Different - **wk 18 – Hope and War**

**1 Peter - Letter to Christians living in times of trial and exile.**

**Persecution followed them everywhere. Peter wrote, remember you are being watched… \*\* Be Different!!**

**And remember you are not alone in this.**

**A letter about dealing with storms, trials, and persecution. Keeping our eyes on Jesus – we are to live Different.**

**1 Peter 4 – Change is coming. End of everything we know is near.**

**1 Peter 5 – Learn to lead well and follow well, commit well in this time**

**1 Peter 5 – Last part is today – and the end of his first letter**

**Where we left off last week is perfect for today**

**1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**

**\*\* Anxiety – is the worry of the unknown.**

**Anyone have anxiety over what we are going through… I do at times. We don’t know if this will last a couple weeks, months, or over year. We don’t how to plan or prepare – but what we can do is trust.**

**Cast all your anxieties on him (Jesus) – all your worry on Him**

**We have never been in a situation like this before in our lives. Complete unknown. All we can look to is Europe 10 who was here about 10 days ago. \*\* Cast all your anxieties on Jesus.**

**I love the 2nd part as much as the 1st - 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. \*\*\*\* God cares for us – for you!**

**God cares about what we are going through.**

**We don’t know the outcome, or how long this will last**

**What we do know:**

* **This is not the end of the world**

**But possibly the end of what we know as normal**

**Throughout history events like this have taken place. We are living history, we will get thru this, and we will recover.**

* **God is always good and always in control**
* **God allowed this to happen - God is forever and always in control and sovereign – he was not surprised or shocked.**

**Our plans were made in obedience - God honors obedience.**

**Who we are becoming is more important than what we are doing**

* **This is an opportunity to see God work in our lives and world**

**This can spark true repentance and hope**

**We can be creative and resourceful in new ways**

**Word to our young adults – head the call, you are our hope!**

**We tend to live in worry and fear – Corona just amps it up**

**1 Peter 5:7 Cast (throw ‘em off!) all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (Don’t worry, God has this!)**

**With that – Peter says 1 Peter 5:8 Be alert (wake up!) and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Don’t give up – fight!!! Fight the Good Fight.**

**Ever been in a fight – a real fight**

**Five things to know during a time like this (in the middle of a trial)**

**Let’s break this down**

1. **Know yourself - 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind.**

* **Be alert – not a time to check out or be lazy**
* **Be self-controlled – not a time to let loose and be lawless**

**Identify & know your weaknesses, be aware and alert to them and when attacked, you will be ready to respond. Ie. Alcohol, drugs, sexual temp, anger, work – places we give allowance**

1. **Know your battlefield- 5:7 cast your cares / 8 Be alert and of sober mind.**

* **Your flesh – temptations / desires – when times are hard and feel attached, we at times give in to our flesh. “I deserve it…”**
* **Your mind – the battle in our mind – thought inside**

**To give into depression, fear, and bitterness**

**2 Corinth 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments (in our head) and every pretension (false opinion) that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (the battlefield of the mind – take it captive!)**

* **Your family – we see this throughout scripture – attacks on our home, family, and friends**

**Are you worried about your family?**

**Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (God will bring peace to the mind and heart)**

**Five things to know during a time like this (in the middle of a trial)**

1. **Know your enemy – v8 Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

* **He lies – father of lies (devil = deceiver, accuser, slanderer)**

**Lies in our mind- the fear, worry, sadness, loneliness**

**Lie to our flesh- this will help make you feel better, it’s ok**

**TRUTH - 2 Tim 1:7 God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

* **He prowls – stalking and looking for the weak and isolated – we need to fight hard against this during this season.**

**Like a lion looking for the weak and isolated antelope**

* **He devours – once he has you, he does not want to be your friend and play catch – he wants to rip you apart.**

**This is a different kind of war – a spiritual war**

**Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

**People are not the enemy. Politics and govt parties are not the enemy. COVID-19 is not the enemy. But – invisible spiritual powers determined to bring us down mentally and spiritually.**

1. **Know the plan – v.9 Resist him, (and his schemes) standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.**

* **Resist – we resist the enemy and we run from temptation.**

**Resist his lies – the fiery darts that attack our minds.**

**How? Prayer and confession of God’s word and truth**

* **Stand firm – unmovable, solid footing, position yourself – live and walk out biblical conviction regardless of circumstance**

**Even when you don’t see light at the end – don’t quit!**

* **You’re not alone – We have each other – others feel what you feel and are going thru what you are.**

**Time to be honest with each other, call meet one/one.**

1. **Know our God**

**1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ after you have suffered a little while, (this will not last forever - God) will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

* **His grace is more than enough - To forgive you, keep you, sustain you – and hold you!**
* **His plan has an eternal purpose - He will not leave us like this -this will not last forever – it will not last yrs.**

**Christ suffered for sin briefly - in this life we will suffer briefly**

* **His strength is working in His people – to make us strong!**

**If you can resist the urge to quit or give in to fear…**

**If you stand firm in your faith and with each other…**

**v.10 God… will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

**God will restore what the enemy has taken and make you stronger and take you deeper in Christ than ever before.**

**For this reason - 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Until next time, Peter’s goodbye to a struggling church**

**1 Peter 5:12 With the help of Silas, (Silas wrote down Peter’s dictation) whom I regard as a faithful brother, (I am thankful for faithful brothers in Christ) I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. (plant your feet in it) 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, (the church in Rome – the city that kicked them out) sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. (spiritual son) 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. (unless there is a pandemic) Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (he prays they walk in love & peace in the storm and time of chaos)**

**Five things to know during a time like this**

**Know yourself - Know your battlefield - Know the enemy**

**Know the plan – and more than anything… Know your God**

**Fight the good fight of faith - 1 Timothy 6:11 But you, man (woman) of God, flee from all this, (pursuit of and cares of this world) and pursue *righteousness*, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**