FINAL WORDS ON HOPE IN A HOSTILE WORLD

1. RAISE UP godly spiritual leaders.

1 Peter 5:1-4 "1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." (NIV)

2 Timothy 2:1-3 "1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to reliable people** who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Join with me in suffering, like a good solder of Christ Jesus." (NIV)

2. RESOLVE to have a humble spirit.

1 Peter 5:5-6 "5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."

Number 12:3 "Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth." (NIV)

3. RELINQUISH control over to the Lord.

1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."

Philippians 4:6-7 "6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

4. RECOGNIZE the enemy and the battle.

1 Peter 5:8-9 "[8] Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world." (NIV)

5. RELY on God to see you through.

1 Peter 5:10 "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Psalm 59:17 "You are my strength, I sing praise to you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

Mathew 16:13-18 "[13] When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" [14] They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." [15] "But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered, **"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."** [17] Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**" (NIV)

1 Peter 5:11 "To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."