

Exegesis of I Peter 5:5-12



I. The backdrop for I Peter is severe persecution!

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to prove you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partaker’s of Christ’s sufferings; that when his glory is revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part, he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified”-I Peter 4:12-14.

Timothy Matter’s phone call Friday morning!

II. Exegesis of the passages

A. Subjection and humility-verses 5&6.

“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.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

1. Subjection and humility have always gone “hand-in-hand!”

“And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.

*But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him”-
Luke 7:29 & 30.*

Though the words subjection and humility are not found in these verses, the thought is!

People who have obeyed the gospel and are following the Lord are humble individuals who have submitted to Him!

The “bottom-line-reason” that people do not obey the gospel is because they refuse to submit to God and His word!

2. There is a time for all Christians to humble themselves and submit to one another!

“Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility”-verse 5b.

“Gird yourselves with humility to serve one another”-verse 5b, ASV.

I can never read this verse, or another one like it without thinking of the Lord’s humility displayed in the washing of the apostle’s feet-see John 13:1-17.

*“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”-
Matthew 20:28.*

**BRETHREN, THINK OF THE MAGNITUDE OF
THE LORD’S SUBMISSION FOR YOU AND ME!!
CHRISTIANS ARE TO GIRD THEMSELVES WITH
HUMILITY AND BE SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER!**

B. Christians are to cast their cares upon the Lord.

“Casting all your care (merimnan) upon him; for he careth (meli) for you”-verse 7.

1. Remember that Peter has just spoken about humbling our selves before God in verse 6.

The point I’m making here is that prayers come from individuals who are humble.

2. However, it’s possible for a proud person to “pray” to the Lord-see the record in Luke 18:9-14.

God will not hear such a prayer!

3. The Greek word “merimnan” has within it the idea of being deeply concerned about something—a distracting care!

4. Paul had these “deep concerns” about all the churches.

“Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care (merimna) of all the churches”-II Corinthians 11:28.

5. All the things that are “worrisome” to God’s children are to be brought to the Lord!

6. When something is of deep concern to the individual Christian, that thing is to be “cast to the Lord,” because He is deeply concerned about that person’s needs!

“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings. And not one of them is forgotten before God?”

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows”-Luke 12:6 & 7.

C. Christians are to be sober and vigilant.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”-verse 8.

1. The thought in the verse is that God’s people are to, “be alert and on guard!”

2. The reason is because our opponent, the devil, is constantly watching for an opportunity to devour Christians!

3. Question: If we were in a “land of roaring lions,” would we be on constant lookout, and taking every precaution not to be devoured by those lions?

“Neither give place to the devil”-Ephesians 4:27.

The Christian should never give an opportunity for the devil to get a “wrestling hold” on him and bring him down in defeat!

Isn't that what Judas did?

Isn't that what David did when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and killed Uriah with the sword?

Christians don't have to “fall prey” to the devil!

We must constantly be on guard and watchful so as not to give opportunity for the devil to defeat us!

SATAN IS TO BE RESISTED:

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

James reminds the Christian if he will resist the devil, he will flee from us-see James 4:7.

All Christians should be aware of the fact the devil won't be gone long! He will return and try and get us off-guard!

CHRISTIANS RESIST THE DEVIL BY BEING “ROCK-SOLID,” OR “UNWAVERING” IN THE FAITH!!

D. God gives assistance to Christians as they struggle against the devil and the world!

“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”-verse 10.

It would be a fair and accurate summary of the verse to say that God will fully equip us and strengthen us so that we become “immovable” from Him and His word!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”-I Corinthians 15:58.

E. Christians are to glorify God forever!

“To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”-verse 11.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all the ages, world without end. Amen”-Ephesians 3:20 & 21.

F. Christians must realize that God’s word is the true grace of God!

“I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand”-verse 12.

**CHRISTIANS MUST ABIDE IN THE TRUTH,
WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
OF GOD'S WORD!!**

**AND, THAT MEANS THE TOTAL, REJECTION OF
DENOMINATIONAL DOCTRINE!!**