setting of 2 Peter: the persecution of Christians was at an all-time high
 - 1. Peter wrote to these people and told them there were certain things they should know in their situation
 - 2. *Know*, or *knowledge*, is one of the key words of 2 Peter
 - a. Mentioned sixteen times
 - b. 2 Peter 1:2, 5, 8
 - F. In the next chapter, Peter addressed false teachers and prophets in the church
 - 1. The Gnostics claimed to know what others didn't know
 - 2. They also denied the claims and coming of Christ
 - 3. Peter counteracted these false teachings by saying he knew what was true because of:
 - a. What he saw
 - b. What he heard
 - c. What he read
 - 4. Boil these down into two categories; how do we know something is true?
 - a. Personal experience—subjective
 - b. Scriptural evidence—objective
- II. By Personal Experience (vv. 16-18)
 - A. The word *fables* could be translated *myths*
 - 1. Greek word *muthos*
 - 2. Always used in the New Testament in a negative or derogatory sense
 - 3. Usually referred to pagan mythology—crazy, nonhistorical fables
 - B. Stories in the Bible are based on historical places, actual people, and certain dates—verifiable events
 - C. What Peter Saw
 - 1. Peter referred to the transfiguration, one of the highlights of his life (see Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36)
 - 2. Peter was an eyewitness; in a court of law, eyewitnesses are crucial
 - 3. What Peter saw was a preview of coming attractions
 - a. A preview of the second coming
 - b. *Coming* (v. 16) is the Greek word *parousia*
 - I. Almost always used to refer to the second coming of Christ
 - II. It literally means the arrival or actual presence
 - c. Matthew 16:28; Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27—the disciples didn't know what Jesus was talking about until He took a few of them up on a mountain and this transfiguration happened
 - d. Peter saw Jesus in second-coming power and glory

- e. Revelation 21:23
 - 4. God can and does speak to people supernaturally—especially in restricted countries
 - D. What Peter Heard
 - 1. God the Father said this (see v. 17) twice in Jesus' ministry (see Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)
 - 2. The vision Peter saw was accompanied by a soundtrack
 - 3. Verse 18 could better be translated, "We ourselves heard this voice and others did not"
 - 4. Peter, James, and John saw and heard the same thing at the same time—and Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were there, too
 - a. The more people who hear and see the same thing, the chances of fabrication are greatly diminished
 - b. Experts say groups cannot have the same hallucination
 - 5. I John 1:1-2
 - E. The problem with personal experiences is that they are subjective
 - 1. Experience itself is not valid
 - 2. Are there any others throughout history who have had a similar experience?
 - a. All of the disciples' lives were radically changed
 - b. One of the strongest evidences for the gospel is that every apostle (except for Judas) went to a martyr's death because of their testimony
- III. By Scriptural Evidence (vv. 19-21)
- A. The Bible Is Confirming
 - 1. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19, KJV)
 - 2. As you read the Bible, you find case after case of fulfilled prophecy
 - 3. When you have a book with predictions that actually happen, you may want to think twice about that book
 - 4. Example of fulfilled prophecy: Isaiah 45
 - 5. There are about twenty-five books that claim to be God's very word, but all of them lack fulfilled prophecy
 - 6. Experience is not valid by itself, but when you combine it with Scripture, it's objective and verifiable
 - B. The Bible Is Enlightening
 - 1. Some of the events happening in our world today were taking place when Peter wrote this letter
 - 2. We know what the Bible predicts is coming; we have a dependable light in a dark world
 - 3. Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:16; Isaiah 9:2
 - 4. "Until the day dawns" (v. 19)
 - a. Until the second coming of Christ
 - b. When Jesus comes, all spiritual, social, political, and moral darkness will give way to a bright day
 - 5. Morning star (v. 19)
 - a. Greek word *phósphoros*
 - b. A technical term for the planet Venus, the bright light just before the dawn
 - C. The Bible Is Unerring

- I. This is one of the two most important New Testament verses on divine inspiration
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16
 - b. *Inspiration = theopneustos*, God-breathed
 - 2. Interpretation (v. 20) is an unfortunate translation
 - a. It makes you think of understanding the Bible
 - b. The word *interpretation* in Greek refers to the origin of the text
 - c. "No prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves" (2 Peter 1:20, NLT)
 - 3. Moved (v. 21) is a sailing term that speaks of a ship being carried along where the wind determines
 - a. The biblical authors hoisted their sails
 - b. The Spirit, or breath, of God filled those sails and carried them to the destination God wanted using the author's individual style and personality
 - c. The destination was under the control of the Holy Spirit
 - 4. Not mechanical inspiration: God dictated what to write
 - 5. Not concept inspiration: God gave the author the general concept or idea
 - 6. Not natural inspiration: the kind great artists and musicians have
- D. When you add human experience to divine revelation, now you have a powerful combination; you have truth set on fire
- IV. Closing
- A. When it comes to Scripture, are you like the butterfly: flitting from this church to that church?
 - B. Or are you like the botanist: you take intense notes at church, but leave forgetting what you wrote?
 - C. Or are you like the bee: you go in empty and come out full, and it's fuel for your life?

Greek words: muthos, parousia, phόsphoros, theopneustos

Cross references: Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 9:2; 45; Matthew 3:16-17; 4:16; 16:28; 17:1-8; Mark 1:9-11; 9:1-8; Luke 3:21-22; 9:27-36; John 14:6; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1: 2, 5, 8, 16-21; 1 John 1:1-2; Revelation 21:23

Topic: Truth

Keywords: truth, absolute truth, knowledge, experience, evidence, second coming, transfiguration, prophecy, Scriptures, the Bible, divine inspiration, revelation



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Watch Out For Fakes!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 2:1-14
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3031

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Counterfeiting has become a multibillion-dollar industry that extends all around the world. Fake jewelry, fake purses, fake paintings, and, yes, even fake medicines are sold as if they're the genuine articles, when they are cheap (though amazingly real-looking) imitations. It's the same when it comes to truth. What makes a false teacher of false teaching? Peter gave three recommendations in dealing with such counterfeits.

