

Parting Words

1 Peter 5:8-14

Intro

- [expand — talk about the phrase “Define your terms.”]

The three terms that I will define for our study today are — ***sobriety, expectancy*** and ***finale***...

sobriety — *the state of being serious, thoughtful and calm; being in one’s right mind; understanding reality as it actually is...*

expectancy — *a state of anticipation and hope for something in the future...*

finale — *the close or termination of something, such as the finale of a symphony...*

- These three words — ***sobriety, expectancy, and finale*** — will be our section headings as we move through the last six verses of Peter’s first letter...

So, if you would please follow along as I read our passage...

1 Peter 5:8-14

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

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Let's move into our first section...

1) Sobriety (vs 8-9)

8 Be sober,

The idea behind **Be sober** is of ***being calm and collected in spirit, to be well-balanced and self-controlled...***

- As stated earlier, to be sober is to be ***serious, thoughtful and calm; to be in one's right mind; to understand reality as it actually is...***

[ex. The life of the Lord Jesus — was always in control of Himself — He knew who He was, what He was doing, and where He was going...]

Sadly, the most common problem that I see among professing Christians is that *they do not live sober lives...*

- They are unable to *control situations* — life does not go the way that they want it to go and *they are angry about this thing* and *outraged about that thing...*

This inability to get one's own way leads to discontent and depression because things are not going the way "they are supposed to go"...

- And this has been my story *off and on* for years — I have been one of these believers who failed to be sober — and this lack of sobriety had nothing to do with alcohol...

It had to do with ***choosing*** to live under *the influence of this fallen world* and *my own fallen desires* instead of ***living under the righteous influence of the Holy Spirit...***

- But, to be honest, I have grown tired of that sort of life — I am refusing — one day at a time — and even moment by moment — to live that sort of life any longer...

I want to live soberly so that I might ***please the Lord*** and so that I might ***lead others rightly...***

- Because we must understand — if we are failing to live in spiritual sobriety then we are endangering those who we are leading...

- [ex. If you are intoxicated with alcohol and you drive a car full of people then you are a danger to the people in the car and to anyone else you encounter on the road...]

In a similar, yet spiritual manner, all who fail to be sober-minded spiritually are a danger to those that they influence directly and to those who encounter them...

And the answer to this problem is two-fold...

- First of all, **choose** to be sober-minded — choose to obey the Holy Spirit's instruction through the Apostle Peter and **Be sober...**

Choose to let go of your desire for control and simply submit to the Word of God and trust that God is good and that obedience to Him is the best possible course...

- [ex. Going through **Renovation of the Heart** with a group of guys at work — incredible guide if you are serious about becoming sober-minded...]

Secondly, remove yourself from the influence of those who are refusing to walk in spiritual sobriety...

- We are failing to love professing believers when we simply listen to their gossip and their complaining...

If we choose to be an audience for their discontent then we are actually encouraging their ungodly behavior...

And I know this to be true from personal experience...

The people who have helped me most in life have been believers who rebuked me for my ungodly attitudes...

- They were the ones who refused to go along with my skewed perspective and instead set me straight...

I didn't like it in the moment but I am very grateful for it now...

Now, when it comes to professing believers who are refusing to walk soberly in the Spirit, the words of Proverbs 6 should have a sobering affect...

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

**16 These six things the LORD hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:**

**17 A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,**

**18 A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,**

**19 A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.**

- The simple truth is that *sowing discord among the brethren* — seeking to cause division in the fellowship of believers — is something that the Lord ***hates***...

Those who seek to *disrupt the fellowship of believers* are failing to **be sober** and are instead walking in active disobedience to God...

And since I have witnessed sort of thing again and again throughout my years as a believer, please allow me to give some clear pastoral advice that will work for any Christian fellowship...

If you do not like what is going on in a fellowship — if you do not agree with the leadership and you have followed the Matthew 18 model and cannot get resolution...

- Then simply leave that fellowship and find a fellowship where you can trust the leadership...

However, if instead you leave that fellowship and then try to get others to leave then you are doing ***something that God hates*** — ***you are sowing discord among the brethren...***

- For as long as I have been a Christian I have seen this sort of thing take place again and again — ***and it is always wrong*** — and it is always something ***that God hates...***

You see, the simple truth is that a Christian fellowship is a family and all families have faults and flaws...

