

I. Firm Hope in God's Grace

II. 1 Peter 5:9-14 - NCBC, October 28, 2018

Main Point: **God's children are preserved in suffering by God's true grace.**

- God's grace preserves you for eternal glory (9-11)
 - Helping you to stand and not fall
 - Through your entire lifetime
 - For your final glorification
 - All by His power
- III.
- God's grace preserves you with a spiritual family (12-14)
 - To exhort you with God's truth
 - And encourage you with God's love

Application: **Know the peace of standing firm together in God's true grace.**

Opening Announcements:

- Leaf Raking – Saturday Nov 3rd 8am

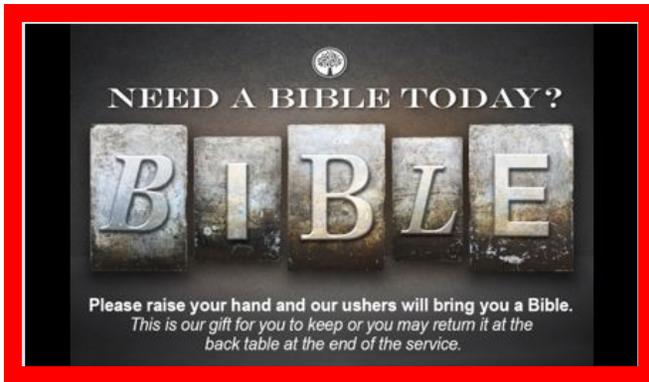
<<Grace Greater than our Sins>>



Although we see our sin in ever clearer view, God's grace abounds yet more, so that as sin reigned in death, God's true grace might also reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.¹

So this morning we continue our worship by considering the closing thoughts of Peter's first letter to suffering exiles. Please open your copy of God's Word to **1 Peter chapter 5**, as today we conclude our study of this life-giving letter that teaches us how to suffer well, with firm hope in God's true grace.

¹ Romans 5:20-21



If you don't have a Bible today, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. You can find **1 Peter chapter 5** on page [1207](#) in the giveaway Bibles today.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me and our entire staff as we continue to navigate the transitions happening in our staff team right now. Please pray that all of us would be clothed with genuine humility, for God opposes all expressions of pride, but gives grace to the humble.

Last week's sermon was God's good and providential timing for my own soul. All week long I kept thinking about Peter's exhortation to, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you."

Days of undesirable change and stress require all of us to be sober and alert – we must not be ignorant of Satan's strategies to divide us or discourage us or distract us from our calling. We must be a people who

remain firm in our faith – knowing that God's grace was never granted because we deserved it. God's true grace is always undeserved, and unearned.

And so these last thoughts of Peter's letter today help us meditate again on the firm hope we can all cling to by God's grace. This Scripture summarizes the entire letter. So before we read it together – how would you summarize everything you've learned from **1 Peter**? What's God taught you from this sermon series?

We began our study of **1 Peter** back in February, and today will conclude it. Then next Sunday I plan to preach on God's purposes for believer's baptism, followed by a 5-week preaching series on our Favorite Psalms.

Between next Sunday and Christmas, I'd like to preach a sermon on each of the top 5 favorite Psalms here at New Castle Bible Church. So I need your help. Would you be willing to share with me your favorite Psalm, and why? Tomorrow you will receive a survey via email where you can submit your favorite Psalm. I will preach a sermon on each of the 5 Psalms that get the most votes. So let me know. Fill out tomorrow's survey. Or call the church this week with your vote. I'm looking forward to digging into the Biblical Songbook with you and delighting in the wisdom of the Psalms with you between now and Christmas.



Please stand now in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read today's Scripture from **1 Peter 5, verses 9-14** from the **English Standard Translation**:

⁹ Resist [the devil], firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. ¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴ Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

These are wonderful words of life. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

Where do you turn for help when things start going bad for you? When you begin to realize that others aren't treating you right, and your immediate future is going to be one of pain, heartache, loss, and suffering... where do you turn? What do you do? Who do you become?

It's humbling to realize that often our truest colors shine brightest in the hottest heat. Our real character gets exposed whenever we suffer – especially whenever we believe we are suffering unjustly.

If you're like me, trials and suffering can bring out the worst in you. Sometimes my flesh flashes with sharp words – trying to bully others and get my way. Sometimes my flesh goes into overdrive as I seek to manage the problem and control outcomes. Other kinds of suffering can push me towards self-pity and despair, and I retreat to bed and just go numb to the world by sleeping away my troubles. Or perhaps I try to shove my problems out of my mind by focusing on my work, or some form of recreation?

