

### **Be on Guard Against the Devil's Temptations, vv.8-9**

- I. The call to sober-mindedness is a charge to have a right view and a sober estimation of this world in which we live because it's the devil's toolbox for temptations, Rom 12.2; Gal 6.14; 1Jn 2.16; 5.19.
  - A. Satan hides the hooks and snares of the majority of his temptations under the world's goods. And because of our fallen hearts, we easily become intoxicated with the things of this world, to our own hurt, cf. 1Tim 6.9; 2Tim 4.10.
  - B. We need to view the things of this world as God does and use the good things of life with sobriety and moderation, 1Cor 6.12.
- II. The call to watchfulness has in mind the sleeplessness of a sentinel who keeps watch all night long on the walls of a city.
  - A. We have an enemy seeking to devour us and we can't afford to grow lazy or negligent. We need to be watchful over our every thought, word, affection, and deed because Satan takes advantage of our negligence, Pr 4.23-37; Mt 26.41.
- III. The call to resist Satan builds upon our having placed ourselves under the Lordship of Christ. We're duty-bound to refuse Satan's temptations, to take our stand, and to resist Satan's efforts to lead us astray because he's our adversary, Js 4.7; Eph 6.11, 13-14; Mk 14.38.
- IV. Notice that this charge falls within the context of suffering, vv.9-10.
  - A. This means the real enemy in our suffering is not each other but the devil. He's the one stirring up jealousy, hatred, bitterness, resentment, and anger in the hearts of our enemies. He's the one trying to bring division into our marriages, families, and churches.
  - B. Whose face are you seeing on your suffering? God's, a person's, or Satan's? Against whom are you aiming your anger, bitterness, and hatred? Are you mad at God? Are you blaming men? Or do you see Satan's handiwork?
  - C. Be on guard Dear Ones, your adversary seeks to destroy you by hiding behind God and men. Don't be deceived, Js 1.16.

### **Stand Firm in Your Faith, vv.9, 12**

- I. This is a clear echo of Eph 6.10-14. Our overcoming resistance to the spirit of darkness begins with a firm stance in the faith.
  - A. This means believing what God says about suffering, 1Pet 1.6-7; Rom 8.28-29; 2Cor 4.16-18.
  - B. And it means believing what God says about Himself, Jer 31.3; 32.40; Gal 3.13; Rom 8.1; Heb 12.6-10.
- II. Peter's saying that if we stand firm in a believing embrace of these truths, then no suffering can ever hurt us and no furnace can ever destroy us.
  - A. Do you see what a powerful resistance you have against Satan's temptations when you submit yourselves under God's mighty hand with your faith firmly fixed on these truths (cf. v.12)?

- B. The faith we believe not only brings us into Christ's army, but it equips us to fight under His banner and enjoy His victory, Rom 8.35-39; Eph 6.10-13.

### **Take Heart That You're Not Alone, vv.9, 13**

- I. Peter says *the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world*. That means you're not alone.
  - A. You're not the first one who's gone through that valley and you're not the only one going through it now, cf. v.13; 2Tim 3.12; Jn 16.33; Acts 14.22.
  - B. That means your sufferings and temptations are appointed to you as Christians and members of the Body of Christ.
  - C. How wonderful, then, is the empathy which you can expect from one another, Rom 12.15; 2Cor 1.3-5.
- II. Notice Peter also says these sufferings are to be experienced in this world. Whatever good God intends to do us by the file, hammer, and furnace, their place is here, in this world. None of these things will be in the Heaven to which the Lord is bringing us, Rev 21.1-4.
  - A. We're being prepared like the stones of the temple in the quarry of this world so that when we come to glory, there'll be no more need for suffering, 1Kgs 6.7.
  - B. What an encouragement that should be to us in our daily battle!

### **Hope in God's Promise of Final Deliverance, vv.10-11, 14**

- I. Peter's closing benediction is backed by the God who gives it and has the power to do what He says, v.6; 1Pet 1.6-7.
  - A. Your suffering seasons are but for a time, 1.6. Even the longest suffering is only a passing moment compared to the eternity that awaits us.
  - B. The God who sits over all your suffering is the God of all grace, whose eye is upon you and whose ears are open to your prayers, 3.12.
  - C. The God who ordains your suffering has called you into His eternal glory in Christ, which means your sufferings won't have the last word in your life, but will strangely give way to God's final word concerning you, Rom 8.29; 2Cor 4.17; Jn 14.3.
  - D. The God who ordains your suffering will very soon restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you, because His hand is mighty and He can do it, v.6.
- II. And it's because these things are certain for all who believe, that Peter closes with the pronouncement of God's peace, v.14.
  - A. His peace is upon you even now, in the midst of your suffering (Jn 16.33; 1Jn 5.4), and will one day be your eternal dwelling place, Rom 8.16-17.

Let us, therefore, entrust our souls to our faithful Creator in a life of good works, even if we must suffer for it; because He is with us and will soon bring us into the eternal glory of all the sons of God, Jn 17.24; 1Pet 1.6-7; Heb 12.10-14.