

FULL^{OF} HOPE, FAR^{FROM} HOME

Study in 1 Peter

Sermon Title: *“Holy Living in a Hostile Environment”*

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:11-12

Pastor for Preaching & Worship, Chris Fritz / Sunday, May 15, 2022

INTRODUCTION

I. VERSE 11: THE WAR WE EASILY IGNORE

“Beloved, I URGE YOU as sojourners and exiles TO ABSTAIN from the passions of the flesh, which WAGE WAR against your soul.” (1 Peter 2:11)

1) This first word of verse 11 is the simplest summary of everything Peter has written thus far!

Note: This is a very GOOD way to start a very HARD verse!

2) Peter pleads with us to remember that this fallen world is NOT our home! We are foreigners; we are strangers; we have, in fact, been rescued and transferred to another kingdom!

Hebrews 11:13, 16 -

Note: Our status as “sojourners” and “exiles” should NEVER lead us into lazy indifference or disengagement! Our “exile” status should serve to heighten the urgency of our mission and calling!

3) Your passions/desires are not insignificant or irrelevant; they are always leading you somewhere.

James 4:1-2; Romans 7:21-23;

4) God is not just “good”; God is not just “our greatest good”; God is THE SOURCE of everything good! Our souls have no good (no life, no joy) apart from Him. Therefore, any desire or passion that leads us away from God is leading us away from that which is good; any desire or passion that leads us away from God is, in fact, waging war against us, attempting to do great harm to our souls.

Romans 7:24 25a -

5) The command that Peter gives, “to abstain”, is NOT a cruel joke or a meaningless gesture; it’s a CALL TO FIGHT out of (from!) the victory that we ALREADY have in Christ!

1 Peter 1:2; Isaiah 41:10 -

II. VERSE 12: WHAT MESSAGE DOES YOUR LIFE PREACH???

“The world takes its notions of God, most of all, from the people who say that they belong to God’s family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible. They see us; they only hear about Jesus Christ.” (Alexander MacLaren)

“...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, SO THAT when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and GLORIFY GOD on the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12)

Poem: “The Gospel According to You”

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why does Peter begin verse 11 with the word “beloved”? What does this word mean?
2. Who are we, as believers? Why does Peter call us “sojourners” and “exiles”?
3. What is the war we’re involved in? A war against what? What’s being attacked?
4. How well are you fighting in this war? Where do you need help and encouragement from others?
5. According to verse 12, why does our holiness and godly conduct matter so much? What’s at stake?