

Daily Bible Study

“Living Carefree but Not Careless”

1 Peter 5:8

November 15-21, 2009

(Sermon notes & review from 2007)

THE LORD’S DAY – Introduction—If you would, take your Bibles and turn with me to **1 Peter** as we prepare to study together **1 Peter 5:8**. Let me read **verses 5-11** for context and then let’s pray before we begin. (**Scripture Reading**) (**Prayer**) If you can remember back to the past few sermons we had from **1 Peter** you will recall we were speaking about living life humbly and submissively under the mighty hand of God and also how we are to live without anxiety as we understand the Sovereignty of God in all things. Today we come to **verse 8** and will look at the matter of living “carefree” but not “careless” in this life. As I have said the previous verses command us as believers to live “*casting our care on Him...*” Although we are to put our “care” upon God Himself this does not mean we are to become lazy, slothful, or just plain just flippant or careless presuming upon God to “bail us out” when we need Him. God is there when we need Him but these verses teach us that God has commanded us to live attentively and carefully with our minds alert to the dangers from the enemy of our souls with all of his craftiness and deceit. We are also given instruction on how to battle sin and the enemy as we face them in this life. So in coming to **verse 8** I want us to see “2 Remedies for preventing Careless Living” as well as “1 Reason we can’t afford Careless Living”. Look with me now at **verse 8**.

The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Prayerfully read the text then ask God to both teach you from His Word this week and then give you opportunity to practice what you learn.

MONDAY – 2 Remedies for preventing Careless Living 1. Withstand (Be Sober)

Peter just finishing the thoughts of **verse 7** comes with its talk of casting our care upon God quickly moves to our responsibility when he gives the first instruction on how not to live “careless” in this life. He tells us to “*be sober*”. The word “sober” *nepho* {**nay'-fo**} in the Greek language means “to be calm and collected in spirit, to be temperate, dispassionate, and circumspect”. Physically it is used to speak of self-control concerning intoxication and it is also used in Scripture in a metaphorical sense (as it is here) to speak of discipline of mind and body to avoid the “intoxicating” allurements of the world one of which is to be anxious. In the primary context the “Care”, that is, *anxiety*, will intoxicate the soul; therefore be sober, that is, self-restrained. But we may broaden the command to “be sober” to include living a balanced and disciplined life in our thoughts and actions to avoid the sinfulness so prevalent in this fallen world. Remember these two commands (“*be sober*” “*be vigilant*”) go hand in hand. **John Gill** says, “sobriety and watchfulness are exceedingly necessary and useful in the Christian life; and the one cannot well be without the other: unless a man is sober in body and mind, he will not be watchful, either over himself or others, or against the snares of sin, Satan, and the world; and if he is not on his watch and guard, he is liable to every sin and temptation.” **Calvin** comments, “This explanation extends wider, that as we have war with a most fierce and most powerful enemy, we are to be strenuous in resisting him. But he uses a twofold metaphor, that they were to be sober, and that they were to exercise watchfulness. Surfeiting produces sloth and sleep; even so they who indulge in earthly cares and pleasures, think of nothing else, being under the power of spiritual lethargy.” How do we avoid Spiritual lethargy as Calvin calls it? We must “*be sober*” that is exercise “self control” as we withstand the enemy and sinful temptations, and remembering all the while that this control comes from God the Holy Spirit as we grow in grace and “*walk in the Spirit*”, “*being filled*” with Him, and this is accomplished by being saturated and obedient to His Word. (**Colossians 3:16**, **Galatians 5:16**, **Philippians 4:8**)

Suggestion for Prayer: O God, help me to “be sober” in my thoughts and my actions. Help me to meditate and think on You and Your Word.

TUESDAY – A great Biblical illustration of this point is found in the life of Moses. Moses was a man who had great privilege and opportunity to live a life of pleasure and sin. Being raised in the “house of Pharaoh” he undoubtedly had available to him all the sinful pleasures of this world. All the money, fame, luxury, sex, deviant desires, and carnal pleasures this sinful world could offer were freely available for him to partake of. The Scripture’s tell us an interesting fact about Moses and it is this: “*choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin...*” This is what it means to live “sober” and “withstand-careful”. Moses is a great hero of mine and one of the many reasons is the “self-control” and “sober” way in which he lived to the glory of God and by the grace of God, not living to feed his sinful lusts. **(1 John 2:15-16)**

Suggestion for Prayer: O God, help me live my life devoted to Your glory. Keep me by Your grace from destroying my life by the pleasure of sin.