STUDY GUIDE

In 2 Peter 2:1-14, we are given an insider's look at spiritual deception. Truth is all-important, especially when everything about our lives is on the line; in these situations, tolerance is no virtue. God wants us to know the truth because He loves us, and He wants us to discern truth in order to protect us! From this passage, Pastor Skip summed up Peter's message in three statements that provide us with three principles, or rules, in dealing with counterfeit teachers.

Peter warned us to be aware of their falsehood by noting that all counterfeits have these common traits:

- First, they're always around. From the time of Moses to the time of the Messiah and even now, there have always been "false prophets among the people" (v. 1). In Matthew 24:4-5, Jesus told us that as history moves closer to the end, we should expect a proliferation of false prophets.
- Secondly, they distort the truth as they "secretly bring in destructive heresies" (v. 1). Heresy originally meant to choose or to have a preference for something that is not true. We must be vigilant for such deceivers, who use our vocabulary but not our dictionary. They speak of essential doctrines such as salvation and inspiration, but they pour different meanings into these words.
- Next, they "even [deny] the Lord who bought them" (v. 1). To deny Jesus Christ is to deny His incarnation: that He left heaven and came to earth as a man; to deny His salvation: that He lived the perfect life and died the perfect atoning death; to deny His substitution: that He took man's sin and bore our judgment; to deny His resurrection: that He overcame death and guaranteed

our eternal life with Him; and to deny His ascension: that He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and deserves worship. Friends, Christianity is Christ! If anyone denies that Jesus is who He claimed to be, then that person is a deceiver and not of true Christian faith.

- Furthermore, they broaden the way, and "many will follow their destructive ways" (v. 2). Counterfeits are popular because they make the way easier than it actually is. While salvation is free, it does demand faith in Jesus Christ, which includes repentance. Conversely, false prophets preach a counterfeit gospel—free of guilt and repentance—that is easy and comfortable to hear.
- Additionally, they cover their motives, for "by covetousness they will exploit you" (v. 3). Their actual goal is not to advance the gospel of Jesus but to accumulate money, power, and status by exploiting people as merchandise. In contrast, Paul explained his own actions in I Thessalonians 2:5, where he wrote, "For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness."
- Lastly, counterfeits despise authority, for "they are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries" (v. 10). The term dignitaries here refers to demons, such as those referred to in Jude 8-9. False teachers are so arrogant that even though they are merely humans and no match for the power of Satan or fallen angels, they confront and mock them, which even Michael the archangel did not do (see Jude 9).

Peter then went on to warn false teachers that they should be assured of their fate (see vv. 1, 3, 12-13). Nothing is more offensive to God than deception, especially when it involves falsifying facts regarding Him and His truth. False teachers who enter the true church face certain judgment, and Peter cited three illustrations: fallen angels, the ancient world, and Sodom and Gomorrah. Why is God so punitive in this matter, and why was Peter so descriptive of the punishment? Because it matters what you eat spiritually, and God loves us enough to want us to eat biblically healthy.

Lastly, Peter called us to be aligned with the faithful by following the examples of faithful people. Verses 5 through 9 mention two imperfect men to emulate: Noah and Lot. Lot's inclusion alone shows us that the bar is not set too high. These men and those who obeyed their message all escaped God's judgment. This should encourage us that God loves us enough to warn about judgment and that He has overwritten the permanent sin record of every believer with His permanent bloodstained ink.

Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

God loves us enough to warn us, to put up a sign that says, "Beware! Watch out for false teachers!"

- William Barclay said, "A heretic [is]...a man who believes what he wishes to believe instead of accepting the truth of God which he must believe." Nothing is more offensive to God than heresy and deception, especially when it falsifies facts regarding Himself. Why?
- God rescues the godly before He judges the ungodly. Have you found a faithful person, a Noah or Lot, who you can mimic so that you may find yourself in the godly category? What are some ways you can provide a faithful example for others to follow? (See Philippians 3:17.)

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. Anyone who claims to speak for God must represent God correctly or they will be labeled by Scripture as a false prophet
 - B. False prophets' words are like false labels on the front of jars; they send the wrong message, the wrong information
 - C. Why was Peter so harsh?
 - D. In certain cases, tolerance is not a virtue—truth is
 - E. When you're giving people eternal directions, you better be careful
 - F. Peter diagnosed the problem and was ready to conduct surgery
 - G. The central thought: God loves you enough to warn you about this
- II. Be Aware of Their Falsehood (vv. 1-3, 10-14)
 - A. There are about twenty-five things this text says to be aware of
 - B. Six common characteristics of false prophets
 - C. They're always around
 1. Throughout Scripture, from the time of Moses to the time of the Messiah
 2. Deuteronomy 13
 3. Isaiah 9:15-16
 4. Jeremiah 14:14
 5. There have always been false prophets, false gospels, and fake Christians, and there will even be a false Christ in the end of days
 6. Satan's number one tactic is deception; John 8:44
 7. It will get worse; Matthew 24:5, 11
 8. Newton's third law of motion: every action brings an equal and opposite reaction
 - a. That is also true in the spiritual world
 - b. Every action from heaven brings a correspondent reaction in the realms of hell, and earthlings are in the crossfire
 - c. The light of truth shines in this world, and bugs will come
 - D. They distort the truth