Maybe you're similar to me – or maybe not – but my question for you is, how do you respond when things get tough for you in your life?

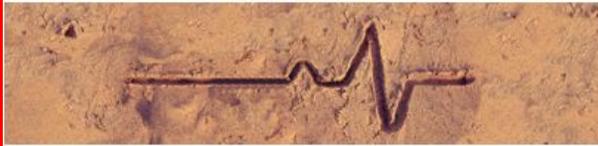
You see – so far what I've shared is some of the ways my sin raises its ugly head when I start to suffer in this life. But all of those common fight or flight responses are quite opposite to what we've been learning from **1 Peter**.

Peter, places himself alongside us suffering Christians, and exhorts us to not waste our suffering. Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Remember whose you are – God’s mercy has caused you to be born again! Your new identity in Christ empowers a supernatural love for your enemies now. You are loved. You are cherished in Christ more than you can imagine. You are cared for by God Himself!

Therefore, dear suffering Christian, heed this final exhortation from Peter this morning as his letter comes to an end:

Main Point



God’s children are preserved in suffering by God’s true grace.

God’s children are preserved in suffering by God’s true grace.

No amount of your own words or pity-parties can preserve your soul through the pain you are living with right now. Your flesh is far too weak to provide any lasting hope when persecuted for righteousness sake.

What you need for your trouble is help from outside of you – help that you don’t deserve and could never earn or pay back – what you need is God’s true grace.

Because only God’s true grace is powerful enough to preserve your soul through your suffering. Look with me

now at **Titus 2, verses 11-13** where we learn more about just how powerful God’s true grace really is:

Titus 2:11-13

¹¹ For **the grace of God** has appeared, **bringing salvation** for all people, ¹² **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Grace is God’s undeserved favor – it is God’s help that is given when it isn’t earned or can’t be paid back – and so the first result of God’s grace in your life is salvation!!

Talk about undeserved favor! Sinners like you and me deserve judgment from God – not salvation. Our sins of pride and false worship deserve God’s wrath – not His grace. But whenever God’s grace is experienced by anyone – it first accomplishes their salvation – causing them to be born again and given a new heart which is able to know God and love God!

O how great is God's grace! By God's grace alone, we have been saved, so that now the worst that man can do to us is limited to this brief lifetime here – and we have confident assurance of eternal glory with Christ forever as soon as we die.

But notice, the true grace which comes from God doesn't just grant us salvation – but also trains us how to fight sin, and live as Christ's ambassadors in this broken world.

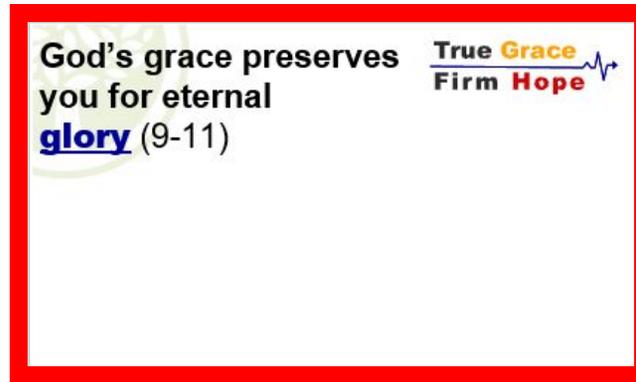
There is a kind of false grace or cheap grace in this world – that tries to convince you that as long as you've prayed a prayer of forgiveness or believe that Jesus is the Son of God – it doesn't matter how you live at all.² But God's true grace is not so stunted or incomplete.³ God's grace doesn't start something that it doesn't also finish. God's true grace saves and sanctifies, and thus preserves us for our blessed hope.

God's children can therefore trust God's grace to preserve them all the way through suffering.

Let's walk through the last verses of **1 Peter** together now, first learning how,

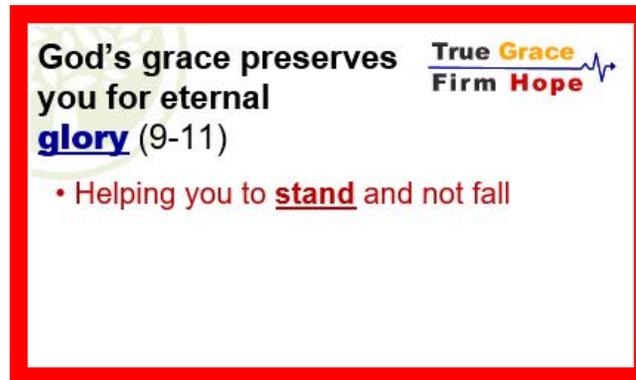
² Jude 4

³ Galatians 3:3



God's grace preserves you for eternal glory (9-11)

Like we taught last week from **verse 9**, God's grace perseveres you for eternal glory by,



Helping you to stand and not fall

Resist [the devil], *firm in your faith*, **verse 9** begins. The end of **verse 12** reads, *Stand firm in* [God's grace]. In other words, Peter's intention is not that we'd be passive – standing and not running – but rather that we would be actively fortified by God's grace to stand, and not fall under Satan's attacks.

