

I Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, **submit** yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you **be subject** one to another, and **be clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the **humble**.

6 **Humble** yourselves therefore under the mighty **hand of God**, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 ¶ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Peter's topic throughout I Peter has been suffering - ours & the Lord's
 1. "The sufferings of Christ" – I Pe 1:11
 2. "Christ suffered for us" – I Pe 2:21
 3. "He suffered" – I Pe 2:23
 4. Christ also suffered for sins, the just for the unjust - I Pe 3:18
 5. Christ hath suffered for us – I Pe 4:1
 6. We are partakers of Christ's sufferings – I Pe 4:13
 7. The sufferings of Christ – I Pe 5:1
- B. The suffering of Christ gives Him unique claim to our life
- C. Houdini the magician had a signature act/trick that none could replicate in his day. Shackled upside down in a clear box filled with water.
 1. Called "The Chinese Water Torture Cell"
 2. During his lifetime and for many years after, he was the only man to perform the escape - he never failed even once
 3. He was extremely diligent to assure that everything was perfect
 4. The trick was so elusive to solve that believers insisted that Houdini actually dematerialized himself in order to escape.
- D. We have an adversary, the devil (I Pe 5:8) seeking to devour us – he is subtle (tricky). The trap is set, but will we escape or be devoured?
- E. We have an advocate who has given us guidance which will prevent us from being deceived and devoured – Jesus Christ the righteous.

II. THE PREDICAMENT – The devil's device (8)

- A. It is easy – common – for believers to cease loving the Lord
 1. All it takes is a sin, pleasure, desire, possession, or person which we find more desirable than we find the Lord
 2. Many of us are already in this predicament
- B. I know Christians who:
 1. Don't pray more than once or twice a week

2. Haven't read their Bible outside of church in a great while
3. Stopped tithing because they don't trust God and they think they need what belongs to Him in order to live
4. Prefer the company of the lost and the ungodly, and won't even make an effort to spend time in fellowship with believers
5. Have absolutely no concern for lost souls - never go visiting ever
6. Won't attend Sunday School or Wednesday prayer meetings
7. Think, act, talk, and dress just like the world!

C. These have been devoured – eaten up by the devil (8)

III. THE PRECAUTION – The believer's diligence

- A. Submission to those in authority over you (elders) – I Pe 5:5
 1. Allowing godly authority to change what we do
- B. Humility before God and man (5-6)
 1. Realizing how much we need Him
 2. Obeying what He says to do
- C. Freedom from care – all care given to him (7)
 1. Trusting God absolutely with every aspect of our life
 2. Leaving nothing in our care - giving ALL to God
- D. Sobriety and vigilance – alert, cautious, skeptical, careful (8)
 1. Realizing that the devil is after you, and not giving him opportunity to succeed
 - a. Who we associate with
 - b. What we watch and listen to
 - c. What we sacrifice
- E. Resist (9) by being stedfast in the faith
 1. It is not stedfast faith to worry all the time - lost to affliction
 2. It is not stedfast faith to cease to trust God with your money
 3. It is not stedfast faith to reject pastoral and godly counsel
 4. It is not stedfast faith to be unfaithful to church, Bible, prayer

IV. THE PROGNOSIS – the determined outcome

- A. All grace comes from God (10) - He is your only hope (believe it!)
 1. When you try to supply your own grace, you are devoured
- B. Christ suffered for you
 1. The devil didn't do that
 2. Your lost friends didn't do that
- C. Our suffering is temporary (10) – "a while"
 1. Peter has taught us to accept it
 2. It has a purpose - to stablish, strengthen, settle
- D. God will be glorified with or without us at His side, but woe to the man who seeks glory away from Him. (11)

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The devil's worst trick is to deceive us into ceasing to love God – when he succeeds, we are devoured.
- B. The Lord has made a way of escape, but we must follow His plan
- C. The result is in our hands, but God will be glorified in any event