

## R.I.P. (Rest In Peace) The Books of 1 & 2 Peter

Today we lit the “peace” candle! **We say that with the coming of Jesus into the world, peace came with Him!** The heavenly host declared it in **Luke 2:13-14!**

But what kind of peace? Many could argue that Jesus’ coming into the world brought anything but peace! Just ask the mothers who lost their sons to Herod’s decree! Or ask Mary & Joseph about their whole experience!

**It was not a “peaceful” time in the world, and Jesus’ birth in many ways made it worse!** So why would the angels declare such a message?

**There is a difference between peaceful circumstances and being at peace!**

We have not been promised peaceful circumstances, quite the opposite!

However, we can be at peace because of the One who is our peace! **Peace is not found in circumstances; it is found in a person** – Jesus Christ!

The Apostle Peter discovered this truth while being with Jesus:

- On the boat when his livelihood was at stake with no fish to catch!
- On the boat in the midst of a storm – **Jesus said “Peace be still!”**
- On the boat when Jesus called him to “Come” & walk upon the water!

The Apostle Peter also learned this truth the hard way when he at times tried to find his peace in his circumstances rather than in Jesus alone!

- **When he questioned Jesus’ purpose to go to Jerusalem and die!**
- When he cut off the soldier’s ear to keep that plan from happening!
- When he denied even knowing Jesus 3 times to save his own skin!

When we try to find peace in our circumstances, we will never truly be at peace, because our circumstances change, sometimes in an instant!

**The only earthly circumstance where we might find rest and peace is at our death!** What do we often hear said at the end of a funeral? “May he/she rest in peace!” Why, because all of life’s circumstances are now past!

But does death bring peace? **Can the deceased truly rest in peace?**

The Bible tells us that for those who have not found their true peace in Jesus Christ in life, that not even death will deliver them from pain and suffering! Their destination & experience after death will be far worse!

**The only way we can truly live with, and rest in peace, is if Jesus is our eternal peace!** This is the Apostle Peter’s main focus in these 2 letters!

Peter was in prison in Rome, and Jesus Himself revealed to Peter that his time here on earth was drawing to a close (**2 Peter 1:14!**)

**Peter was about to die! And not just any death – crucifixion!**

What if you knew that your time here on earth was about to be over? What if you heard those words from Jesus Himself? Would you be at peace?

How would we spend our last days/hours of our earthly lives knowing this? What would we say to others? **What really matters when the end is near?**

Peter was at peace because Peter had a Savior, who was/is His peace! He had no reason to fear death... no reason to fear what comes after... no reason to not be at peace, no matter his circumstances!

So how did he spend his last days? What did he spend that time doing? **He wrote a letter to remind people of the peace that is found in Jesus Christ!**

In 1 Peter his focus was on encouraging God’s people to endure in the midst of suffering, & pursue holiness as a result of what Christ had done for them!

**In 2 Peter his focus was on the knowledge that truly sets a person free!**

The 3 “H’s” of Peter’s letters serve as a reminder of what having true peace in Christ produces in a person’s life:

H – **Hardships will come, but we can rise above them b/c Jesus is our peace!**

H – **Holiness is something we can experience because Jesus lives in us!**

H – **Heresy is something that we can identify, & reject, by the knowledge we receive by the Spirit of God, through the Word of God!**

Peter was able to face the cross just like Jesus did, because Jesus was his peace! **Peter also knew he could rest in peace (R.I.P.), because true peace had come into the world in the advent of Christ, & that peace is forever his!**

It’s one thing to light a peace candle in the midst of advent season. It’s another thing to experience what that candle truly represents! May we be reminded again of the peace that surpasses understanding! **2 Peter 1:1-15**

## R.I.P. (Rest In Peace)      The Books of 1 & 2 Peter

Today we lit the “peace” candle! We say that with the coming of Jesus into the world, \_\_\_\_\_ came with Him! The heavenly host declared it in **Luke 2:13-14**

But what kind of peace? Many could argue that Jesus’ coming into the world brought anything but peace! Just ask the mothers who lost their sons to Herod’s decree! Or ask Mary & Joseph about their whole experience!

It was not a “peaceful” time in the world, and Jesus’ birth in many ways \_\_\_\_\_! So why would the angels declare such a message?

There is a difference between peaceful circumstances and being at peace! We have not been promised peaceful circumstances, quite the opposite!

However, we can be at peace because of the One who is our peace! Peace is not found in circumstances; it is found in \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus Christ!

The Apostle Peter discovered this truth while being with Jesus:

- On the boat when his livelihood was at stake with no fish to catch!
- On the boat in the midst of a storm – Jesus said \_\_\_\_\_
- On the boat when Jesus called him to “Come” & walk upon the water!

The Apostle Peter also learned this truth the hard way when he at times tried to find his peace in his circumstances rather than in Jesus alone!

- When he \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus’ purpose to go to Jerusalem and die!
- When he cut off the soldier’s ear to keep that plan from happening!
- When he denied even knowing Jesus 3 times to save his own skin!

When we try to find peace in our circumstances, we will never truly be at peace, because our circumstances change, sometimes in an instant!

The only earthly circumstance where we might find rest and peace is at \_\_\_\_\_ What do we often hear said at the end of a funeral? “May he/she rest in peace!” Why, because all of life’s circumstances are now past!

But does death bring peace? Can the deceased truly \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible tells us that for those who have not found their true peace in Jesus Christ in life, that not even death will deliver them from pain and suffering! Their destination & experience after death will be far worse!

The only way we can truly live with, and rest in peace, is if Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_ This is the Apostle Peter’s main focus in these 2 letters!

Peter was in prison in Rome, and Jesus Himself revealed to Peter that his time here on earth was drawing to a close (**2 Peter 1:14**)!

Peter was about to die! And not just any death – \_\_\_\_\_

What if you knew that your time here on earth was about to be over? What if you heard those words from Jesus Himself? Would you be at peace?

How would we spend our last days/hours of our earthly lives knowing this? What would we say to others? What really matters when the \_\_\_\_\_

Peter was at peace because Peter had a Savior, who was/is His peace! He had no reason to fear death... no reason to fear what comes after... no reason to not be at peace, no matter his circumstances!

So how did he spend his last days? What did he spend that time doing? He wrote a letter to \_\_\_\_\_ people of the peace that is found in Jesus Christ!

In 1 Peter his focus was on encouraging God’s people to endure in the midst of suffering, & pursue holiness as a result of what Christ had done for them!

In 2 Peter his focus was on the knowledge that truly \_\_\_\_\_

The 3 “H’s” of Peter’s letters serve as a reminder of what having true peace in Christ produces in a person’s life:

H – \_\_\_\_\_ will come, but we can rise above them b/c Jesus is our peace!

H – \_\_\_\_\_ is something we can experience because Jesus lives in us!

H – \_\_\_\_\_ is something that we can identify, & reject, by the knowledge we receive by the Spirit of God, through the Word of God!

Peter was able to face the cross just like Jesus did, because Jesus was his peace! Peter also knew he could rest in peace (R.I.P.), because true peace had come into the world in the advent of Christ, & that peace is \_\_\_\_\_

It’s one thing to light a peace candle in the midst of advent season. It’s another thing to experience what that candle truly represents! May we be reminded again of the peace that surpasses understanding! **2 Peter 1:1-15**