



HOPE  
LOWERTOWN  
ST. PAUL

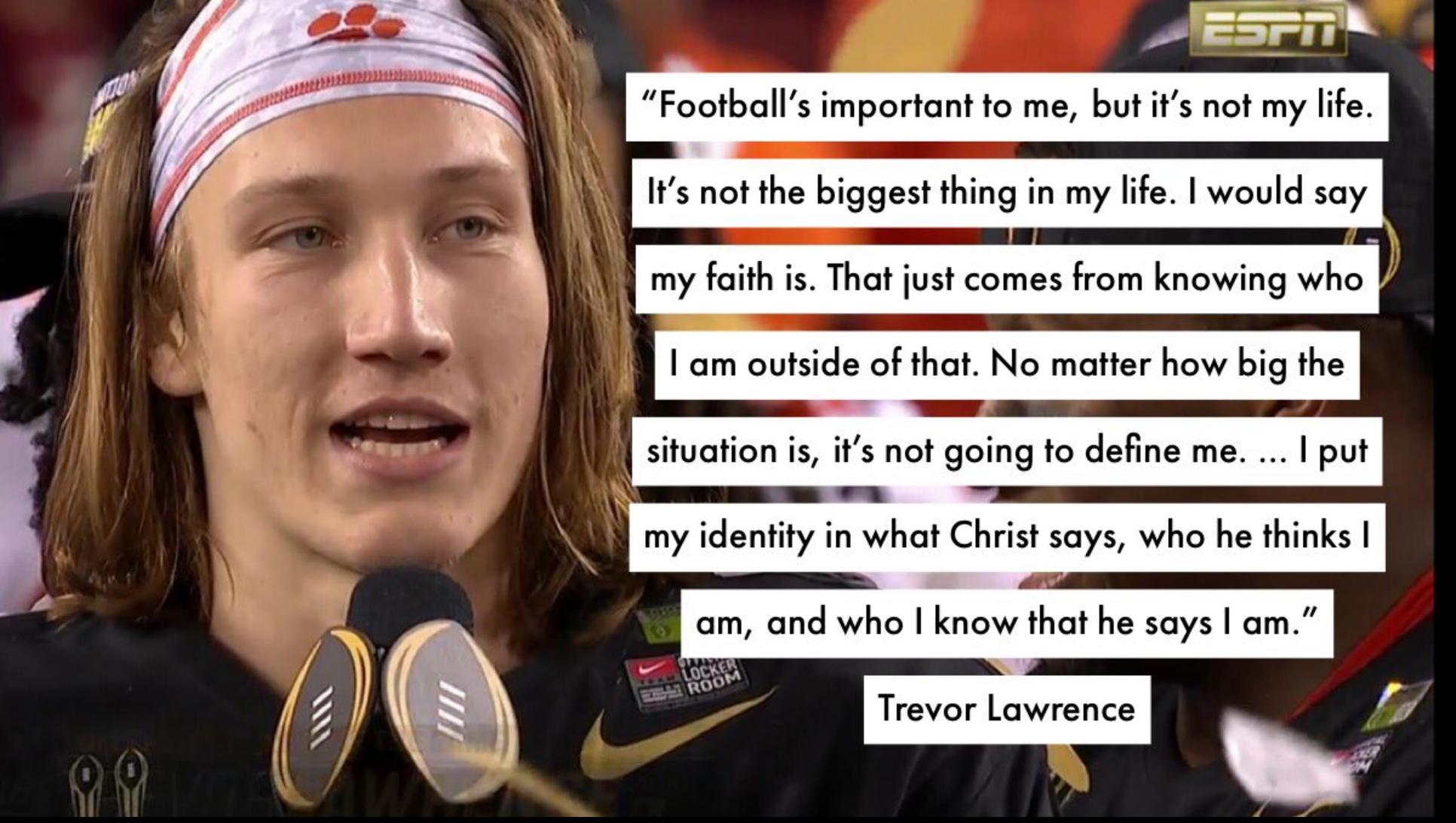


