



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

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**Saturday, 7/9/22**

**Scripture: 1 Peter**

**TITLE: 1 Peter - Remember Your Purpose**

Can you think of a time when you were facing trials or challenges and you just wanted to give up? When it just didn't feel like you could keep going any further? What did you do? How did you keep going? For myself, I can remember times as a student both in undergrad, and now working on my master's, where I felt overwhelmed and burned out and just didn't want to do any more assignments, I didn't want to write any more papers! In those difficult and stressful times, I had to take a step back and remind myself that my identity is not in my grade or my degree but in Christ. I needed to remind myself of why I was pursuing the education in the first place. I needed to remember my purpose. That's what kept me going.

These ideas of perseverance and perspective are what the book of 1 Peter is all about.

Christians should want to read 1 Peter as an encouragement to our souls. Peter reminds fellow believers how we are called to live differently because we know Jesus, and that knowing Jesus also changes how we face trials and suffering.

The book of 1 Peter was written by the apostle Peter, a disciple who was a part of Jesus' inner circle. And, it was told that he would be the rock upon which the church is built! At this time Peter is writing to encourage scattered churches across Asia Minor who were experiencing a lot of persecution and trials because of their faith.

This book was most likely written between 64 and 65 A.D. Notable people mentioned in the book are Peter himself as well as the churches he's writing to across Asia Minor.

We can find Jesus in The Book of 1 Peter as he reminds these persecuted Christians that suffering is actually an honor. As crazy as it sounds, as Christians, when we suffer, we get to experience and be a part of the suffering of Jesus. Suffering, for Christians, serves the purpose of drawing us closer to Him and making us more like Him.

A key passage that I love from 1 Peter is 1 Peter 2:9. [“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”](#)

I love this encouragement from Peter! He is reminding them of their true identity and their true purpose. He's pulling all sorts of parallels from the Old Testament and reminding them that through their faith in Jesus, Christians are now the new chosen people of God, called to be holy and set apart from the world. We are God's chosen people and the purpose of our life is to

proclaim His excellencies as we remember the truth of the Gospel that we've been called away from the darkness of sin into the light of Jesus' forgiveness! So everything we do in our lives, even through suffering, can be used to glorify Jesus.

So the big takeaway from 1 Peter should be this, as Christians, we know we will endure hard times and suffering. But, in those moments we have to take our eyes off of our current circumstances and have an eternal perspective. We need to remember that the Earth is not our home. We need to remember that the suffering won't last forever, and we need to remember that we can glorify Jesus with everything especially when we suffer.

Just like when I didn't think I could keep going as a student, I had to remind myself that it wouldn't last forever. In the same way, this world and its struggles won't last forever. We need to remember our purpose, keep our eyes on eternity, and remember that our whole existence is to proclaim the excellencies of the one who saved us!