

- I. *1Pet. 5:12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him),*
  - A. Silvanus was the courier.
  - B. Peter was Silvanus's introduction: the fact that Peter trusted him.
  - C. Silvanus' carrying the word is the paradigm of all Gospel preaching and speaking.
  - D. We need trustworthy people in our lives, and we need to be trustworthy.
  
- II. *I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God.*
  - A. What's the true grace of God? Everything that has gone before in 1 Peter.
  - B. Most of all, a vision of the triumph of Jesus Christ to bring us to God.
  - C. Everything else follows from that acceptance.
  - D. That's the grace: it is itself not a way of life, or a spiritual path, or a set of rules or traditions.
  
- III. *Stand firm in it!*
  - A. As Christians, we struggle to obey, pray, be content, believe, stand firm in the grace of God.
  - B. The perseverance of the saints.
  - C. "Stand firm" as in battle when the enemy rushes toward you.
  
- IV. *1Pet. 5:13 She who is in Babylon,*
  - A. Peter is referring to the Christian church in Rome.
  - B. Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> century felt "in exile" in the Roman Empire, as in Babylon before.
  - C. We need to understand where we live to be Babylon.
  - D. God is in Babylon. Don't write off anyone or any place. "His is the dominion."
  - E. This tells us where we are, who we are, what our lives are to be about.
  
- V. *chosen together with you,*
  - A. This is the thing about Christians: we are chosen.
  - B. We are chosen because we have a bond with Christ: the "choice stone".
  - C. God does the choosing. (Isaiah, Jesus, Paul, Peter || Augustine, Luther, Calvin)
  
- VI. *sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.*
  - A. Mark is John Mark, close friend of Peter. (Acts 12:25; Colossians 4:10)
  - B. When Peter was released from prison in Jerusalem, he went to Mark's mom's house.
  - C. At one point Mark ditched Paul (Acts 15:37-39) but later they were reconciled (2 Tim. 4:11).
  - D. Peter and Mark are both people who failed Christ, but were forgiven and used by God.
  
- VII. *1Pet. 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.*
  - A. Common greeting (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 2Thess. 5:26).
  - B. They are to treat each other as the closest of family.
  - C. We are re-begotten; call God Father; are nourished by Him. (1 Peter 1:3,14,17,22-23; 2:2-3)
  - D. We need family and we want family. Be that family toward one another!
  
- VIII. *Peace be to you all who are in Christ.*
  - A. Jesus faithfully brought the Word of His Father, the Word of grace.
  - B. Jesus stood firm for us, so that we are not killed when we stumble.
  - C. Jesus came to a strange land, loved it sacrificially, and it became His dominion.
  - D. God chose us by choosing Jesus Christ, and binding us to Him by the power of the Spirit.
  - E. Jesus received a kiss of betrayal for us.
  - F. Peace with one another; peace from sin and struggles one day; peace with God.