Passivity will never defeat the devil. Our faith or beliefs must be actively engaged. Like we learned last week from **verse 8** – Satan wants to devour our faith – making us an unbeliever as we lose confidence in God’s goodness and God’s power.

But God’s grace preserves you for eternal glory by helping you to remain convinced that God has not left you alone, knowing that God Himself is even at work for your eternal good through the pain of this suffering.

But whenever you suffer, a common question is always, for how long, right? **Psalm 13** expresses the honest cry of all sufferers, repeating the words, “How Long?” O Lord. How long before this pain is gone, and my enemy is punished?

And **verse 10** makes it clear that God’s grace is sufficient to preserve you,

God's grace preserves you for eternal **glory** (9-11)

True Grace
Firm Hope

- Helping you to **stand** and not fall
- Through your entire **lifetime**

Through your entire lifetime

Look at the verse,

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And after you have suffered a little while... remember, the little while here is the same “little while” of **1 Peter 1:6** – it’s the little while until the revelation of Jesus Christ.

So Peter understands you’re not just suffering in this world for a month or two. Now that faith has united you with the Suffering Servant,⁴ your suffering in this world is likely going to be as long as you live in this world. But in comparison to the eternal glory to come – this lifetime of suffering is momentary.⁵ The *suffering* in **verse 10** is just for a little while compared to the *glory* of **verse 10** that is eternal.

So listen to the rest of **verse 10** to see God’s grace at work,

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

In other words, though your suffering may be as long as your short life from the perspective of eternity, God’s grace will preserve you,

⁴ Isaiah 53:11

⁵ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

God's grace preserves you for eternal **glory** (9-11)

True Grace
Firm Hope

- Helping you to **stand** and not fall
- Through your entire **lifetime**
- For your final **glorification**

For your final glorification

The God of all comfort⁶ who cares for you⁷ is also the God of all grace. Meaning all the grace you need comes from God. There is no other source for grace than your Heavenly Father, dear Christian. So when you need help that you could never deserve or pay back – come boldly to the throne of grace – that you might find mercy and grace to help in time of need!⁸ Don't run to false saviors who can only numb reality, but not increase your heavenly joy! Flee to your Heavenly Father!

He's the one who called you to His eternal glory in Christ. The word for calling in **verse 10** just refers to God's sovereign and effective work by which He caused you to be born again, and brought into a saving relationship with Himself.⁹

⁶ 2 Corinthians 1:3

⁷ 1 Peter 5:7

⁸ Hebrews 4:16

⁹ Same meaning as its use throughout the rest of the letter in 1:15; 2:9, 21; and 3:9.

In Christ, God has called you to Himself – initiating and securing your salvation and eternal glory!

Peter writes to strengthen our faith that the God of all grace Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. Four verbs that all emphatically make the same point – helping us understand the full sufficiency of God's grace in our glorification.

You see, in many ways, our salvation in Christ is not complete until the very presence of sin has been done away from our lives, and we have been glorified as **Romans 8:30** promises.¹⁰ This final glorification of the believer is the same "*praise, and glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*" that Peter mentioned back in **chapter 1, verse 7**.

Certainly if you are in Christ today, you can rest assured that God's grace preserves you for eternal glory, for God Himself promises to restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Notice each of these words convey firm immovability and strength. What has been broken through life's sufferings will in the end be restored and brought back to wholeness. What has been wobbly and uncertain in your life will be set fast – confirmed, and set squarely on an unshakable foundation.

When Jesus is revealed, you will be strengthened and made sturdy. All your weakness will be no more – all tears will be wiped away. God Himself will establish you

¹⁰ C.f. 1 John 3:2

– so your heavenly future is unshakable and cannot be destroyed.

And Peter’s doxology in **verse 11** makes it clear who He is trusting, for God’s grace preserves you for eternal glory,

God’s grace preserves you for eternal glory (9-11) **True Grace**
Firm Hope 

- Helping you to **stand** and not fall
- Through your entire **lifetime**
- For your final **glorification**
- All by God’s **power**

All by God’s power ...not our own.

