

FINALLY ... **- I Peter 5:12-14**

Peter's final words should inform and inspire us

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I. PETER WROTE (12)

A. WHAT?

- A letter that can be reread, reflected upon, repeated, recopied and resent

B. HOW?

1. Through Silvanus
 - a. He is Silas who traveled with Paul - Acts 15:40
 - b. He is Peter's scribe
 - c. He is a faithful brother
2. Briefly: He kept it short > 105 verses with 1684 words

C. WHY?

1. To Exhort: Encouraging Christians to believe in the promises of God and behave accordingly
2. To Testify: Speaking clearly about what one knows to be true
3. To Charge: Stand firm in God's grace and the truths shared herein

Finally ...

II. PETER SHARED GREETINGS (13)

- Warm wishes and fond expressions

A. FROM OTHERS

- They want to chime in with a friendly "hello"

B. FROM A CHURCH

1. "She who is in Babylon" is code for a church in Rome
2. "Chosen together with you" > A community of believers in another place
3. This church knows of these Christians
4. They cared about suffering Christians 700 miles away!

C. FROM A FRIEND

1. The Person: Mark
2. His Passion: Cheering other Christians

Over please >

Finally ...

III. **PETER ENCOURAGED AFFECTION** (14a)

- After sharing greetings he encourages greetings

A. THE COMMAND: “Greet one another”

1. Though it may be difficult they were expected to assemble and interact
2. They were to express friendship with cheerful words

B. THE KISS: “with a kiss of love”

1. Get close: Don’t keep people at arm’s length
2. Show affection: “Fervently love one another” (see I Peter 1:22)
3. Be appropriate

Finally ...

IV. **PETER OFFERED A BLESSING** (14b)

A. PEACE TO YOU ALL

1. His final thought is the same as his first – see I Peter 1:2b
2. Peace involves an inner rest and freedom from anxiety even amid persecution and problems
3. Peace comes from being in right relationship with God and others - See also Rom. 15:13

B. WHO ARE IN CHRIST

1. Only those who’ve trusted Christ can experience this peace
2. All Christians in every place can have this

CONCLUSION: As faithful and thoughtful Christians, what should we do?

1. Stand confidently (12)
2. Greet sincerely (13)
3. Hug warmly (14a)
4. Bless thoughtfully (14b)

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