

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

TO THE CHURCH OF THE DISPERSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1-PETER CHAPTER 5:8-9

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-988 JULY 21, 2019

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Second Biggest Problem In Your Life”

The Ministry of The Grace of God Toward All Those Who Are Anchored in Christ.

Responsive Congregational Reading

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Here, Peter opens up with what we would call, “an injunction.” - - He issues an authoritative command, a court order to appear to every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note this: What we’re told to do before we engage the enemy in spiritual warfare, is something quite the opposite to what we would train for an earthly or carnal battle.

Some years ago I talked to a US Marine Seal Team Member who told me that by the time of your first covert mission comes to you – you are absolutely and fully convinced that you and your team members, the mission goal, and your weaponry are nigh invincible.

Jesus had given His mission to a small group of special operators

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The Person, The Nature, The Existence of Satan and his Cohorts

The Second Biggest Problem In Your Life

1.) Is Satan's ability to blind you from reality

vs. 8

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,
seeking whom he may devour.

The Second Biggest Problem In Your Life

Is Satan's ability to blind you from reality

1a.) Spiritual Disciplines

vs. 8a

8a Be sober, be vigilant;

Be grk: meaning to "be, being" - in a continuous state of awareness. To be "staying" or to be "being" – always in the place of...

This is the Christian Life.
The Holy Spirit within you demands it.

Ephesians 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;
but **be** filled with the Holy Spirit,

Sober grk: nepho; technical meaning = to abstain from wine. Do not become fuzzy or to have clouded judgment. In the positive, the meaning is to be calm and collected in demeanor. To be temperate, dispassionate.

Beware of indulgencies they dull

"Like a sluggish boy who has had too much to drink and too much to eat – his reflexes are slow and his mind even less."

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

Vigilant grk: gregoreuo, to be-being or to (keep) stay awake, be-being watchful. The imagery is that of a Sentry on duty that is calm/ready and focused with his finger on the trigger.

Martin Luther said, "The Christian in this world ought to be about as comfortable as an innocent pilgrim taking his lodge in a den of thieves, with one eye open and a dagger in hand."

The charge to be sober and vigilant is summed up in scripture with the word "watchful".

Matthew 26:36-37,40-41

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "*Sit here while I go and pray over there.*" **37** And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. **40** Then He came (came back) to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to **Peter**, "What! Could you not **watch** with Me one hour?" **41 Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation.

I promise you. Without a sense of urgency to watch and no serious desire to pray – you will fall into temptation, guaranteed!

Watchful against the extremes of emotionalism to laziness.

Watchful against the highs and the lows.

Watchful against needed graces vs. the neglectful graces.

Watchful against entertainment and worship.

**The Second Biggest Problem In Your Life
Is Satan's ability to blind you from reality**

1b.) Underestimating your enemy

vs. 8b

8b because your adversary
the devil walks about

A Confrontational Truth:

Because your adversary = Satan, Devil, The Wicked One.

Adversary grk antidikos; this word is reserved for "Satan". Your opposite or opponent. The one who is against you at every turn. One who stands to stop you.

Satan as the Devil is our Accuser / Slanderer / Destroyer

John 14:30

I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world coming.**

2 Corinthians 4:4

For whose minds **the god of this age** has blinded, who do not believe,

Notice his tactics. He's always out and about looking for the

#1) spiritually **distracted** (doubtful)

#2) the spiritually **weak** (ignorant)

#3) the spiritually **weary** (empty)

Implying that he and his demon-army are systematically trying **doorknobs** and **window latches** of the Christians heart.

All he needs is a foot in the door.

(This is why a tempting thought, out of nowhere, comes into your mind)

“the devil **WALKS** about”

Notice here – he's **not** crouching, he's **not** running, he's **not** hiding.

The Danger of “Little Doses” of Evil

(There is a grave warning here – this “**walk's about**” can also mean that he intends to get you to become familiar with his proximity to you and your family.)

Walking so as to disarm you over time.

(Like people who own pythons and let them slither around their house.
- but we've had him since he was just a little worm)

End of Study

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