

TAKEAWAY

How to Live Right Now

Part Twelve: 1 Peter 5:12-14

DESIRED OUTCOMES

To know and experience the awesome grace of God.
To see that grace is Peter's big 'take-home' message.

SHARE

Christians use the word 'grace' a lot, what does it really mean? Is it something you'd say you have experienced?

What do you believe is God's posture towards you, and on what basis?

READ

1 Peter 5v 12-14

Note: When Peter says 'Babylon' he means Rome, which was seen as the centre of rebellion against God. Sometimes the early Christians used 'Babylon' as a code, because outright criticism of Rome was dangerous.

DISCUSS

What does Peter want us to remember and take away from his letter?

On Sunday, Steve spoke about God's grace in several ways; saving, serving and strengthening. In what ways does God save us by his grace through Jesus dying and rising (Look back at 1 Peter 2: 24 and 1 Peter 3: 18)?

How can we *stand* in God's saving grace? What does it mean to do this in practical, day to day life? How does doing so affect 1 our experiences and 2 our behaviours?

Read 1 Peter 4:10 about serving in God's grace. How does understanding serving in this way help us? In what ways can each of us use whatever gift and abilities of God's grace we have received, to serve others?

We might think we have nothing to offer to others, or that we are too busy to serve others. What would Peter, do you think, say to this?

How are you serving others at the moment? Don't be too humble to say! What effect does this have 1) on you and 2) on those you seek to serve? Why is it critical that God's grace to us becomes our service of others?

Read 1 Peter 4:10 about God's strengthening grace. The Lord says that His grace that strengthens you is sufficient for you. What does this mean in practice? How can this help us in our daily lives and challenges?

PRAY

Pray for one another to experience God's saving, serving and strengthening grace and to know peace in Christ. Amen – Oh yes!

TRY OUT

Do something very deliberately – maybe something you wouldn't normally do – to serve someone this week. How did it make you feel? How did it serve the other person? What would prompt you to serve more often?