

Final Words for Exiles (1 Peter 5:8-13) Pastor Tim Peck Forged in the Furnace (1 Peter) pt. 11

THE BIG IDEA

In Peter's final words to us as elect exiles, he gives five commands: Expect resistance, live in solidarity with God's people around the world, persist in hope, stand firm in God's grace, and remember who you are.

OPENING

- What are some famous last words that are meaningful to you?
- Why are last words important?

DIGGING DEEPER

- From the writings of the early church, 1 Peter 5:8 is the most quoted verse from Peter's letter.¹ Why do you think this is?
- Pastor Tim suggests that it would be easy for Peter and his readers to see the Roman Emperor Nero as their enemy. What does Peter say about Nero in 1 Peter 2:13 and 17? Who is the real enemy of Christians according to 1 Peter 5:8? Why is this important?
- In his book *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis wrote, "*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors...*"² Which error are you most prone to? Why?
- How do you think people can stand fast in God's grace (v. 12)?

¹John Elliott, *1 Peter*, Anchor Bible Commentary (Yale University Press, 2001), p. 771

²C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* (Harper One, 2009), p. 1.

- According to Pastor Tim “She who is in Babylon” in v. 13 is a cryptic reference to the Christian Church in Rome. Why would Peter write this in this way?
- Peter mentions Mark as his “son” in v. 13. Mark is the traditional author of the gospel of Mark, the second book of the New Testament. What do you learn about Mark from Acts 15:37-40? After Paul’s separation from Barnabas over Mark, we learn here that Mark accompanied Peter in Rome and Peter adopted Mark as a spiritual son. Early church tradition from the historian Eusebius suggested that Peter was Mark’s primary source when he wrote his gospel.³ What does this tell you about Mark’s story?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What’s the hardest part of being an elect exile for you? Do you struggle more with compromising with Babylon or conquering Babylon?
- Memorize Jeremiah 29:11 this week:
For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

PRAYER REQUESTS

³Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), p. 861.