- I. The word *heresy* speaks about somebody who makes a preferential choice, somebody who chooses something that isn't true
 2. "A heretic [is]...a man who believes what he wishes to believe instead of accepting the truth of God which he must believe" — William Barclay
 3. All humans have a longing to worship something
 - a. It's the way God wired us
 - b. But most people would rather adopt some generic spirituality
 4. They come in secretly
 5. False prophets use our vocabulary but not our dictionary
- E. They deny Christ
1. Next time you encounter someone from a cult, ask them, "Who is Jesus?" You will discover in moments either truth or error
 2. "Denying the Lord" (v. 1) = contradicting the Lord
 3. They say about Jesus what Jesus never said about Himself
 4. To deny Jesus Christ is to deny:
 - a. His incarnation: that He left heaven and came to this earth
 - b. His salvation: that He lived the perfect life and paid the atoning death
 - c. His substitution: that He bore our sins and took our punishment
 - d. His resurrection: that He conquered death and promises us eternal life
 - e. His ascension: that He is seated at the right hand of God and is worthy of our praise and worship
 5. Christianity is Jesus Christ, and if He is not who He claimed to be, then we don't have a Christian faith
 - a. Then He's guilty of putting the wrong label on the jar
 - b. But if He is who He claims to be and others deny that, then they're guilty
- F. They broaden the way to heaven
1. *Many* (v. 2)—false teachers are very popular
 2. They take the narrow way and broaden it, make it easy
 3. It's not a feat to be saved, but part of salvation is the willingness to repent
 4. Matthew 7:13
- G. They cover up their motives
1. They want something from you: power, money, status
 2. They will make merchandise of you
 3. I Thessalonians 2:5
 4. "If a missionary comes to you, you should welcome that person. However, if he stays more than three days, he's a false prophet. If anyone speaking in a trance says these words: 'Give me money (or anything else)', do not listen to him. Everyone who comes in the name of the Lord is to be welcomed, though later you must

test him and find out about him. Make sure he does not live in idleness simply on the strength of being a Christian, unless he agrees to this: he is only trying to exploit Christ" —from *The Didache*, teachings of the twelve apostles circulated around AD 100

H. They despise authority

- I. "Speak evil of dignitaries" (v. 10) is a reference to demonic dignitaries
 - a. Jude 9
 - b. These teachers were so arrogant that they did what Michael the archangel wouldn't even do: mock fallen angels
2. They talk to the Devil about God when they ought to talk to God about the Devil
3. When Satan knocks on the door, ask Jesus to answer it
4. Peter compared them to wild, rapacious animals
5. They are not sheep, and yet, they act like experts

III. Be Assured of Their Fate (vv. 3b-9, 12-13)

- A. Woven throughout the text is the fact that these false prophets have a severe judgment
- B. The wages of sin is always death (see Romans 6:23) and God will make sure that payday comes
- C. False teachers will be eternally spit out
- D. There is nothing more offensive to God than deception, than those who falsify facts about God
- E. False teachers who enter the true church will face certain judgment
- F. Three illustrations of this
 1. Fallen angels
 2. The ancient world and the flood
 3. Sodom and Gomorrah
 4. The idea is simple: God didn't spare them, so don't think that false teachers will get a hall pass when it comes to judgment

G. Why is God so punitive and Peter so descriptive of their punishment?

1. Because it matters what you eat, spiritually speaking
2. What you take in is important; it can bring you life or destroy you

IV. Be Aligned with the Faithful (vv. 5-9)

- A. There are two people Peter wrote about as exceptions that should be our examples: Noah and Lot, neither of whom were perfect people
 1. Noah preached a narrow message, and he was right about it (see Genesis 6-8)
 2. Lot ran out of Sodom because God promised to judge that city (see Genesis 19:1-29)
- B. Both escaped the promised judgment; therefore, follow those people
- C. Verse 9 shows a theological pattern: God rescues the godly before He ruins the ungodly
 1. When wrath comes from Him directly, He rescues the godly first
 2. He will do the same in the rapture before the great tribulation

V. Closing

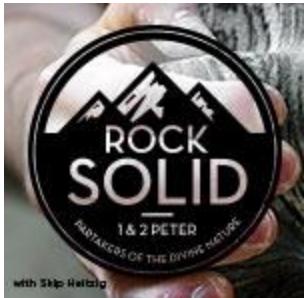
- A. God loves you enough to give you the warning, to tell you this truth
- B. God wants us to find faithful people as examples that we can emulate
 - 1. Lot being included shows us God doesn't set the bar too high
 - 2. Noah built an ark, and Lot ran out of Sodom, and they were glad they did
 - 3. They knew that when God made a promise, He was going to act
- C. There is a permanent record; God keeps good books
- D. But the greatest truth of all is that God can overwrite your permanent record with the permanent bloodstained ink of Jesus Christ

Figures referenced: William Barclay

Cross references: Genesis 6-8; 19:1-29; Deuteronomy 13; Isaiah 9:15-16; Jeremiah 14:14; Matthew 7:13; 24:5, 11; John 8:44; Romans 6:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:5; 2 Peter 2:1-14; Jude 9

Topic: False Prophets

Keywords: false prophet, false teaching, false teacher, truth, falsehood, fake, deception, lies, heresy, demons, the Devil, Satan, judgment, punishment, godly, ungodly, faithful, faithfulness, promise



SERIES:	60 I & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Caution: Ruts Ahead!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 2:15-22
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3036

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The quality, comfort, and success of a journey depend largely on the conditions of the road, the company you keep, and the destination you're heading for. False teachers and their devotees guarantee a perilous voyage and a bad finish! Today we are challenged to live cautiously as we make progress in our journey of faith and to watch out for ruts.

STUDY GUIDE

It is extremely dangerous to put medication in the wrong bottle, because then it's labeled falsely. This same grave concern exists when error is placed in a container labeled truth. The entire second chapter of 2 Peter is devoted to putting the right label on bad medicine—doctrinal and spiritual poison. From verses 15 through 22 of this chapter, Pastor Skip gave us four warning signs so that we can avoid being led astray and poisoned as we walk on the path of truth.

