

Introduction

The past year and a half has been unlike anything that I have ever seen in my lifetime in many respects. We are seeing so many things unfolding right before our eyes, many which have **END TIME IMPLICATIONS!**

If you know your **BIBLE**, you can clearly see that the table is being set, so to speak, for the world's acceptance of the coming **ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT** under the one the **BIBLE** calls **THE MAN OF SIN** and **THE SON OF PERDITION** in *2 Thessalonians 2:3—the ANTICHRIST!*

Now so much is happening in such a rapid fashion that if you don't know the **SCRIPTURE**, then **your heart is more likely going to be filled with FEAR rather than FAITH during these troubling times!**

There are so **MANY THINGS** going on in this world right now that might cause **FEAR** to well up in our hearts and minds:

- The **CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC** that has picked up steam again and is being used to **divide our country** and **bankrupt our economy!**
- The **AFGHANISTAN FIASCO** of this past week!
(terrorists = energized military = you tell me what they feel!)
- There are **MANY DISASTERS** that we are seeing both at home and abroad!
(*Fire, Floods, Storms, Earthquakes, Landslides, etc.*)
- **VIOLENCE** is on the increase! **THE RULE OF LAW** is on the **DECREASE!**
- **FREEDOMS** we once knew are being taken away and others are in danger of being taken away!

I could go on but I won't! So, what is happening? From a **Heavenly perspective**, things are falling in place for that which is prophesied in the **BIBLE!** From an **earthly perspective** I liken these things to the roar of the lion whose desire is to freeze us in **FEAR** to **DEVOUR** our lives!

Time is short...the one who is called the PRINCE OF THIS WORLD, the DEVIL, knows he only has a short time left and he is doing his dead level best to instill FEAR even in the lives of those who should be FULL OF FAITH and TRUSTING THE LORD! I am talking about BELIEVERS!

The **DEVIL** knows that if we are **FULL OF FEAR**, we will be **USELESS** to our **LORD!** And now, more than ever before, we need to be **FULL OF FAITH** as **GOD'S CHILDREN**, **NOT FULL OF FEAR** like the world!

I. WE SEE THE CALL TO BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY!
(Vs 5-6)

Humility Doesn't Have A Problem With Accountability! (Vs 5a)
Let me ask, do you have a problem when a **PASTOR** or even another **BELIEVER EXHORTS** you or **REBUKES** you in an area of your life where you know you need an **EXHORTATION** or **REBUKE?**
(*e.g. Such as, if you are slipping in your faithfulness in some area.*)

Now I know that in our **FLESH** none of us like **REBUKE**. But do you know that as **BELIEVERS**, we should both **give REBUKE** and **EXHORTATION** and **receive REBUKE** and **EXHORTATION** with **HUMILITY!** That is especially true the closer we get to the **LORD's** return! (The last of the last days are prophesied to be times of **APOSTASY**...i.e. People falling away from the **TRUTH!**)

Hebrews 10:24–25—*“24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

To be **“clothed with HUMILITY”** means we are to go about each day with an **HUMBLE attitude** whether we are on the **giving end** or **receiving end** of an **EXHORTATION** or **REBUKE!**
(*When you got up this morning and put on your clothes, did you remember to cloth yourself in HUMILITY as well?*)

Being **“clothed with humility”** is especially important in these difficult days when we are more likely to be **testy!**

We need to remember that a Brotherly or Sisterly **EXHORTATION** or **REBUKE** that comes our way may be **GOD'S** way of giving us an opportunity to **HUMBLE** ourselves before **HIM!** (*Vs 6*)

HUMBLING ourselves before **GOD** will result in **GOD'S** glory being manifested in and through our lives and in **GOD** lifting us up!

WE SEE THE CALL TO BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY...

II. WE SEE THE CALL TO CAST OUR CARES ON GOD! (*Vs 7*)

What a WONDERFUL INVITATION THIS IS!