- But if you choose to leave the family of a fellowship — and that is absolutely your choice — you should not try to sneak around and blow up the fellowship that you left...

Instead, trust that the Lord is in control and He will set things right as He sees fit...

- It is not our job to manage the lives of other people — we are called to simply follow the Lord Jesus wherever He might lead...

I love the example that we have in...

John 21:21-22 (NKJV)

21 Peter, seeing [John], said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

May we each walk soberly — getting our eyes off of other people — and instead simply follow Jesus...

Moving on now in 1 Peter 5:8, Peter instructs believers to...

be vigilant;

The word **vigilant** carries the idea of being *awake and watchful* — *of being on guard; being spiritually alert...*

*This same Greek word is translated **watch** in...*

Matthew 26:40-41 (NKJV)

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

*Now, as we move on in 1 Peter 5:8, the Apostle Peter gives the reason why we are to be **sober** and **vigilant**...*

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

As believers, we are to be **sober** and **vigilant** because we have an ***active enemy who is incredibly dangerous...***

- [expand — the entirety of the Christian life is lived behind enemy lines — the Christian life is a battleground and not a playground...]

We must come to grips with the reality that the devil is a very real and very dangerous enemy who should not be taken lightly...

- In fact, the Lord Jesus referred to the devil as the “***ruler of this world***” and Paul referred to the devil as the “***god of this age***”...

And the Apostle John wrote these words in...

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

With this in mind, we look once again at 1 Peter 5:8, where Peter refers to the devil as **your adversary**...

- And since Peter is writing to believers then **we** are the **your** referred to — the devil is your adversary — he is my adversary...

adversary — *opponent in a lawsuit; one who is continuously antagonistic to another...*

- [ex. person who continually seeks to ruin your life through lawsuits...]

the devil — *slanderer; one who falsely accuses and divides people...*

Please understand, when professing Christians *slander* and *divide*, they are doing the devil's work for him...

- [ex. Peter himself fell into the trap of working for the devil when he tried to get Jesus to avoid the cross...]

Mark 8:33 (NKJV)

But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Now, if accidentally working for the devil can happen to Peter — then it can happen to you and me...

- And this is why we must remain **sober** and **vigilant**...

Continuing on in vs 8 we see that the devil...

walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- [expand — picture of a lion moving about in search of prey — roaring with hunger — seeking to swallow his prey...]

seeking — *actively trying to find someone; pursuing...*

- [ex. movie where the bad guy is actively trying to find and kill the hero...]

The reality that Peter is conveying is that ***the devil is a very real danger...***

- Unfortunately, most of the world — including believers — seem either ***ignorant*** or ***unconcerned*** about the danger that he presents...

[expand — you cannot *take the Bible seriously* and at the same time *ignore the devil and the demonic...*]

The Apostle Paul makes this clear in...

Ephesians 6:11-12 (NKJV)

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

So, we are to be **sober** and **vigilant**, knowing that we have a very really enemy who is seeking to destroy us...

And this knowledge should not cause us to run from the battlefield but instead Peter writes in vs 9 that we should courageously...

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

resist him — *to withstand, to be firm against; and the idea is defensive rather than offensive...*

In other words, we don't go out looking for the devil — we simply follow Jesus and resist the devil when the devil comes against us...

- The simple truth is that as believers we are called to **deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ...**

As we live this way, *we will be attacked by the demonic* — and when those attacks occur we are to *resist those attacks in the power that God provides...*

- And the best way to resist is to continue to walk in Spirit-empowered obedience — to simply keep doing what the Lord has called you to do...

James 4:7 (NKJV)

...submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

As we submit to God in obedience, we will be empowered to resist the devil and he will eventually flee from us until a more opportune time...

Peter continues in vs 9...

Resist him, steadfast in the faith,

steadfast — *strong, firm, immovable...*

in the faith — *we are to resist the devil by remaining firm in the one true faith — we are to be steadfast by continuing to trust in the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints...*

- [ex. soldiers who have taken an oath and who would rather die than break their oath — that is to be the sort of believers that we are to be...]