WEDNESDAY – **2. Watch (Be Vigilant)**

This word gregoreuo {**gray-gor-yoo'-o**} continues to drive home the point we have been making as it literally means “to watch”. It also means metaphorically to “give strict attention to, be cautious, active, to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one”. We must stay alert and “watch” for the deceitfulness of sin and the enemy of our souls is out to destroy us. Again we are to remember that we are under the mighty hand of our Sovereign God but this in no way excuses us from living a life that is cautious and alert to the dangers of sin and we must continue in the grace of God to live giving strict attention to our thoughts and actions. **John Calvin**, “But we too often turn peace into sloth, and hence it comes that the enemy then circumvents and overwhelms us; for, as though placed beyond the reach of danger, we indulge ourselves according to the will of the flesh.” And again as we mentioned earlier this “vigilance” is only possible by daily walking in the Spirit and being “filled” by Him and His Word. There is something to be said about the condition of your soul by how you endure. Jesus commands “watchfulness” **(Matthew 26:41)**. The writer of Hebrews explains further the end result and consequences that come upon those who do NOT watch and are not enduring through “vigilance” **(Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:36-39)**.

Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you be watchful and vigilant as you live. Pray that He will keep you from “drawing back” and that He would take pleasure in your life as you endure for His glory and “believe to the saving of the soul”.

THURSDAY – **1 Reason you can’t afford Careless Living** **1. Warning**

In the remainder of **verse 8** Peter tells us the reason that we as believers need to have and exercise the traits he has been discussing (submission, humility, trust, self-control, vigilance). The reason is stated, “...*because your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*”. A person who becomes lazy and does not practice these traits outlined in Scripture can easily become a victim of the enemy. There is a real and significant reason we are to be alert to the Spiritual battle that rages; so we don’t become “a casualty of war”. Satan beguiled **Eve** in the pristine environment of **The Garden of Eden**, how much more we need to be aware here in this sin saturated, and self-seeking fallen world. Many more illustrations are available to us in Scripture of his attack on believers: **Job**-(directly assaulting him with God’s permission), **Peter**-(in the denial of Christ-**Luke 22:31-34**), **Paul**-(in **2 Corinthians 12**), **The Church at Smyrna**-(**Revelation 2**), and **The World**-(in the Great Tribulation). Because Satan is a real and dangerous enemy we must remember this imperative command to be alert, watchful, or vigilant **(Hebrews 6:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 3:5)**.

Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you remember the reality of our enemy the devil and to cultivate in you a love for His Word which equips us to fight this battle with success.

FRIDAY – Satan has been about his business as the enemy of God for a long time and he and his demons know how to attack and are relentless in their assault against God and His

people (**Daniel 10:10-13**). Peter calls Satan **your** “adversary” in this verse. This word simply means “opponent, enemy” and here it is used in a forensic sense (in a suit of law-a law adversary) {**Colossians 2:11-15**}. Satan is **your** opponent if you are born again and a child of God. He is viciously out to oppose not only God and His Holy Angels but also all of God’s people. Satan is an enemy to mankind in general, but more especially to the seed of the woman, to Christ personal, and to Christ spiritual, to all the elect of God. The term “devil” **diabolos** {**dee-ab'-ol-os**} means “to slander, falsely accuse”. Satan launches his relentless attack of slander and accusation both personally and through his demons as he night and day without rest assaults and attacks God’s people (**2 Corinthians 2:11**, **Zechariah 3:1**). He is called by our Lord, “*the ruler of this world*” and it is from this position as “*ruler*” of a fallen world contaminated and controlled by sin that he sets out against those who have been called and brought “*out of darkness and into His (God’s) marvelous light*” (**2:9**). We who once “*...were not a people but are now the people of God*” (**2:10**) are the primary targets of his hatred. (**Ephesians 2:1-3**, **1 John 4:4**).

Suggestion for Prayer: Thank You Father that although Satan may oppose us we are forever safe and secure in You. Help me to abide in You, safely “under the shadow of the Almighty”.

SATURDAY – Peter then gives us the picture of Satan who like a roaring lion, a fierce predator, hunts to kill. As **John Gill** says, “as a roaring lion; so called, both on account of his strength, and also because of his rage, malice, and cruelty, which he breathes out against the saints, who, though he cannot destroy them, will do all he can to terrify and affright them”. He “*roars*” to instill fear in the heart of the prey he seeks to “*devour*”. He “*walks about seeking...*” (**Job 1:7**). This word “*devour*” in the Greek language means to “drink down, to swallow” and this is precisely the goal of Satan; not only to injure or wound but to ultimately destroy, here he is pictured as eating his prey. Remember also that Satan does not always just cruise as the ferocious beast, the king of the jungle, roaring, he sometimes is much more subtle in his craft (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**). He attacks believers through enticing them with the sinful allurements of this world. He attacks marriage and families (1 Corinthians 7:3-5-withholding sexual intimacy). He attacks leaders of Christ’s church (1 Timothy 3:7-“*snare of the devil*”). The bottom line as to why we need to take warning and obey the Scriptures commands to “*be sober and vigilant*” is we have a great enemy, namely Satan who hates God and God’s people and has set as his goal the destruction of both. This war is detailed throughout the Scripture but praise be to God that we are assured as God’s people of the complete and final victory through Christ (**Revelation 12**).

Suggestion for Prayer: God, thanks for being the ONLY God. Praise You Father, Son, and Spirit that You alone are victorious and Sovereign. Thank You that victory for us is made possible through You and Your Gospel.