First, we are to be careful as we walk (see v. 15). On your own, read these four warnings from the apostle Paul about being led astray: Acts 20:29; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Galatians 1:7; and Ephesians 4:14. Throughout the New Testament, we are warned of the following ruts: legalism, self-righteousness, pride, apathy, doubt, anger, jealousy, and doctrinal error. Paul instructed in Ephesians 5:15, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.” The idea here is to carefully investigate before you take steps so that you walk with exactness. *How do we learn to recognize the ruts Paul mentioned and avoid falling into them?*

Secondly, we are to be careful with whom we walk (see vv. 16-17). We are to find people who agree with God's truth and walk with them, which is the reason we go to church and gather together in Connect Groups. Together we learn to walk with the Lord by studying the “Walking Manual,” the Bible. When we gather in Connect Groups, we model for and encourage each other with how to walk as Christians. Conversely, we are to avoid walking with false teachers. The doctrinally unhealthy will always be mixed in with the healthy within God's assembly, and when it comes to the essentials of Christian truth, it is good and necessary to make clear distinctions. False teachers are described in verses 17-18 as “wells without water” and “clouds carried by a tempest” without rain, speaking “great swelling words of emptiness.” Be warned that false teachers are often eloquent, charismatic people who can impress others with their oratory. *Who do you walk with? Who encourages and excites you about Christ?*

Next, we are to be careful what we walk toward (see vv. 18-20). The allure of the false teacher's message is that they promise freedom, but they deliver imprisonment. Their bait is false freedom that entices the believer to abandon obedience to Christ. The false religious system that Peter referred to resembles a belief system that still exists today: a spiritual experience without the narrowness of the gospel, set apart from repentance and rebirth in Jesus. Beware: outward reformation without inward transformation results in spiritual incarceration. This means that someone may be a very spiritual person but not a saved person, because they are deceived by falsehood. *Why do you think the gospel needs to be narrow?*

Lastly, we are to be careful how our walk ends (see vv. 21-22). Here, Peter pointed out the difference between the nature of an authentically born-again believer and the nature of an unsaved life. Perhaps Peter was thinking of Judas Iscariot as he wrote this, since Judas was as close to Jesus Christ as it gets, and yet in time he reverted to his unregenerate nature and betrayed the Lord. Be warned that, like Judas, our proximity to truth is not a gauge of spirituality. Rather, a more accurate gauge is actual change that over time evidences our new nature in Christ. Here are three simple tests to identify our spiritual nature:

- First is the test of character as evidenced by the character of Christ and fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5.
- Second is the test of creed as evidenced by whether or not we hold to the truth of the essential doctrines of the Scriptures.
- Third is the test of converts as evidenced by the effect our life and teachings have on those who follow us.

How do these tests measure your walk? Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

Caution: be careful; walk circumspectly.

- How do you focus on the truth, share the truth, listen for the truth, and let the truth lead you?

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Just as it is dangerous to have medicine in the wrong jar with the wrong label, it is also dangerous to call false prophets and teachers and what they say anything other than that
- B. Peter spent an entire chapter on placing the correct label on the bad medicine
- C. Way (vv. 15, 21)
 1. A roadway or pathway
 2. The most typical form of travel in those days was walking
 3. The idea is someone being pushed off the right path onto another road that is the wrong way

- 4. It's not uncommon to speak about your walk as your spiritual journey
- 5. Walk or way is often symbolic of the decisions you make and your entire lifestyle
- D. This was Peter's highest priority; he was about to die
- E. Peter believed that it was profitable for all believers from time to time to consider their walk
- 0. Where they're going, how they're doing it, with whom they are walking, and where it leads
 - I. As if Peter said you need to stop and refocus
 - F. Four cautionary signs Peter put out about the ruts in the road
- II. Be Careful as You Walk (vv. 15, 21)
- . Peter was speaking about people who were taken off course
 - 0. Throughout the New Testament, there is warning after warning about this
 - I. This is a battle, and in our walks, we have to be very cautious
 - A. Warnings of ruts in the road
 - 0. 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - 1. Galatians 1:6-7
 - 2. Ephesians 4:14
 - 3. Acts 20:29-31
 - 4. Ruts of legalism, self-righteousness, pride, apathy, doubt, anger, jealousy, doctrinal error
 - B. Ephesians 5:15
 - 0. Circumspectly means carefully or with exactness
 - I. When you walk, watch where you're putting each step
 - C. But don't become a reactionary Christian, as if you're the only arbiter of truth
 - 0. Simply learn to discern
 - I. Discern means to distinguish between truth and error
 - 2. I Thessalonians 5:21
 - D. "A lie can travel halfway around the world while truth is still lacing up her boots" —attributed to Mark Twain
 - E. It's human nature to go astray
 - 0. Isaiah 53:6
 - I. "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love" —Robert Robinson, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
 - III. Be Careful Who You Walk With (vv. 15-17)
 - . Who you hang out with is very important
 - A. If you want to succeed and keep going in anything, surround yourself with the information and the inspiration of people who also have the same interests
 - B. Amos 3:3

- C. Find people who agree with God's truth and walk with them; this is one of the reasons we go to church and gather in small groups
- D. Notice the third person words in the text: *they, them, those, these*
- 0. Peter was speaking about the aggregate group of false teachers and their followers
 - 1. Normally, it's unhealthy to have a dichotomy of us/them, especially in the church
 - 2. However, it's very healthy to make a dichotomy between those who hold to the historic Christian faith and those who pervert the gospel
 - 3. 1 John 2:19
 - E. It's important to have people in your life who inspire you spiritually
- 0. It's also unnerving
 - I. About the young D.L. Moody: "His robust spiritual health and bounding energy disturbed their napping; he was just too much. So, while they were sucking their thumbs, he was growing until he left them far behind; he grew more in a few years than they did in thirty" —Ethel Barrett
 - F. Balaam is in the Old Testament Hall of Shame
- 0. A Gentile prophet called upon by Balak to curse the Jewish people (see Numbers 22)
 - I. Even though Balaam knew it was wrong, the pay was good and the honor was even greater
 - 2. The Lord opened the mouth of his donkey to speak to him
 - 3. Both Balaam and "they" use their spiritual gift purely to get rich
 - G. "Wells without water" (v. 17)
- 0. There's no refreshment
 - I. Every human being has an inborn thirst for God
 - 2. False prophets know this and make promises, but they are wells without water
 - H. "Clouds carried by a tempest" (v. 17)
- 0. Clouds that blow in and blow out
 - I. There's a lot of noise and commotion, but no refreshment
 - I. Verse 18
- 0. They use that gift of oration; they impress people with their charisma and eloquence
 - I. People are more easily impressed with how a person says something rather than what a person actually says
- IV. Be Careful What You Walk Toward (vv. 18-20)
 - . False teachers overpromise but under-deliver
 - A. The more you do as you please, the less you are pleased with what you do
 - B. The allurement is freedom, but what they deliver is bondage
 - C. Nobody knows exactly what group or cult Peter was referring to

