

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: "A LIVING HOPE!"

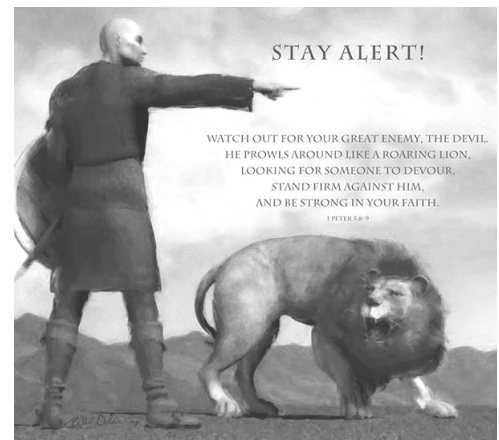
Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

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Lesson: 37

Chapter 5:8-11

Date: 5-16-21



BIBLE TEXT:

(1 Peter 5:8-11)

(8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (9) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (10) And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace**, who has called you to **his eternal glory in Christ**, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (11) **To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

STUDY NOTES:

BIBLE TEXT:

(8) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

(Job 1:7-12; 2:2; Ps 22:21; Mt 24:42; 26:36-46; Lk 21:36; 22:31,32; Acts 24:25; 2 Cor 2:11; Eph 4:27; 6:11; 1 Th 5:6-8; 2 Tim 4:17; Rev 12:9-12)

(9) Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

(Acts 14:22; Eph 6:11-18; Col 2:5; 1 Th 3:3; 2 Tim 3:12; Jas 4:7)

(10) And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace**, who has called you to **his eternal glory in Christ**, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

(Ps 18:32; Rom 8:28; 16:25; 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 4:17; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; 1 Th 2:12; 2 Th 2:17; 2 Tim 2:10; Heb 13:21)

(11) **To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

(Rom 11:36; Eph 1:20,21; 1 Tim 6:16; Jude 1:25; Rev 1:6)

Luther's Works –Vol. 30

8. *Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

“Here St. Peter gives us a warning and wants to open our eyes, and it would be worthwhile to write this verse in golden letters. Here you see what this life is and how it is portrayed, namely, that we should always wish we were dead. Here we are in the realm of the devil, not otherwise than if a pilgrim came into an inn where he knew that everybody in the house was a robber. If he had to go there, he would nevertheless arm himself and make the best provision possible. He would not sleep much. Today we are in this situation on earth, where the evil spirit is a prince, has the hearts of men in his power, and through them does what he pleases. This is terrible if one looks at it in the right way. Therefore St. Peter wants to warn us here to be on our guard. He acts as a faithful servant who knows what is going on here. This is why he says: “Be sober.” For those who

gorge, guzzle, and are sated sows are good for nothing. Therefore it is necessary for us to have this treasure with us at all times.

“Be watchful,” he says—not only spiritually but also physically; for a lazy body that likes to sleep after it has gorged itself full and guzzled will not resist the devil, because this becomes difficult even for those who have faith and are spiritual.

Why should we be sober and vigilant? Because “your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” The evil spirit does not sleep; he is cunning and malicious. He has determined to assail us, and he knows the right stratagem to employ to accomplish this. He prowls about like a hungry lion. He roars. He would like to devour everything. Here St. Peter gives us an excellent admonition, He reveals our enemy to us in order that we may be on our guard against him. Thus Paul also says (2 Cor. 2:11): “We are not ignorant of his designs.” But the prowling around takes place in such a way that he makes us careless. Then wrath, quarreling, pride, unchastity, and contempt for **God** follow.

Note well here that he says: “The devil prowls around” He is not in your sight when you are armed; but he looks in front and behind, inside and outside, for a place at which to attack you. When he attacks you here now, he soon rushes there and attacks you at another place. He hastens from one side to the other and employs all kinds of cunning and trickery to make you fall. And even if you are well armed at one place, he pounces on you at another place. If he cannot knock you down there either, he attacks you somewhere else. Thus he never ceases but goes all around and gives no rest anywhere. But we are fools and pay no attention to it. We go our way and are not watchful. Thus it is easy for him to gain ground.

Now let everyone pay proper heed to this. Everyone will notice something in himself. He who has tried it is well aware of it. Therefore we are miserable people to go along so heedlessly. If we look at it in the right manner, we should cry murder against life. Thus Job says (7:1): “Has not man a hard service upon earth, and are not his days like the days of a hireling?” Why, then, does **God** leave us in this life and misery? He does so in order that faith may be exercised and grow, that we may hasten from this life, that we may long for death and desire to die.

9. Resist him, firm in your faith.

You must be sober and vigilant, but in order that the body may be ready. But this does not yet vanquish the devil. It is done only in order that you may give the body less reason to sin. The true sword is your strong and firm faith. If you take hold of **God’s Word** in your heart and cling to it with faith, the devil cannot win but must flee. If you can say: “This is what **my God** has said, and I take my stand on it,” you will see that the devil will soon go away. Then aversion, evil lust, anger, greed, melancholy, and doubt all go away. But the devil is crafty and is unwilling to let this happen to you. He tries to wrest the sword from your hand. If he makes you lazy, so that the body becomes unfit and is inclined to rascality, he soon tears the sword out of your hand. This is what he did to Eve. She had **God’s Word**. If she had clung to it, she would not have fallen. But when the devil saw that she held **the Word** in such low esteem, he tore it from her heart, and she let it go. Thus the devil won.

Thus St. Peter has given us adequate instruction as to how we should fight against the devil. This does not require much running to and fro or any work you can do; it requires only that you cling to **the Word** through **faith**. **When the devil comes and wants to drive you into melancholy because of your sin, just take hold of the Word of God**, which promises forgiveness of sin, and rely on it. Then the devil will soon desist.”

LIFE APPLICATION

How can you be sober-minded, watchful, resist the devil and be firm in your faith?