A. The Initial Readers Of This EPISTLE Were Experiencing Some Difficult Trials!

1. **Peter Addressed The Trial Of Their Faith! (*1:5-7*)**
2. **Peter Addressed Them Enduring Grief And Suffering! (*2:19-21*)**
3. **Peter Addressed Them Suffering For Righteousness Sake! (*3:14-17*)**
4. **Peter Addressed Their Fiery Trials! (*4:12-16*)**

B. What Difficult Trials Or Cares Have You Been Through Lately Or Are You Going Through Right Now?

Don't allow yourself to be weighted down by those things, but rather cast those things on the LORD.

Hebrews 12:1-3—“1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds,”

C. We Don't Know What Trials Or Cares May Come Our Way Today Or In Our Near Future, But We Are Invited To Cast Our Care On GOD!

Matthew 11:28-30—“28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

THE CALL TO BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY...TO CAST OUR CARES ON GOD...

III. WE SEE THE CALL TO BE SOBER AND VIGILANT IN THE MIDST OF THE DEVIL'S ROARING! (*Vs 8*)

The **APOSTLE PETER** warns here about how the **DEVIL** goes about as a **ROARING LION** seeking to **DEVOUR** the lives of those who are **NOT SOBER** and **VIGILANT!**

Now, that is something that a **lost and dying world doesn't have a clue about, but we who are BELIEVERS SHOULD!**

Let me give you two illustrations here that may help us:

(e.g. Imagine that you are walking a path that you must walk... unbeknown to you, there is a LION along that path...you have no protection...you have no weapon and then as you are walking along the LION roars! Your first response would probably be FEAR followed by the unsavory things FEAR causes! And so you FALL PREY to the LION! The reason for you FALLING PREY is your lack of KNOWLEDGE that there was a lion and/or your lack of PREPARATION! (That is the first illustration!)

(e.g. Now imagine that you are walking the same path that you must walk...but this time with the KNOWLEDGE that a lion is known to roam the area and attack unsuspecting travelers on the path... However, with that KNOWLEDGE you are fully clothed with ARMOR from your dearest friend JESUS that HE has PROVIDED for you—an ARMOR that cannot be penetrated!

READY FOR THE DEVIL'S ROAR
1 PETER 5:5-11

*All you had to do is trust your **FRIEND JESUS** and put on the **WHOLE ARMOR HE** has provided for you which also includes a **WEAPON** — one that is sharper than any two-edged sword and you know how to use it because you have **HIS HOLY SPIRIT AS YOUR TEACHER** and have been learning how to use it for just this sort of occasion!*

*On top of that you have the **LORD JESUS** by your side that you have drawn near to and so **HE** has drawn near to you just like **HIS WORD** told you **HE** would do! Also, you have **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** living within you to **GUIDE** you and **EMPOWER** you as you walk in the **SPIRIT** rather than just the power of your own flesh! **JESUS** always accompanies you on your walk...and then you hear that lion roar! There is no need to **FEAR** because you are **PREPARED**... because you have been **SOBER** and you have been **VIGILANT** and have **STEDFAST FAITH** in the **ONE WHO** is **WITH** you and **WITHIN** you and **HIS SWORD** that you **POSSESS** you use it to **RESIST** that **LION** who then flees from you!*

Which of these scenarios is better for you? (Duh preacher!)

Listen to me closely, the **DEVIL** loves to instill **FEAR** in us to cause us to respond **WRONGLY** to life's changing situations in this world that is **FULL** of **TRIBULATION**!

JESUS said this to **HIS DISCIPLES** in *John 16:33*—“*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*”

But, if we are **NOT SOBER**, that is, of a **SOUND MIND**...or if we are **NOT VIGILANT**, that is **AWAKE** and **AWARE** to the **WILES OF THE DEVIL** or if we are **NOT ARMED** with the **WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**, then we are in trouble when the **DEVIL** tries to instill **FEAR** in our hearts with his **ROARING**!

What **ROARING** has he used to try to instill **FEAR** in your heart?

READY FOR THE DEVIL'S ROAR
1 PETER 5:5-11

So, what is a **PROPER RESPONSE** the **DEVIL'S ROARING**?