0. There was a developing belief system that was about bettering oneself but was short of faith in Jesus Christ and repentance from sin

1. Most of the world wants some spiritual experience, but they want it without the narrowness of the gospel
2. Outer reformation without inward transformation will lead to spiritual incarceration
- D. You may be a spiritual person, but are you a saved person?
John 14:6

V. Be Careful How Your Walk Ends (vv. 21-22)

- . Two thousand years ago, dogs were not pets; they were scavengers
 - A. Pigs were highly unkosher
 - B. "Natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed" (v. 12)
 - C. Why do dogs and pigs do this? It's their nature (see v. 22)
 0. Peter was saying these people will do what their unregenerate, unredeemed nature is really like
 - I. If they're not given a new nature by the new birth, they'll live like the old life
 - D. Whatever belief system you're choosing to walk down, does it end in the sheep pen under the care of the Good Shepherd, or like these animals that return to their own filth?
 - E. Could it have been that as Peter wrote this, he was thinking of Judas?
 0. You couldn't get any closer to following Jesus than His disciples did
 - I. Both Peter and Judas betrayed Jesus
 - a. Peter was so brokenhearted, he repented; Judas was so brokenhearted, he killed himself
 - b. To this day, people are named after Peter; not so with Judas

2. Proximity to the truth is no guarantee of change

3. You need to be given a new nature

VI. Closing

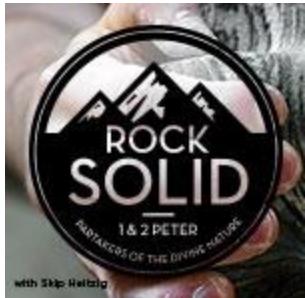
- . Three tests
 - A. Character
 0. Is there the fruit of the Spirit?
 - I. Galatians 5:22-23
 - B. Creed
 0. What are they saying about Jesus and God?
 - I. Are they abandoning the narrow gate?
 2. Are they messing with the historic Christian truth?
 - C. Converts: What is the effect of that teaching on their followers?
 - D. You can tell by the way people walk
 - E. Don't be fooled by anyone's sheep costume; dig a little deeper

Figures referenced: Mark Twain, Robert Robinson, D.L. Moody, Ethel Barrett

Cross references: Numbers 22; Isaiah 53:6; Amos 3:3; John 14:6; Acts 20:29-31; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Galatians 1:6-7; 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:14; 5:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; **2 Peter 2:12, 15-22;** 1 John 2:19

Topic: False Prophets

Keywords: false prophets, false teachers, Christian walk, the way, caution, careful, discern, truth, the church, Balaam, freedom, bondage, nature, new birth, new life



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Look, Jesus Is Coming!
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 3:1-10
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3096

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The second coming of Jesus Christ will be the greatest day in humankind's history. The promise of His return to rule the world He created has been what believers have longed for the last 2,000 years. Jesus' return will be the solution to every social, moral, political, and spiritual issue and problem. But what do other people (besides Christian believers) think about such a notion? And, as we wait for His return, what should we look for, and where ought we to be looking?

STUDY GUIDE

Jesus Christ is coming back! This has been the confident expectation of Christians for the last 2,000 years. The message of Jesus' second coming dominates the Bible; it's mentioned 1,845 times—that's one in every thirty verses. For every mention of His first coming, there are eight references to His second. For every mention of His atonement, His second coming is mentioned twice. Jesus personally spoke of it twenty-one times. Over fifty times we are told to be ready for it. In our passage, Peter affirmed the certainty of Jesus Christ's return and how false prophets scoff at it. Scoffers, like most people today, mock the idea of Jesus Christ's return. However, as Pastor Skip explained, Peter told us that we should look in three places as we wait for Jesus to return.

First, we are to look back at the Scriptures (see vv. 1-2). Peter wrote that he wanted to "stir up" (v. 1) his readers from spiritual lethargy by urging them to consider that the apostles did not invent the day of the Lord, but only affirmed what the prophets and Jesus Christ spoke of. The day of the Lord—mentioned nineteen times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 13:6, Jeremiah 46:10, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah, Daniel, Joel, and Zechariah all mention it) and four times in the New Testament—refers to a future time when God will uniquely, supernaturally, and miraculously intervene in human history through a time of unparalleled distress for the purpose of final judgment. It will culminate in Jesus' second coming. Jesus taught about it in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, as did Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5 and 2 Thessalonians 1 and 2. John also detailed it in Revelation 6-19. By looking back, Peter was demonstrating the unity of Scripture—that the Bible is one continuous revelation of truth from beginning to end. **Pastor Skip recommended memorizing Scripture as a remedy for spiritual lethargy. As a group, come up with a list of Scriptures to commit to memory. Work on having the first memorized by your next meeting.**

Next, we are to look around at the scoffers (see vv. 3-7). The same prophets who spoke of Jesus' return wrote also of those who mocked judgment (see Isaiah 5; Jeremiah 17; Ezekiel 12; Malachi 2). A scoffer is someone who treats lightly what should be taken seriously. They ridicule the truth, often through intimidation. They scoff because they want to continue living for temporary pleasure (see v. 3). The basis for their beliefs is uniformitarianism (see v. 4), the idea that we live in a closed naturalistic system and all things simply move on steadily without any catastrophic change. However, Peter noted that God interrupted history in the creation, the flood, and in the person of Jesus Christ and that He will do it again at the second coming. The Bible teaches that there is general uniformity in the universe, evidence of God's providential care, and the biblical view is that creation is an open system in which God regularly intervenes. Remember that Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). As you look around, consider that as people scoffed at Noah, they will scoff at the notion of Jesus returning. **These folks willingly walk after their own lusts, willfully forget what God has done, and want no one to hold them accountable. Think of a time when you've done one or all of these things, and consider how God brought you—or is bringing you—out of that. If the Lord leads, share what you've learned.**

