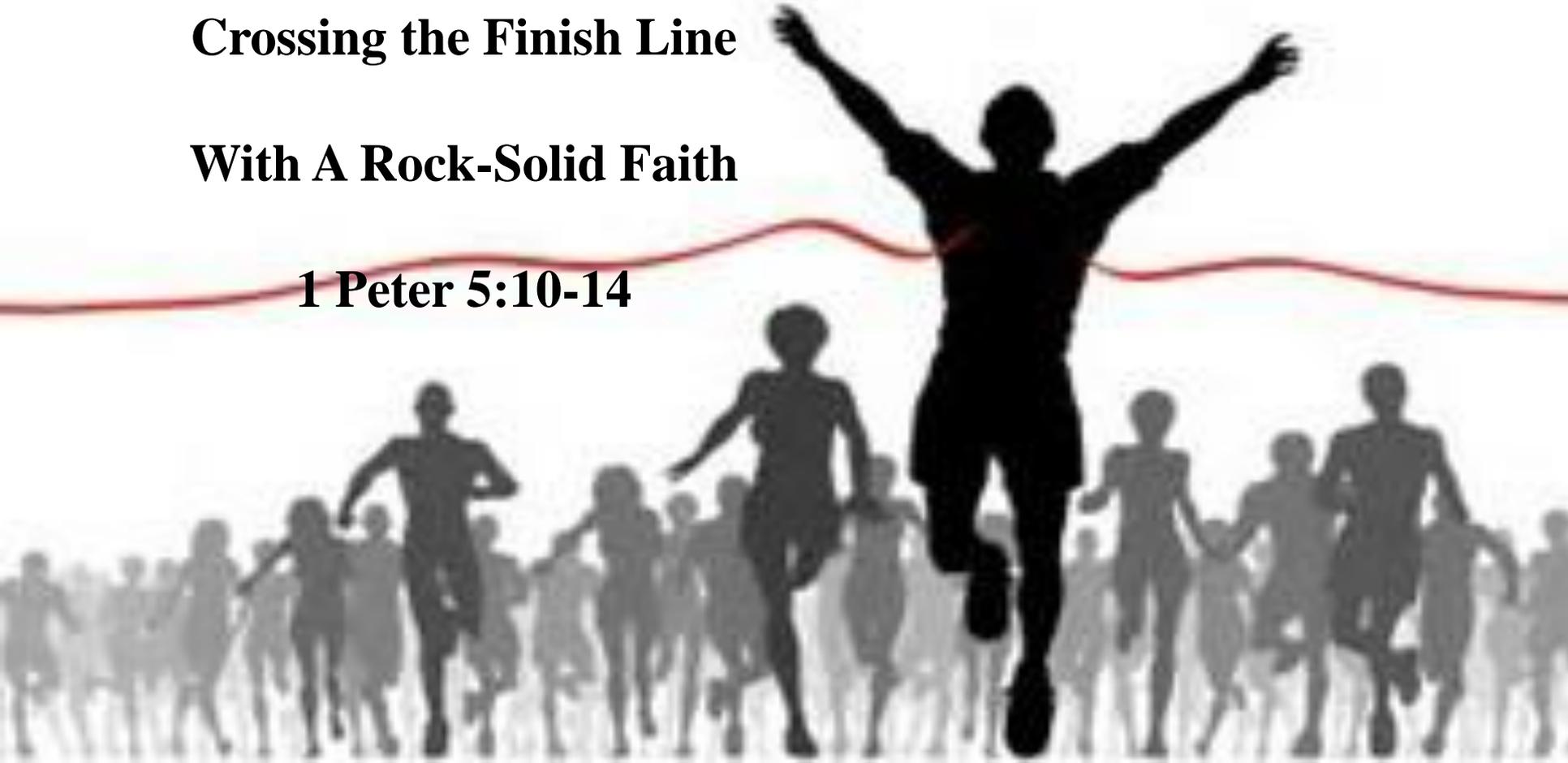


**Crossing the Finish Line**

**With A Rock-Solid Faith**

**1 Peter 5:10-14**



## SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE

Peter ended his letter with a few nuggets of distilled truth. In just a couple of verses, he concentrated everything he had already said.

## **SUMMARY OF TODAY'S MESSAGE**

To his suffering audience, Peter offered assurance of God's perfect plan that began when they trusted in Christ and wouldn't end until they were firmly secure in the glories of heaven.

Though pain is part of the process of perfection, the finish line is worth it!

