

First Peter – Then and Now
(Lesson # 12 – Resist the Enemy)
Scripture 1 Peter 5:8-11

Introduction

- A. Peter’s goal in writing this book is to teach believers how to live in spiritual freedom.
- B. Their immediate problem was serious trials from unbelievers and soon – from Rome.
- C. Peter’s theme – as is the whole Bible – is to choose, by faith, to live in harmony with reality. (Who God is, who we are, love, sin, world, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, Bible, spiritual world, good and bad angels, call of God, Heaven, Hell, His soon coming, our evaluation - rewards/loss, eternal state.)
- D. Peter’s reference to Satan, without elaborate explanation, clearly indicates that believers at that time, quite thoroughly understood the spiritual world. It was common knowledge

I. The Exhortations for Protection: *Be self-controlled and alert.* 1 Peter 5:8a

- A. Every person has the paramount need for self-control. The reason is the character of sin, (unbelief and self-centeredness), the power of the world-system, and Satan. (1)
- B. Alertness emphasizes the responsibility to evaluate life within and without – for the sake of loving care, progress, and protection. (2)
- C. God has made abundant provision in redemption and the work of the Holy Spirit. (3)

II. The Warning Regarding our Enemy – for the sake of Reality: *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

- A. The seriousness of his description: your enemy
(When our Lord says we have an “enemy,” why do we disregard the warning?)
- B. The seriousness of his reality: the devil
(When our enemy is identified as “the devil,” why are we not afraid?)
- C. The seriousness of his activity: *prowls around like a roaring lion*
(When we know we are the target of the enemy, why do we not seek information & help?)
- D. The seriousness of his goal: *looking for someone to devour.* (4)
(When we know the danger of being “devoured,” why are we lethargic and unbelieving?)

III. The Command Regarding our Enemy – for the Sake of Freedom: *Resist him, standing firm in the faith*

- A. The command, *Resist him*, indicates we should reject and perhaps rebuke (command to stop, to leave, etc.,), the devil, in the way he is attacking us. (5)
- B. All are particularly vulnerable to the devil's attack in **our thought life** and through **lust** (selfishness, greed, envy, jealousy, grudges, self-protection, pride, etc). (6. – the handouts)
- C. The command, *Standing firm in the faith*, emphasizes the need to be able to respond in faith to the devil's attack. We have the authority and can utilize "performative commands."

(Suggestion: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I refuse that thought (desire), and rebuke the **source** of it. I command it has to stop and leave me.) Do not use this suggestion if you are choosing to live in sin!!

IV. The Reminder for Explanation: *Because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering.*

- A. All believers are undergoing trials and need these truths to live above them.
- B. All believers are undergoing the attack of the devil and need these truths to resist him.

V. The Reminder that God is Involved and there is Grace and Power Available: *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. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

- A. Trials need to be related to God, to His plan, and to the work of the enemy.
- B. Too often we emphasize "grace," and "power," without relating them to God.
- C. As "the God of all grace," we're reminded He's the provider and channel by whom and through whom all aspects of Grace and Power are mediated to us.
- D. Peter reminds us of our ultimate goal, "*His eternal glory in Christ.*"
- E. The promise that God, "*Will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast,*" emphasizes that we are not victims of the enemy, nor our trials, nor of our circumstances.

Conclusion

- A. From this lesson, what would you say is the endeavor of the enemy and his attacks?
- B. From the message of 1 Peter – how are we to resist him?

Victor Matthews