Lastly, we are to look ahead to the Savior (see vv. 8-10). While His return has been promised for a long time, there are reasons for the delay. First, because God is merciful (see vv. 8-9). What seems like a long time to us is a very short time to God. Psalm 90:4 reads, "For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past." God delays because He wants to see as many people as possible saved. He has enormous capacity for patience before His anger spills over into judgment. The next reason is that God is punctual (see v. 10). Scoffers may doubt, and unbelievers may ignore, but Jesus Christ is coming again—and on time, on the day of the Lord! As we look ahead, it is important that we distinguish between three different days mentioned in Scripture: The day of Christ refers to the rapture, when Jesus Christ comes for His church. The day of the Lord refers to the tribulation, when Jesus Christ comes at the end of the world. The day of God refers to the eternal state of the new heaven and the new earth. The first time Jesus came, He came to deal with sin. The second time, He will come to take over the world. What will be your fate when you die? When we believe the reality of the other side, then we will start behaving differently on this side. **Maranatha means the Lord is coming soon. Are you expectant and confident of His return? Why or why not?**

Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

Biblical prophecy is the remedy for spiritual lethargy.

DETAILED NOTES

VII. Introduction

- . Jesus Christ is coming back again
 - A. That has been the hope of the church for the last 2,000 years
 - B. He came once to deal with sin; He's going to come back again and fix all the injustices of this world
 - C. Isaac Watts wrote "Joy to the World" about the second coming of Christ: "No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found"
 - D. The Scripture has a lot to say about the second coming
- 0. Next to faith, the return of Christ is the most discussed topic in the Bible
 - 1. 1,845 times it is spoken about or alluded to
 - 2. One out of thirty verses speaks of it
 - 3. One-fifth of the Bible deals with the end of days and/or the second coming
 - 4. For every one verse about His first coming, there are eight about His second coming
 - 5. For every one verse about His atonement, there are two about His second coming
 - 6. Twenty-one times Jesus personally referred to it
 - 7. Fifty times we are told to be ready for it
 - 8. John 14:2-3
 - E. "He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and of His kingdom there will be no end" —the Nicene Creed, or Apostles' Creed
 - F. Peter was dealing with a group of people who were denying all of that (see 2 Peter 2)
 - 0. They got the past, present, and future wrong
 - I. When you get Jesus wrong, you're going to get all the answers wrong
 - G. There were—and are—scoffers when it comes to Jesus' second coming
 - H. As we look forward to the return of Christ, we ought to look in three places
- VIII. Look Back at the Scriptures (vv. 1-2)
 - . The Prophets' Writings
 - 0. We tend to become lethargic; we start becoming drowsy in the light
 - a. We need to be woken up
 - b. The cure for spiritual lethargy is scriptural prophecy
 - I. The day of the Lord (see v. 10)
 - a. If you've read the Bible at all, you've come across this idea
 - b. Nineteen times in the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Joel, Amos Zephaniah, Zechariah
 - c. Four times in the New Testament

- d. The day of the Lord is something really bad that becomes something really good
 - I. When God from heaven dramatically and miraculously intervenes in human history, bringing the greatest distress the world has ever known
 - II. It will culminate in the second coming of Jesus Christ
- e. Old Testament references: Isaiah 13:6; Jeremiah 46:10; Amos 5:18
- f. New Testament references: Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 1 Thessalonians 5; 2 Thessalonians 1-2; Revelation 6-19

A. The Apostles' Records

- 0. Peter elevated the teachings of the apostles on an equal par with the writings of the prophets
 - 1. There was a continuous revelation of the day of the Lord
 - 2. Do you stir up your mind in the mornings?
 - 3. "I stir up your pure minds" (v. 1); "that you may be mindful" (v. 2)
 - a. Peter was trying to engage the mind
 - b. Engage or stir up your mind enough to memorize Scripture
 - c. Nothing will help you in your spiritual formation like memorizing verses that can be called to mind when you need them
 - d. Martin Luther and Johann von Staupitz

IX. Look Around at the Scoffers (vv. 3-7)

- . The prophets who predicted the reign of the Messiah also predicted the scoffers and recorded modern-day mockers
 - 0. Isaiah 5; Jeremiah 17; Ezekiel 12; Malachi 2
 - 1. A scoffer is someone who treats lightly what should be taken seriously
 - 2. Scoffers want to continue living for their temporary pleasures and want to write away anything that speaks of God's judgment or holds them accountable
 - A. Their Worldview
 - 0. They say we live in a closed, naturalistic system, and events move along without any kind of cataclysmic event from heaven
 - 1. Uniformitarianism; the present philosophy in Western culture
 - B. Their Wrong View
 - 0. This view is fallacious: a person measures all of history, which they haven't lived through, based on what they have observed
 - 1. Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* and Charles Darwin
 - 2. Wrong on two counts
 - a. Creation

