



July 31

Passage: **1 Peter 5:6-11**

Today we finish our time in 1 Peter with one of the most popular verses from these letters. It's written to the church at large...to everyone who belongs to Christ. It's challenging, comforting and meant to motivate the believer to a life with Christ.....one of Joy and determination.

READ & DIG. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11

You probably saw this already but Peter is straight to the point. In this closing section he reminds us of what's most important to this life. He gives us some imperatives or commands. These are things we are to do. So really, this is a layup of a Bible Study. It's not hard to see what God would have us to in light of reading this. SO, what are they?

HUMBLE YOURSELVES – v.6

Peter says to humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God. That seems strong. Well, it is. We spend much of our lives bragging on ourselves. We have this huge issue of wanting to make sure everyone knows just how good we are. We spend our lives proving that. Well here, Peter encourages us to do the opposite. WHY? What do you think? I believe it's because only God is worth the praise we often seek for ourselves. The ultimate satisfaction comes from a life that has submitted to a holy God.

CAST ALL YOUR CARES ON HIM – v.7

Get this....this God we are to humble ourselves to loves us so deeply. This is not the typically bad king or authority figure. This God is the best thing ever and a God who longs to love and lead us. So in light of that....never stop just throwing all your "STUFF" and "JUNK" on him. He desires that....let's please him by giving to him all the junk.

BE WATCHFUL – v.8

Another recipe in this life with Christ is to LOOK OUT! Like, always looking around every corner of life. There's nothing more the enemy wants than to quietly and quickly water down your love and devotion for Christ. It will use undercover stuff to get you to that point. It will use things that may seem good but at the core are bad. You can spot these things, but you must be watchful. Begin watchful takes time, effort, work and attention.

TOUGHNESS – v.9

Pretty simply here – you may have to be tough and say no to some good things. WHY? God is the enemy of great. You're not alone in this battle....you're not the only one experiencing these issues. So keeping saying no to things that in the end want to destroy you. This takes you being watchful and mindful.

HERE IT IS....THE END – v.10-11

Again, all of this will be worth it. God, the ultimate hero will accomplish all he promised and then we will experience and become all we could ever hope for and then some. It's coming....why? Because of who God is.....this world could never give you what can only be found with Christ.

And get this....that last verse, verse 11, that's the big WHY.

GOD HAS ALL THE DOMINION. That means God alone is powerful enough to do this. God alone is the owner of all things....that means he has the right to do this and in the end, he is the only one that can truly do this work.

APPLY & GO (What now?)

There is definitely work for us to do right? Part of that is trust but trust does have skin. It's not just some cop out application.....it's not a feeling or emotion. The way we trust is to submit to God....it's to stop carrying the junk and to cast it out him....it's to sharpen up our awareness and FOCUS with all we have. We also must be tough in this life....all the while knowing that God has this....BUT also knowing that God has me and has called me to life this life. The question is simple....will I live this life and continue walking in my own strength?