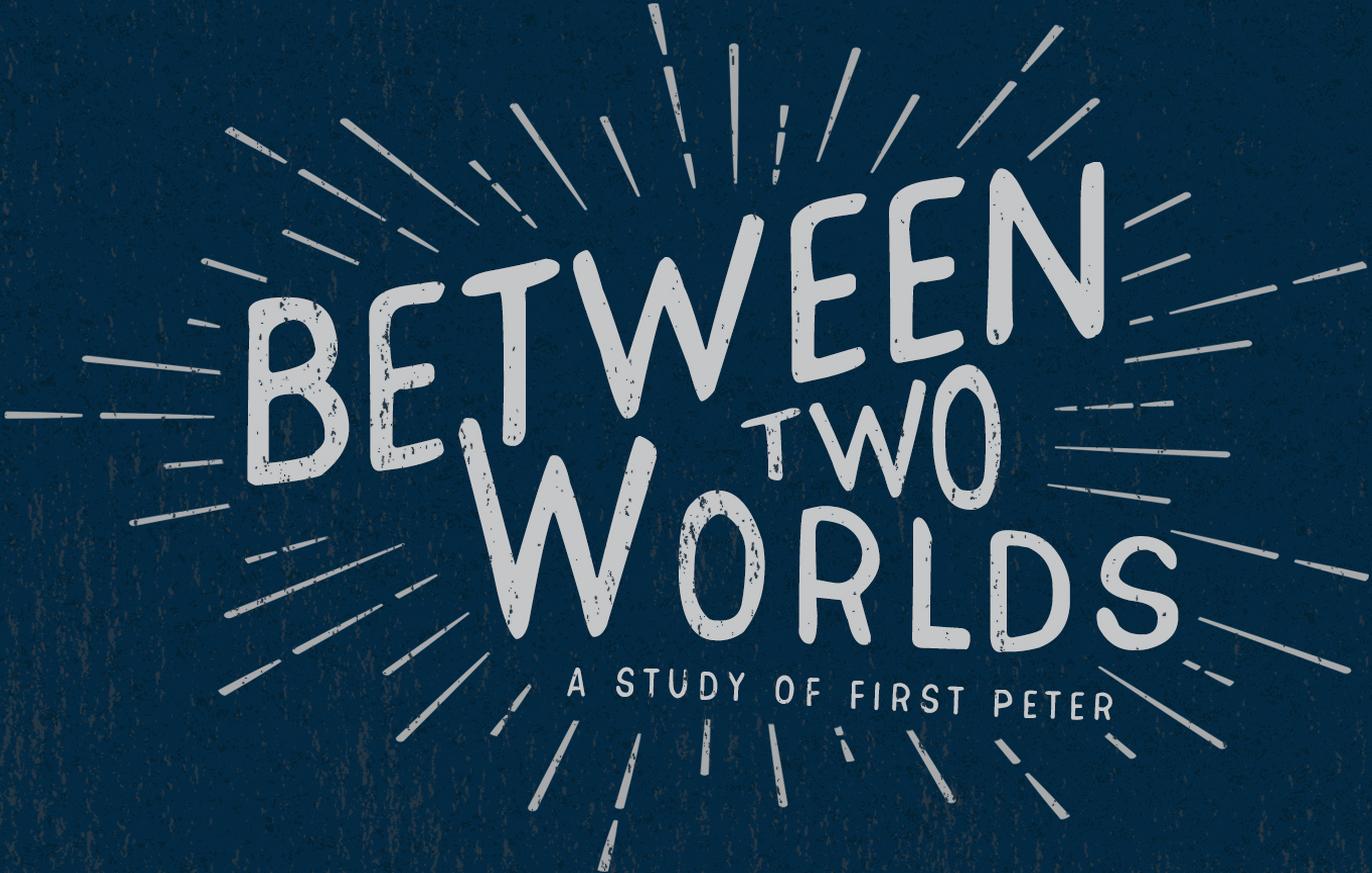
“Football is  
what I do, it’s  
not who I  
am.”