- b. The great flood
- 3. There's a growing number of geologists who have abandoned uniformitarianism and believe in historical catastrophism: we live in a volatile universe
 - 4. There is general uniformity in the world, evidence of God's providential care
 - 5. The biblical worldview is that we live in an open system where God does what He wants when He wants to do it
 - 6. Verse 5: the creation account in a single verse
 - a. God shaped the earth between two areas of watery mass
 - b. Genesis 1:6-10
 - c. Water was a huge part of the original creation and became part of the original destruction (see v. 6)
- 7. Flooded (v. 6) is the Greek word *katakluzó*; it was a punctuated event where God interrupted the flow of history
 - a. The flood helps explain otherwise inexplicable things in the natural world
 - b. Inland seas, the Great Basin, coal, the fossil record
- 8. "For this they willingly are ignorant of" (v. 5, KJV)
 - 9. "Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects" —Will Rogers
 - 10. Matthew 24:37
- X. Look Ahead to the Savior (vv. 8-10)
 - . What seems to us like a long time is really a short time to God
 - A. Why is it taking so long? God counts things differently
 - B. His Patience Is Not Shortened: He wants to see as many people saved as possible
 - C. His Promise Is Not Slack: God is merciful, but He is also punctual
 - D. Longsuffering is the Greek word *makrothumeó*
 - 0. Macro (big, large) + to burn, or literally, great anger
 - 1. It means God has an amazing capacity to store up well-deserved anger until He finally spills it out in judgment
 - 2. One day He will act, but until then, He's longsuffering
 - XI. Closing
 - . When we start believing the reality of the other side, that's when we'll start behaving differently on this side
 - A. Don't look for the day of the Lord; look for the Lord of the day
 - B. *Maranatha*
 - 0. A word early Christians would say to each other
 - I. It means the Lord is coming soon

Figures referenced: Isaac Watts, Martin Luther, Johann von Staupitz, Charles Lyell, Charles Darwin, Will Rogers

Greek words: *katakluzó*, *makrothumeó*, *maranatha*

Cross references: Genesis 1:6-10; Isaiah 5; 13:6; Jeremiah 17; 46:10; Ezekiel 12; Amos 5:18; Malachi 2; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5; 2 Thessalonians 1-2; 2 Peter 2; 3:1-10; Revelation 6-19

Topic: The Second Coming

Keywords: the second coming of Jesus Christ, the day of the Lord, scoffers, doubters, Scripture, prophecy, the mind, uniformitarianism, creation, the flood, longsuffering



SERIES:	60 1 & 2 Peter - Rock Solid - 2013
MESSAGE:	Breaking Up Camp and Moving On
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	2 Peter 3:10-18
URL:	http://SkipHeitzig.com/3098

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We have studied both letters of Peter and have seen how anyone whose life would otherwise be weak, wobbly, and failure ridden can become Rock Solid through Christ. This is vital since life in this world is dynamic, shifting, and transitory. This world is passing; its glory is fading. Thus, anyone who places all their energy and hope in this life alone will be disappointed. Today, as we end our series, we consider where we are eventually headed and how to arrive safely.

STUDY GUIDE

Life is filled with the obvious, but we often cloud it with the superfluous. For example, we know that the universe is both expanding and running down, as evidenced by how our sun radiates heat. Its heat is produced by the loss of part of its mass: 4,200,000 tons of it burn every second. This means that if the sun and universe are running down, they must have had a beginning and they will eventually have an end. Similarly, at the close of 2 Peter, the apostle, likely in his seventies, was nearing the end of his life. He wrote, "Shortly I must put off my tent" (2 Peter 1:14), referring to the fact that his life was winding down and that he was about to break camp from earth and depart to heaven. In chapter 3, he closed his letter with this truth: since the universe will one day cease to be, we should live in the light of that ultimate truth. Peter declared several things about the future of the world and its consequences in our life, which Pastor Skip described in three camping tips.

The first camping tip is that our campground is temporary (see vv. 10, 12). Interestingly, materials that were used in creation and are currently under the earth will become the very instruments of its future destruction: fire/light, molten rock, etc. (see Isaiah 66:15; Micah 1:4; Malachi 4:1). This temporality of the earth described in the Scriptures is exactly what Jesus predicted when He said, "Heaven and earth will pass away" (Matthew 24:35). And yet, before earth's ultimate demise, there will be the millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ—the 1,000-year reign of Jesus upon the earth. This begs the question, "Why do we need this millennial period, anyway?" Two reasons are 1) for God to redeem creation from its curse, and 2) to honor promises to Israel that are yet to be fulfilled. However, when that 1,000-year period is over, *then it is all over*—it is the end of the human race on the earth, as the earth will be destroyed. "**Therefore, since all**

these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (2 Peter 3:11). What is more important to you—things or people? How should this perspective affect how you invest yourself in your relationships with family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors?

The second camping tip is that our calling is timeless (see v. 13). We look for new heavens and a new earth, based upon the promise Peter referred to from Isaiah 66:22, where God declared that He will make new heavens and a new earth that will last forever. The word for new that Peter used is the Greek word *kainos*, which refers to newness in quality, freshness, or something of different quality than this world. It is not *neos*, which refers to newness chronologically. The idea is that the new creation will be unlike anything previously known, not merely a renewed earth. When you think of the complexity and beauty of this earth that God created in six days, just think of what the new heavens and earth will look like, since He has had a few thousand years to apply His creativity to them! *As believers, since what awaits us in heaven will be so qualitatively better than anything we can know or experience on this earth, how should that affect what we live to know and experience on this earth? What distractions, pursuits, or even sins could or should this truth break you free from?*

The third camping tip is that our compass is true (see vv. 11, 14, 15-16). A number of times in this book, Peter referred to Scripture to support this idea. He told us how inspiration works (see 1:20) and that many prophets predicted the day of the Lord (see 3:2); he also referred to Paul's letters as Scripture (see 3:15-16). He was effectively saying that all of the truths found in Scripture provide a compass for us that does three things. First, the compass of Scripture motivates our wills, because this world is not permanent (see vv. 11-12). It is not our home, and therefore our conduct should be otherworldly. Nothing motivates us in this life toward purity like realizing how temporary and short it is. Next, this compass settles our hearts (see v. 14). We should have peace as we look forward to these things, not because we are eager to see massive destruction and death, but because what is coming in the eternal state after all of this is far better. Lastly, this compass stabilizes our minds (see vv. 15-16). When we see how Scripture predicts events in advance, it keeps us from slipping from doctrinal stability or losing confidence in the truth. *Are you feeling weak-willed, unsettled, or unstable in life right now? How might your current knowledge of and dependence on the compass of Scripture be playing a part in that?*

Adapted from Pastor Skip's teaching

The BIG Idea

"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" (2 Peter 3:11).