IV. **WE SEE THE CALL TO RESIST THE DEVIL STEADFAST IN THE FAITH!** (Vs 9)

Understand that this book was written by **PETER** to **BELIEVERS**! The **DEVIL** is wanting to **FILL BELIEVERS** with **FEAR** because if we are **FILLED** with **FEAR** our lives will be **DEVOURED** by that **FEAR** rather than being **FILLED** with **FAITH** so that we can **DEFEAT** him and be effectively used of **GOD**!

PETER says here that with regard to our **ADVERSARY THE DEVIL** we are to **RESIST** him **STEADFAST IN THE FAITH**! What that means is that **FAITH in the LORD** and **HIS WORD** is the path to **VICTORY** over **SATAN'S ATTACKS**!

There truly is **VICTORY IN JESUS**...**FAITH IS THE VICTORY** by which we can **OVERCOME** the world! This and other **SCRIPTURE** tells us that!

“**RESIST**” = That takes **EFFORT**, that takes **POWER**...where does our **POWER** come from as **BELIEVERS** to **RESIST**?

Ephesians 6:10 “*Be strong in the LORD and in the power of his might*”

It comes from the **LORD** by our **FAITH IN HIM AND OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD**!

James 4:6–8—“*6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*

We saw a couple of Sunday nights ago how that **JESUS RESISTED TEMPTATION** from the **DEVIL** with the **WORD OF GOD** to give us an example of how it is done!

“**STEADFAST**” = “**FIRM**”

It is the “*Neither give place to the devil*” of *Ephesians 4:27!*

It is the “*...and having done all, to stand.*” of *Ephesians 6:13!*

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We who are BELIEVERS have heard and **BELIEVED** the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST—HIS DEATH** for our **SIN, HIS BURIAL, and HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION!**

Now that we have REPENTED of our **SIN OF UNBELIEF** and **have turned to GOD**, we have the **FORGIVENESS** of our sins and are now saved once and for all by **GOD’S GRACE alone**, and **NOTHING** can ever change that! **HEAVEN** will be our **ETERNAL HOME!**

But that doesn’t mean that while we are still here on this earth that somehow we are exempted from our **ADVERSARY THE DEVIL ROARING** and trying to stir up **FEAR** in our hearts!

But listen, we are not alone in our struggle! *Verse 9b – “The same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren.”*

The consideration of the fact that we are not alone in our struggle should encourage us as we bear our own share in any affliction! (*e.g. How would you like to be a BELIEVER in Afghanistan or China?*)

2 Corinthians 4:17–18—“17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

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In *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*, Paul wrote a warning to the **CORINTHIAN CHURCH** and to us to not to be like the **ISRAELITES** were! They kept lusting after evil things and it cost them! They kept failing the **LORD** and kept falling into sin because they **REFUSED** to listen to the **LORD** and they **REFUSED** to **BELIEVE HIS WORD!**

Thankfully, **GOD** makes a **WAY TO ESCAPE** for us when **TEMPTATION** comes our way so that we will be able to bear it!

But that **WAY TO ESCAPE** is no good unless we are **LOOKING FOR IT** and **USE IT!** That’s where **FAITH** comes in! Taking **GOD** at **HIS WORD!**

1 Peter 5:10-11

Conclusion

Let me ask first in closing: If you were to die right now, are you 100% for sure that you are going to **HEAVEN?** If not, your greatest need is to come to the **SAVIOUR** today! Don’t delay!

Because listen, when **JESUS** comes back like **HE** promised **HE** would do...if you are not **IN CHRIST**, you will be left behind to go through what we know as **THE TRIBULATION PERIOD!** It will make all the **ROARING** of the **DEVIL** that we see today look like a tea party!

From what we see described in the **SCRIPTURES** I can tell you that you don’t want any part of it! **JESUS** is coming soon! Better get ready!

Now, if you do know the **LORD**...are you being **SOBER** and **VIGILANT**...**AWAKE** and **ALERT** or is your life being **DEVoured** because you are **FEARING** because of all of the **DEVIL’S ROARING?**

The **ROARING** is just going to increase in amount and intensity until the **LORD** returns to get us!

Draw near to the **SAVIOUR**...**CAST ALL YOUR CARE ON HIM**...learn from **HIM** how to **RESIST** the **DEVIL** whatever amount of **ROARING** that the **DEVIL** brings!