

Peter and His Epistles
Lesson #12: Our Enemy
1 Peter 5:9-10

I. Introduction: Some background information on Satan

- A. Satan is a created being (Col. 1:16). He was created as an angel.
- B. His fall from grace (and heaven) is outlined in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:2-19. (Looking beyond the descriptions of the King of Tyne and Babylon).
- C. His names / titles
 1. Satan (the accuser) Rev. 12:10
 2. The Devil - Matt. 4:1
 3. The Adversary – 1 Pet. 5:8
 4. The Prince of this World – John 12:31
 5. Father of Lies – John 8:44
 6. Beelzebub – Matt. 12:24
 7. Murderer – John 8:44
 8. Ruler of Darkness – Eph. 6:12
 9. Serpent – Gen. 3:4
 10. Tempter – Matt. 4:3
- D. He is the “god of this world.” (John 16:11, 2 Cor. 4:4) He rules over the earth until the end of times (Rev. 20).
- E. His power:
 1. To blind the minds of unbelievers 2 Cor. 4:3-4, 2:11
 2. To tempt us to sin Gen. 3:4-5, John 13:2, Matt. 4:3
 3. To slander or accuse us before God Job 1, Zech. 3:1, Rev. 12:10
 4. To cause us physical harm Job 2:7, Luke 9:42
 5. To snatch away the gospel as it is presented Matt. 13:19
 6. To contend with the saints Eph. 6:12
- F. However, he has limitations
 1. His knowledge is limited (1 Cor. 2:8)
 2. His power is limited (Job 1:6-12, 2:1-6)
 3. His influence will end (Rev. 12:9-10)

II. Peter's instruction regarding the devil (1 Pet. 5:8-10)

A. Watch out!

1. Peter is remembering:
 - a. Jesus' warning to him. Luke 22:31-32
 - b. Jesus' comment in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matt. 26:41
2. Be sober, be vigilant (be self controlled and alert!)
3. Consider the enemy
 - a. Adversary – "antidikos" This is an opponent in a law case. (But don't forget the advocate: 1 John 2:1-2)
 - b. Devil – "diabolos" This is the "malignant enemy of God and men."
4. Consider the behavior of the enemy
 - a. "walks about"
 - b. "seeking to devour"
 - 1) "katapino" literally means to swallow
 - 2) Illustrated: the Egyptian army was drowned (swallowed) by the Red Sea (Heb. 11:29)
 - c. "roaring"
 - 1) "oryomai" literally means to howl
 - 2) This is the only instance of its use in the scriptures. Will, hungry beasts howl...

B. Resist him!

1. Armor up! Eph. 6:10-18
 - a. Girdle of truth
See John 14:6 and John 17:17
 - b. Breastplate of righteousness
See Rom. 6:18, Gal. 5:16
 - c. Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
See Isa. 52:7
 - d. Shield of faith
See 2 Chron. 20:20, Heb. 11:6
 - e. Helmet of Salvation
See 1 Thes. 5:8

- f. Sword of the Spirit
See Heb. 4:12, Rev. 2:16
- 2. Guard your spirit! Eph. 4:27-27 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”
- 3. Submit yourself! James 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

III. So what?

Satan is a personal enemy who is diligently seeking to devour you and I! Pay attention!

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why does Satan love it if we consider him a guy in a red suit holding a pitchfork?
- 2. Who are the “flesh and blood” guys in Eph. 6:12? Who are the “principalities,” “powers,” and “rulers”? Do you recognize both in your life? Why? Why not?
- 3. How can you resist the devil, this week? Consider applying the armor of God in a renewed way.