*To Him be the dominion [or power] forever and ever.
Amen.*

Notice Peter doesn’t say, to God be the glory forever and ever. He could have said that – just like he did back in **chapter 4 verse 11**. But here Peter’s mind is full of praise for God’s power and dominion. It is God’s strength alone that gives Peter the assurance that suffering Christians will persevere through all of the devil’s attacks here on this earth, and receive eternal glory.

Church – be encouraged this morning – your eternal future is not tottering on the deficiencies of your own strength. God’s grace is greater still – for His grace

reaches out to you through the mighty hand of an all-powerful God.

God’s power is perfect! God’s power is sufficient. And God’s power is reaching out to you right now in grace... the true grace of God which both saves and sanctifies all who believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Peter now concludes his letter to these suffering exiles with a paragraph of final greetings, and an insightful summary of his entire letter. In **verses 12-14**, we learn how,

God’s grace preserves you with a spiritual family (12-14) **True Grace**
Firm Hope 

God’s grace preserves you with a spiritual family (12-14)

Let’s first try to answer a number of common questions about these last verses, and then draw some relevant application for us.

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you...

This is the same Silvanus of the opening lines of **first and second Thessalonians**,¹¹ and also **2 Corinthians 1:19**. Silvanus, who also went by the name Silas,¹² was part of both Peter and Paul's ministry teams. He was a leader in the early church,¹³ accompanying Paul on both his first and second missionary journeys.¹⁴ **Acts 15** records how he was one of the church leaders who helped to deliver the Jerusalem Council's letter to the Gentile churches in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. And now, Silvanus finds himself with Peter in Rome – being sent to deliver this circular letter to the exiled believers in Asia Minor.

Peter is clear – I have written. So the author of this letter is the apostle himself. But likely he dictated it through Silvanus, and then sent him to deliver the letter. Therefore Peter commends Silvanus as a faithful brother – one who can be trusted to deliver and help explain the meaning of the letter to all who receive it.

Now you might have noticed the two participles – the two “-ing” verbs that help modify what Peter has written.

I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

We've seen the word “exhorting” before in **chapter 5, verse 1**, and in **chapter 2, verse 11**. It refers to coming alongside with encouragement. To exhort is to give commands or imperatives. 38 times in this letter, Peter

has used an imperative – giving commands like, *love one another*, or *long for the spiritual milk*, or *Be subject for the Lord's sake*, or *Keep your tongue from evil*, etc.

But the second participle is declaring – *declaring this is the true grace of God*. It's an interesting word that Peter uses here – not the normal word for telling. This is the word for bearing witness.¹⁵ So here Peter says there's 2 reasons he wrote this letter – first to come alongside them as one of them to exhort them on how they should live – but second, to serve as a witness of God's true grace to them. Peter himself has experienced the suffering they are going through. He's witnessed not just the sufferings of Christ himself – but also God's grace at work in his own life through his own sufferings. So all that Peter has written to you suffering Christian – stands as a testimony of God's sovereign grace – the true saving and sanctifying grace that summarizes all that God has done for you in Christ. God's grace doesn't only pardon your sin, but gives you power to defeat it – even while you wait for the eternal glory which is still to come!

So stand firm in God's true grace. This is the summary of His entire letter. Yes, you are suffering. But you must not fall prey to the devil's schemes. Stand firm in God's grace – for it is the very grace of God which enables you to stand.

Verse 13 extends Christian greetings to the exiles from the elect or chosen church at Rome (which Peter poetically refers to as Babylon which represents the

¹¹ 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:1

¹² Acts 15:22, 27, 32, 40; 16:6-8, 19, 25, 29; 17:4, 10, 14-15; 18:5

¹³ Acts 15:22

¹⁴ Acts 15:22 (first) and Acts 15:40 (second)

¹⁵ C.f. 1 Peter 5:1 for Peter's use of both same Greek words - exhorting and bearing witness.

entire world system controlled by the devil) and from Mark, which he calls his son.

Most likely, Mark is Peter's spiritual disciple – not biological son, just like Timothy was Paul's spiritual son,¹⁶ as this Mark is actually the same person as John Mark in the book of Acts. John Mark was along with Silvanus and Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey.¹⁷ He was a cousin to Barnabas,¹⁸ and his Jewish mother was well known to Peter and active in the early church in Jerusalem.¹⁹

The story of John Mark is fascinating one. Due to strong disagreements, John Mark and Barnabas actually separated from Paul and Silvanus before the 2nd missionary journey. But later in life, Paul speaks warmly and honorably of Mark, instructing Timothy to "*Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.*"²⁰ This Mark is the one who wrote the Gospel according to Mark, and who obviously had ministry together with Peter at the end of his life in Rome.