Six things Christian athletes on the track of life  
need to know to make it to the finish line

I. God's Character: "*God of all grace*"

Paul called Him the "God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1:3)

Exodus 34:6

I am the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious

Six things Christian athletes on the track of life  
need to know to make it to the finish line

Psalm 86:15

But you, Lord are a compassionate and gracious  
God, slow to anger, abounding in love and  
faithfulness

Six things Christian athletes on the track of life  
need to know to make it to the finish line

This is the very covenant with which we relate to  
God—a covenant of unmerited favor

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth  
came through Jesus Christ

# Six things Christian athletes on the track of life need to know to make it to the finish line

Under the law, God demands righteousness from man; under grace, God gives righteousness to man

Under the law, righteousness is based on our good works; under grace, it's based on His good, finished work on the cross

Under the law, it only takes one sin to make you a sinner; under grace, it only took one Savior to fix it all

# Six things Christian athletes on the track of life need to know to make it to the finish line

Grace is how God deals with you; it is:

1. God's
2. Riches
3. At
4. Christ's
5. Expense

Six things Christian athletes on the track of life  
need to know to make it to the finish line

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so  
that in him we might become the righteousness of  
God

# Six things Christian athletes on the track of life need to know to make it to the finish line

A. God treated Jesus Christ like you deserve to be treated so He can treat you like Jesus deserves to be treated

B. You need to know God's grace to make it to the finish line; you're saved by it and you're secured by it

2. God's Calling: *"called us to His eternal glory"*

God's purpose for my life includes eternal life

**John 17:24**

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world

God's Calling: "*called us to His eternal glory*"

This truth is based on the first truth: because God covers us in His grace, He can call us to His glory

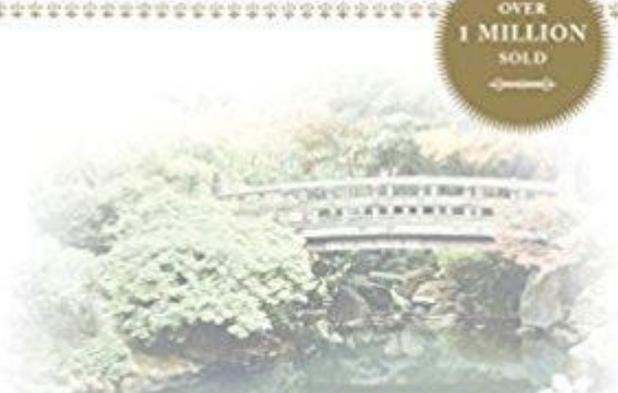
**I Corinthians 15:19**

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied

"Other than the Bible itself, this may well be the single most  
life-changing book you'll ever read." — Stu Weber

# HEAVEN

OVER  
1 MILLION  
SOLD



RANDY  
ALCORN

God's Calling: *"called us to His eternal glory"*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an external glory that far outweighs them all

God's Calling: *"called us to His eternal glory"*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

God's Calling: "*called us to His eternal glory*"

This world is not my home  
I'm just a-passing through  
My treasures are laid up  
Somewhere beyond the blue.

God's Calling: *"called us to His eternal glory"*

The angels beckon me  
From heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home  
In this world anymore.



God's Calling: "*called us  
to His eternal glory*"

There's grace to make it through this life, and there's  
glory that we're called to afterward

God's Calling: "*called us to His eternal glory*"

C.S. Lewis

"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither"

# God's Condition: "*by Christ Jesus*"

John 14:6; heaven is exclusive

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

## God's Condition: "*by Christ Jesus*"

When you take Jesus Christ, you take the whole package: the grace to live through all the tough stuff and the glory that will follow in the end

One of the biggest surprises in heaven will be who's not there—and who is there

## God's Condition: "*by Christ Jesus*"

To live above with the saints you love, oh that will be glory. But to live below with the saints you know, well that's another story."

# Closing Thoughts

The worst place you can be in a race is sleeping on the  
side of the track

Finish well; make the kind of choices today that you'll  
never have to look back on with regret

Start here; start now

# 4 Things You Need to Know to Finish the Race Well

1: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your  
life

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only  
Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but  
have eternal life

John 3:16

# 4 Things You Need to Know to Finish the Race Well

2: Man is sinful and separated from God, therefore he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

## 4. Things You Need to Know to Finish the Race Well

3: Jesus is God's only provision for man's sin.  
Through Him you can know and experience God's  
love and plan for your life

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me"

## 4. Things You Need to Know to Finish the Race Well

4: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

John 1:12

As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His Name

## A Suggested Prayer

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be