

Sermon Notes

Casting Your Cares on Him. I Peter 5





Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

As Christians living in an increasingly hostile world system we are wise to heed Peter's warning concerning our adversary, the Devil. We minimize, in our thinking, his impact on us at our spiritual peril. Too often we are blind to the philosophies that create spiritual confusion and we fail to see his influence on our lives through the world system that he has controlled since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. By creating and using his flawed alternative to God's role in creation for we and our children to consume and believe, the adversary has made significant progress in damaging spiritual faith in our world views. Unfortunately even the Church has allowed such error to infiltrate her thinking.

We are constantly being subtly indoctrinated by everything from "science" lessons in school, to media stories, including animal shows that state as truth that chance and godless nature created the living world. Books that deny any supernatural role in creation become our school's textbooks. As a result, we are undermining our faith in the biblical explanation of creation, and we are making it almost impossible for our children to counter this onslaught of ideas contrary to God's Word.

Paul addresses these same conditions in the world of his time when he writes... ***For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:20-23***

Because these same issues related to man's failed attempts to eliminate God from consideration as the creator are still part of our world today, it becomes imperative that we are careful to teach our children the truth about God and His creation.

It is impossible to overestimate the negative influence these fictitious ideas have on the minds of people and even fellow Christians find themselves confused and defeated and then using their own spurious ideas to try to accommodate these heretical teachings they find themselves denying the inerrancy of God's Word. This process of compromise often takes them to the point that they create their own flawed stories of who God is and what He did as Creator God in the beginning. Paul warns the Colossian church about listening to such false philosophies.

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and

you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Colossians 2:8-10

It seems to be quite apparent that deception has been the most effective weapon that the adversary has in his arsenal. Since that first deception in the Garden of Eden, he has continued to bring challenge to God's Word with lies, distortions and vain corrupt philosophies with man being only too ready to accept them. We must, once again, heed Peter's call to be sober and vigilant. We must fill our hearts and minds with God's inerrant Word so that the distorted lies used by the world to deceive and captivate our thinking fall on ears that listen only to the Spirit of God as He leads us into the truth of the Word. The Apostle John declares... ***This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:5-9***

When we consider that the "roaring lion", a picture of a strong and powerful predatory enemy, is the way Satan is described by Peter, we must also acknowledge that we are indeed against an adversary that requires the power of God to be active in our lives in order to defeat his lies as we face the world in our daily activities. Paul tells us, in Ephesians 6, that we must put on the "armor of God" in order to be protected against the wiles of the devil. It includes truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, salvation and the sword of the Spirit. These are the protections that God has given His children so that they may safely stand in the evil day and be protected from the enemy's fiery darts of deception. Let's stand therefore in the Lord with great confidence in His provision against this "roaring lion", our enemy, the devil. Remember that Jesus has already defeated him. **Pastor Doug.**