The exhortation to *greet one another with the kiss of love*, punctuates Peter's desire for suffering Christians to love one another – affectionately – as family. In culturally appropriate ways. Again – so much of these final words carry family overtones – brotherhood, beloved, my son, etc.

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 4:7; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; c.f. Titus 1:4 and Philemon 10; Galatians 4:19

¹⁷ Acts 12:25

¹⁸ Colossians 4:10

¹⁹ Acts 12:12

²⁰ 2 Timothy 4:11; c.f. Colossians 4:10, Philemon 24

Peter longs for God's family to be at peace with one another – loving one another affectionately and warmly. The stress of persecution is a significant stress. Living for Christ in this present evil age requires a profound level of suffering. So Peter closes his letter with a wish for peace – for all those who are in Christ – may they truly experience the multiplied grace and peace which was Peter's opening commendation to them at the beginning of this letter.²¹

In short, we can take away from these final greetings that God has put each of us believers in Christ in a spiritual family. You and I are part of a spiritual brotherhood. And this church family we benefit from is part of God's preserving grace to us.

So that, especially when we are suffering, we have a family which speaks God's grace to us,

God's grace preserves you with a spiritual family (12-14)

True Grace Firm Hope

- To exhort you with God's truth
- And encourage you with God's love

To exhort us with God's truth and encourage us with God's love.

²¹ 1 Peter 1:2

These are just two of the many ways God's children experience God's preserving grace in suffering. So I ask you – is there any suffering Christian around you right now that God would have you to exhort with God's truth and encourage with God's love? Are you ready and willing to be an expression of God's true grace to your brothers and sisters around you?

Main Point



God's children are preserved in suffering by God's true grace.

God's children are preserved in suffering by God's true grace. So may we all,

Application



Know the peace of standing firm together in God's true grace.

Know the peace of standing firm together in God's true grace.

Peter's own life bears witness to the power of God's saving grace. Will you cast your anxieties on the God who cares for you? Will you entrust your soul to your faithful Creator? Will you continue returning good for evil while you wait for eternal praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ?

Stand firm in God's true grace church. For it is God's grace alone which both pardons your sin and powers your faith as you wait for your blessed hope in heaven.

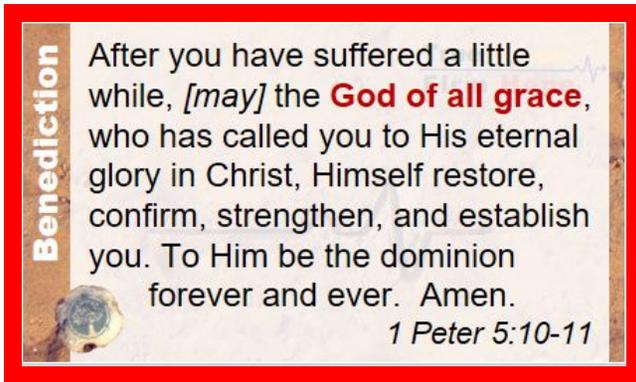
Firm Hope in God's Grace True Grace
1 Peter 5:9-14 Firm Hope



Let's pray.

<<He will hold me fast>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 5:10-11***



Recommended Resources on Firm Hope in God's Grace:

- 1 Corinthians 15:1, 42-44; 16:13-14
- Colossians 2:5
- 2 Timothy 2:10
- Titus 2:11-14
- James 4:7
- Jude 1:3, 24

IV.

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/how-long-must-i-suffer>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/we-get-grace-god-gets-glory>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhP7AZQlzCg> (The Bible Project Overview – 1 Peter)

V.

- *Suffering*, Paul Tripp
- *The Glory of Heaven*, John MacArthur

VI.

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 5:10. How long is “a little while?” Consider 1 Peter 1:6-7 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 in your answer.
2. Read Peter’s final greetings in 1 Peter 5:12-14. What different family relationships do you see pictured in this text? How do you view and treat the Christian “brotherhood” (5:9) like your own family?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:10. When do you believe God’s restoring, confirming, strengthening, and establishing happens for the believer, according to the sequence in the verse? Compare 1 Corinthians 15:42-43. What other verses teach us about God’s care for us now (c.f. 2 Corinthians 1)?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:12. How does Peter summarize his entire letter? What is the difference between true and false grace? What is the relationship between God’s true grace and standing firm (preserving in obedience to God)?
5. How would you summarize the main point of 1 Peter? Do you have a firm hope in God’s true grace? Share 1 or 2 take-aways that you want to remember from this preaching series with one another. Pray together that God would continue to help us all overcome evil with good and live for God’s greater glory even as we suffer in this life.