

Part 2: Sift Pastor Grant Fishbook October 18 & 19, 2008

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. — Philippians 4:8

What's right with the world?

• Jesus <u>in</u> us

But he who unites himself with the LORD is one with him in spirit. - 1 Corinthians 6:17

Jesus <u>through</u> us

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the LORD forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. – Colossians 3:12-14

Jesus <u>with</u> us

"...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:20

What's wrong with Peter's world?

- Judas has just flipped
- · Jesus has just announced His imminent death
- Jesus has just told Peter that life is going to get bad and Peter will crumble under the pressure

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." – *Luke 22:31-32*

What is Peter's answer to the crisis?

But he replied, "LORD, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me." – Luke 22:33-34

- · Peter is dangling on the edge of denial
- · Peter claims that he will not fail
- Peter fails

What's right with the world when crisis is close?

- My God is <u>aware</u> of the crisis in my soul (vs. 31)
- My God is stronger than my enemy (vs. 31)
- My God is praying on my behalf (vs. 32 and I John 2:1)
- My God is giving me strength for the battle (vs. 32)
- My God knows my moment of weakness before it happens

(vs. 33)

• My God restores the broken hearted and discouraged

(John 21:15-19)

Next Steps

Stand and receive prayer in the service you are attending

On your way home:

Say out loud as many things as you can think of that are right in *your* world.

Small Group Discussion	 How have you been handling the fear that comes from the economic crisis that's on the front page of the paper every day?
Questions	2. How do you tend to respond when you hear bad news? Why?
	 Read Philippians 4:8. Choose one of the descriptive words (pure, right, admirable, etc.) and describe a moment from this past week when you saw that word lived out.
	4. What does it do for your spirit to know that Jesus Christ is praying for you right now?
	5. How does Satan most often try to sift you? How have you learned to battle against that attack?
	6. How can we pray for you tonight?