“Football’s important to me, but it’s not my life. It’s not the biggest thing in my life. I would say my faith is. That just comes from knowing who I am outside of that. No matter how big the situation is, it’s not going to define me. ... I put my identity in what Christ says, who he thinks I am, and who I know that he says I am.”

Trevor Lawrence

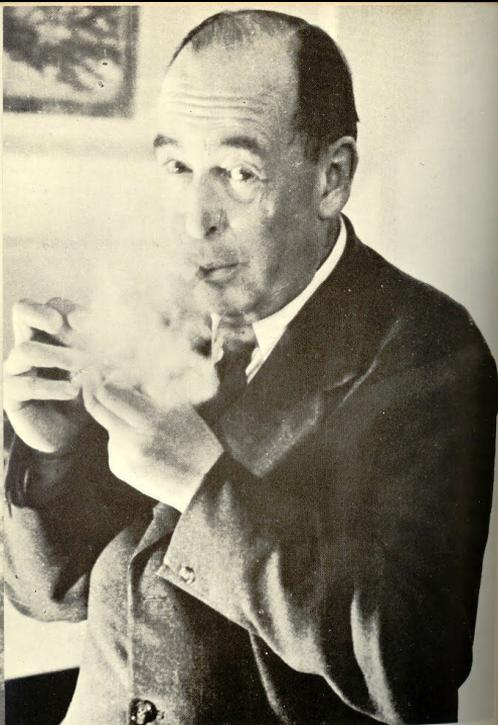


The title 'BETWEEN TWO WORLDS' is rendered in a white, hand-drawn, distressed font. The word 'BETWEEN' is on the top line, 'TWO' is smaller and positioned between 'BETWEEN' and 'WORLDS', and 'WORLDS' is on the bottom line. The text is surrounded by numerous white lines of varying lengths radiating outwards, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The background is a dark blue with a subtle, grainy texture.

BETWEEN  
TWO  
WORLDS

A STUDY OF FIRST PETER

If you find yourself with a desire that no experience in this world can satisfy, then the most probable explanation is that you were made for another world.



~ C. S. Lewis

**Today's Sermon:**  
*Introduction to 1 Peter*

**Today's Sermon:**  
*Developing the Plot of 1 Peter*

One of the noblest books in the New Testament  
and a paragon of excellence on par with  
Romans...



~ Martin Luther

The life of Jesus and the believer's life are inseparable in Peter's thought. In 1 Peter Jesus is not only the object of Christian faith; he is also the pattern of Christian destiny.



Jobes, K. H. (2005). [1 Peter](#) (p. 1).  
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

Life is difficult. But the harsh truth has not always been understood by those following Jesus Christ. Many Christians today have trouble sorting out the complexity of their identity and calling in Christ. They were reared to believe that a Christian should only experience the joys of being one of God's elect. They have been taught nothing of our exilic state.

David R Helm, *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ's Sufferings* (2008, 19).



Wherever Christians are a minority, the message of 1 Peter takes on renewed relevance. For instance, the apostle's letter became a source of hope and encouragement to Christian students at the University of Halle in Soviet-dominated Germany after World War II (Boring 1999: 143). In former Yugoslavia and Muslim Indonesia, 1 Peter is said to be the most popular book among



Christians (McKnight 1996: 35). E. Wendland (2000: 68–78) discusses the contemporary relevance of 1 Peter to the Bantu in Africa. Even within the United States, J. H. Elliott applies Peter's principles to the sanctuary movement that shelters political refugees

Jobs, K. H. (2005). [1 Peter](#) (p. 2). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

“Peter intends his readers to understand who they are before God so that they can be who they are in society.”



Scott McKnight (1996:36).