DETAILED NOTES

XII. Introduction

- . It's amazing how we take the obvious and dress it up with the superfluous
- 0. Our universe is expanding

1. Our universe is running down

2. It had a beginning, and it will have an end

A. Peter was in his seventies when he wrote this

- 0. He knew he was going to die soon (see 2 Peter 1:14)

1. In this closing paragraph, he took the reader to the very end of the age

B. The universe will one day end; because of that, we ought to live a certain way

C. Peter made three basic declarations about the future

XIII. Our Campground Is Temporary (vv. 10, 12)

- . Peter was expanding on what he already said (see vv. 5-7)

A. Momentarily Preserved

- 0. Just as the materials that were used in creation became the instrument of destruction in the past (the flood), the materials that are currently in the earth will become the recipe of its future destruction

a. The sun, the stars, and the core of the earth

b. The entire creation, because of basic atomic structure, is a potential nuclear bomb

I. Isaiah 66:15-16; Micah 1:4; Malachi 4:1

- 2. The Bible repeatedly says the world is going to end; here we learn how

3. Matthew 24:35

4. Revelation 21:1

a. By this point, the tribulation period, the day of the Lord, Jesus coming back from heaven, and the millennial kingdom will have already passed

b. After all of that, this present earth will be destroyed and a new one put in its place

5. Why a millennial kingdom on this earth?

a. To end the curse God put on the earth

b. God needs to fulfill all the promises He made to Israel

B. Eventually Destroyed

- 0. After that, everything in the created order will be uncreated

I. Colossians 1:16-17

a. Consist means *held tightly together, cohere*

b. Jesus created all things; He took the chaos, created cosmos, and holds it together

- 2. "Consider the dilemma of the nuclear physicist when he finally looks in utter amazement at the pattern he had now drawn of the oxygen nucleus....For here are eight positively charged protons closely associated together within the confines of this tiny nucleus. With them are eight neutrons—a total of sixteen particles—eight positively charged, eight with no charge. Earlier physicists had discovered that like charges of electricity and like magnetic poles repel each other, and unlike charges or magnetic

poles attract each other. And the entire history of electrical phenomena and electrical equipment had been built up on these principles known as Coulomb's law of electrostatic force and the law of magnetism. What was wrong? What holds the nucleus together? Why doesn't it fly apart? And therefore, why do not all atoms fly apart?" —D. Lee Chestnut, *The Atom Speaks*

3. Jesus Christ holds them, makes them cohere together
4. One day, He who holds it all together will let it go, uncreate His creation
5. Genesis 9:11

XIV. Our Calling Is Timeless (v. 13)

. New Heaven and New Earth

0. Isaiah 66:22

1. John 14:2; this is the place He's going to prepare
2. The typical Greek word for new is *neos*, which means *new chronologically*
 - a. Here and in Revelation 21, it's the Greek word *kainos*, which means *new of a different sort, kind, or quality; unlike anything previously known*
 - b. It won't be like the millennium, which is this earth renewed
 - c. It will be a completely new environment

A. New Order and Environment

0. Revelation 21:1-5

1. God will create *ex nihilo*, out of nothing, a new heavens and new earth
2. "There was no more sea" (Revelation 21:1)
 - a. Sometimes in the Bible, the word *sea* refers to nations that strive against God and that are not in covenant relationship with Him
 - I. Isaiah 17:12
 - II. The Antichrist comes out of the sea (see Revelation 13; 17:15)
 - b. It could mean there will be no more need for sea
 - I. We live in a water-based environment; it will be something new
 - II. The world might not operate on the same principles as this one
 - III. No more seas mean no more barriers that divide us from one another

3. There will be a capital city: New Jerusalem

- a. Revelation 21:2, 10
- b. The text seems to indicate that it will orbit the new earth
- c. The city is 1,500 miles cubed, slightly smaller than our moon
- d. Henry Morris: enough room to house 20 billion people, each having 75 acres cubed, presupposing only 25 percent of the city is used for dwelling

e. Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:34

XV. Our Compass Is True

- . Verse 13: Peter was referring to promises made in the Scriptures
 - 0. Throughout all of his writings, Peter pointed back to the Scriptures
 - 1. In verses 15-16, he equated Paul's writings with the rest of Scripture
 - A. All truth found in the Scripture provides for us a compass
 - B. It Motivates Our Wills (v. 11)
 - 0. If the material universe is going to be destroyed, what kind of a person should you be?
 - 1. You ought to be a person who lives for what's beyond the material
 - 2. *Manner* means *foreign, otherworldly, exotic*
 - C. It Settles Our Hearts (v. 14)
 - 0. This is somewhat contradictory at first
 - 1. Peter was not eager, nor should we be, to see massive destruction and death, but he was thinking about what's coming after that
 - 2. Not unlike John; Revelation 10:8-10
 - a. Bitter because of the day of the Lord's judgments
 - b. Sweet because of the Lord returning
 - 3. Peace is a state of mind that is one of the first byproducts the believer enjoys
 - D. It Stabilizes Our Minds (vv. 15-16)
 - 0. Knowing this keeps you from falling off the path
 - 1. When the Scripture predicts certain events, and those events come to pass, then logically, everything else that God says will happen, will happen
 - 2. This keeps you from falling into doctrinal instability, losing confidence in the truth
 - 3. Knowing that the entire created universe will pass away should make you live a godly, holy, confident, expectant, peaceful life
- . XVI. Closing
 - . We're not living for this world; we have a better one ahead
 - A. We should live with that in mind

Figures referenced: D. Lee Chestnut, Henry Morris

Greek words: neos, kainos

Cross references: Genesis 9:11; Isaiah 17:12; 66:15-16, 22; Micah 1:4; Malachi 4:1; Matthew 23:37; 24:35; Luke 13:34; John 14:2; Colossians 1:16-17; 2 Peter 1:14; 3:5-7, 10-18; Revelation 10:8-10; 13; 17:15; 21:1-5, 10

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