Shepherds and Sheep PART II (1 Peter 5:8-14)

Be Sober, Be Vigilant, and Resist!

Be **sober**, be **vigilant**; because your adversary **the devil walks about like a roaring lion**, **seeking whom he may devour**. **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the **same sufferings** are experienced by your **brotherhood** in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a while**, **perfect**, **establish**, **strengthen**, **and settle you**. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." I Peter 5:8-11 NKJV

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

 Peter 5:8 NKJV
 - **<u>⊠</u>** Be Sober
 - ☑ Live soberly: "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober,

reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;... For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly**, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ," Titus 2:1-2, 11-13 NKJV

V Watch and be sober: "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night**. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. **Therefore let us not sleep**, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 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. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus

Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." I Thessalonians 5:1-10 NKJV

Dissipation (51 words to live your life by!): "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit," Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJV

<u> Be Vigilant</u>

- Remember your testimony! Remember who you are. tell your story: "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren," Deuteronomy 4:9 NKJV
 - "If you tell your testimonies, God will give you more testimonies to tell." Dr. Jeff Hazim
- Restraint: "I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."" Psalms 39:1 NKJV
- Watchful, Diligent, Earnest, Fervent

- Watch and Stand: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love." I Corinthians 16:13-14 NKJV
- Watch and Pray: "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."" Matthew 26:41 NKJV
- ☑ Diligent: "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23 NKJV
- Earnest: "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;" Colossians 4:2 NKJV
- Fervent: "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16 NKJV
- ☑ The Laodicean Church: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV
- The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
 - **☑** Strategies of the Enemy

- The Liar: "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44 NKJV
 - The Birth of Lies: "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Genesis 3:1 NKJV
- The Angel of Light: "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works." II Corinthians 11:14-15 NKJ
- The Thief: "Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come

except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:7-10 NKJV

The Tempter—"It is written": "Then Jesus was led up V by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil**. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward **He was hungry**. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of **God**, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God." Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give **You** if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus

said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' " Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." Matthew 4:1-11 NKJV

☑ Strategies of the Believer

- ☑ Resist! "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7 NKJV
- **☑** Know the Word:
- "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.' "" Hebrews 10:7 NKJV FROM PSALM 40: "Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."" Psalms 40:7-8 NKJV
- Know the Book—"It is written!" "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"" John 5:45-47 NKJV

- Don't Love the World: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV
- Access to the Holy Spirit: "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth." I John 2:20-21 NKJV
- Abide in the Word to Know the Truth: "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.""

 John 8:31-32 NKJV
- "Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect,

establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." I Peter 5:9-11 NKJV

- **☑** Resists the Devil—Draw near to God
 - AGAIN! "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." James 4:7-8 NKJV
- ☑ Be steadfast in your faith, knowing that after your
 suffering you will be: Perfect, Established Strengthened,
 Settled
 - Perfect and complete, lacking nothing through suffering:
 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4 NKJV
 - Hope through suffering: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces

- perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5:1-5 NKJV
- Glory and Liberty through Suffering: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:18-21 NKIV
- Revelation through suffering (back to where we started in this very letter): "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving

the end [goal] of your faith—the salvation of your souls." I Peter 1:6-9 NKJV

Exhorting and Testifying

"By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, **exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. She who is in Babylon**, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen." I Peter 5:12-14 NKJV

I Peter 5:12-14

- "By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, **exhorting and testifying** that this is the true grace of God in which you stand." I Peter 5:12 NKJV
 - **<u>■</u>** <u>Exhortation—strongly encourage or urge!</u>
 - "Now **we exhort you**, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all." I Thessalonians 5:14 NKJV
 - "Speak these things, **exhort**, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you." Titus 2:15 NKJV
 - **<u>Istimony—evidence and attestation!</u>**

- ▼ Take every opportunity: "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."

 Luke 12:8-9 NKJV
 - Shout from the rooftops: "I delight to do Your will,
 O my God, And Your law is within my heart." I have
 proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the
 great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O
 LORD, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your
 righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your
 faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed
 Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great
 assembly." Psalms 40:8-10 NKJV
 - "If you tell your testimonies God will give you more testimonies to tell." Dr. Jeff Hazim
- "She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you;
 and so does Mark my son." I Peter 5:13 NKJV
 - **≝** "She"
 - ☑ Likely referring to the Church or a brotherhood (feminine plurality) of believers. Possible referring to another or

other specific congregations of the local Church in other cities (even Rome), but more likely the Church as whole.

■ Babylon

- The ancient pagan city/nation did not likely have any churches yet in the first century and, therefore, is likely being referred to metaphorically as the Church is currently existing inside the world of unbelievers or even enemies.
- Since Peter just refered to the the enemy of our souls and the suffering that is inevitable for believers, it is safe to assume that he uses Babylon, the former conqueror and enslaver of the "Jews" (the Northern Kingdom of Judah), as the ultimate contrast with the elect!

NEXT WEEK

Precious Promises (2 Peter 1:1-4)