Wendland (2000: 66) sees Peter's letter addressing seven distinct problems in the Christian communities, problems resulting from various responses to social pressure: (1) physical and psychological pressure, (2) social ostracism and exclusion, (3) potential pull from the former pagan way of life, (4) a surrounding, seductive non-Christian worldview, (5) tensions and inconsistent behavior within the fellowship, (6) spiritual doubts about the reliability of God's promises and the future, and (7) Satan's constant, deadly temptations and trials. When identified in these terms, the problems Peter addresses are just as real in the churches around the world today as they were in first-century Asia Minor.

**Who Wrote it and When was it Written?**



**Saint Peter Attempting to Walk on Water (1766)**

François Boucher (1703–1770)

Oil on canvas, 235 cm x 170 cm

Cathédrale Saint-Louis de Versailles



# Let's Meet Peter!

**GRECO, EI**  
Apostle St Peter  
1610-14  
Oil on canvas, 97 x 77 cm  
Museo de El Greco, Toledo

# The Call of Peter into Discipleship

## Mark 1:16-20

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

# In the Inner circle of 3 of the 12 Disciples

**Mark 5:37**

He did not let anyone follow him except  
Peter, James and John the brother of James...

# “All in” kind of a guy (FAIL)

Or at least awkward!

## John 13:2-11

<sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,  
“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing,  
but later you will understand.”

<sup>8</sup>“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

<sup>9</sup>“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my  
hands and my head as well!”

# “Hi and Low” Day (WIN)

## Matthew 16:13-23

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

# “Hi and Low” Day (FAIL)

## Matthew 16:13-23

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

# Courage and Cowardice (FAIL)

## Luke 22:54-62

- <sup>54</sup>Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup>And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.
- <sup>56</sup>A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."
- <sup>57</sup>But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

# Courage and Cowardice (FAIL)

Luke 22:54-62

<sup>58</sup>A little later someone else saw him and said,  
“You also are one of them.”

“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

<sup>59</sup>About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow  
was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

<sup>60</sup>Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

# Courage and Cowardice (FAIL)

Luke 22:54-62

Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup>The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” <sup>62</sup>And he went outside and wept bitterly.

# Peter's Reinstatement

John 22:15-19

<sup>17</sup>The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

# Peter's Reinstatement

John 22:125-19

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

<sup>19</sup>Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter's Martyrdom,  
traditionally dated as  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 64 AD

**Crucifixion of Saint Peter**

Caravaggio, 1601

Oil on canvas

230 cm × 175 cm (91 in × 69 in)

Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome



# Peter Backslides (FAIL)

## Galatians 2:11-13

<sup>11</sup>When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. <sup>13</sup>The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.



# Let's meet Peter!

The bold, passionate, courageous,  
awkward, flawed failure – who still  
knows he is deeply loved and accepted  
by Jesus Christ!!

**GRECO, EI**  
Apostle St Peter  
1610-14  
Oil on canvas, 97 x 77 cm  
Museo de El Greco, Toledo

# 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

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The letter is addressed to the “elect” (*eklektois*), and in the Greek text the term “elect” actually modifies the term “strangers” (*parepidmois*), so we can translate “elect strangers” or “elect pilgrims.” To speak of his readers as elect means that they have been chosen by God. Clearly the readers are primarily Gentiles. Often in the Old Testament, Israel is designated as God’s chosen and elect people (Deut 4:37; 7:6–8; 10:15; 14:2; Ps 106:5; Isa 14:1; 41:8–18; 43:20; 45:4; 51:2; 65:9, 15, 23; cf. also *Wis* 4:15; *Sir* 46:1). Peter indicates at the outset, therefore, that the church of Jesus Christ is the Israel of God, his chosen people. He forecasts here the theme of 1 Pet 2:9, where the church is called “a chosen people.”



~ Thomas R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, vol. 37, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 50.

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Peter's description of the recipients as both chosen and foreign defines their identity in relationship to God and to the society in which they live, respectively



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~ Jobes, K. H. (2005). (p. 43). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

# Gospel Application:

*Will you take what 1 Peter teaches to heart?*

# Gospel Application:

*Will you take what 1 Peter teaches to heart?*

*Will you prepare your heart for what we will learn in  
this study?*