Now, it is important that our faith is not merely a set of intellectual beliefs that we give mental assent to...

- Instead, our faith is in a **Person** — ***the Lord Jesus Christ*** — and we are to remain steadfast in our allegiance *to Him*...

As we are sober and vigilant we will choose to continue to follow Him — to remain loyal to Him no matter what opposition we face...

This was the heart of the Apostle Paul as he faced persecution...

Acts 21:13 (NKJV)

Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Let's move now from Sobriety to our second section...

2) Expectancy (vs 10-11)

expectancy — *a state of anticipation and hope for something in the future... (near future or far future)...*

10 But may the God of all grace,

This phrase carries the idea that *God is the source of all spiritual comfort and help for every occasion...*

I love what Paul writes in...

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

- In other words, God is able to provide you with all you need to carry out what He has called you to do!...

“God’s calling is God’s enabling”...

With this in mind, please choose to step out in faith, asking God to empower you to faithfully **walk out** what He has **worked in**...

Because it is a **choice** to walk it out — if we are to walk it out we must have an **active faith** — we must respond to the Lord’s **calling and empowering with our obedience**...

I love how the Apostle Paul referred to this active participation that we have with Christ as we walk out our faith...

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Continuing on in 1 Peter 5:10 we read...

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus,

called — *to call to someone in order that they may come or go somewhere...*

And we see here that **the God of all grace has called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus...**

The Lord Jesus has made the way — He is the gate — He is the door — He has made it possible for us to both enter into God's glory and to become participants in God's eternal glory...

- This is our ***expectation*** — not only that we will *witness the fullness of God's glory* — as mind-blowing as that will be — but that we will be ***participants in that glory...***

That we will in some way — a way that is not clear to us now — that we will be ***sharers of the glory of God!!!...***

This incredible truth is written of in...

Romans 8:18 (NKJV)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...

So, this is our expectation for life after death — what we might call our *far expectation* — that we will both *revel in God's glory* and *be sharers of that glory as well...*

- But we not only have this *far expectation* — we still have expectation for this life — we have a *near expectation...*

Even though we will still have trouble as Peter makes this clear in vs 10...

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

The words **a while** here in vs 10 are literally “*a little while*” — reminding us that *the suffering that a believer endures is just for a little while...*

- For the believer, no pain is permanent — this life is as close to Hell as we will ever get — and *for us the best is yet to come...*

But even as we go through seasons of suffering — we have the *near expectation* that God will **perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle** us...

perfect — *the placing of parts into right relationship and connection with one another...[expand on being fit for service...]*

establish — *to cause to be inwardly strong or committed...*

strengthen — *to strengthen; to make strong...*

settle — *to provide a secure basis for the inner life and its resources...*

This is what God will do for believers — He will **perfect, establish, strengthen** and **settle** us...

- So, if you and I are not experiencing this **perfecting, establishing, strengthening** and **settling** then ***we should go to the Lord immediately and ask Him to work in our lives...***

But we must remember that God will do this work in our lives only as we offer ourselves up to Him as humble servants...

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We must remember that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble — as we humble ourselves before the Lord and He will work in your lives...

Let's move on to 1 Peter 5:11...

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- [expand on giving God glory forever and ever — recognizing God's dominion (rulership) forever and ever...]

We line up with reality when we choose to praise God and recognize His righteous authority at all times...

This brings us to our final section...

3) Finale (vs 12-14)

In these final 3 verses, Peter wraps up the letter...

12 By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly,

- [expand — Silvanus (most likely Silas) was the one who penned this letter as Peter's amanuensis...]

exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

exhorting — *encouraging believers to continue in the faith...*

testifying — *witnessing to the truth...*

exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

Peter was encouraging the believers to continue on in the grace of God — no matter what difficulties they faced...

- [expand on the tendency to exchange the true grace of God for something that seems to make more sense...]

13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you;

- Peter referring to the church in Babylon?...

and so does Mark my son.

- This is John Mark, the author of the Gospel of Mark — Peter's son in the faith...

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

- Kiss on the cheek — sign of affection — we won't be staring this here...

Conclusion

This brings us to the end of 1 Peter...

And as we close this study and this letter, I would encourage each of us to...

Walk in sobriety because we have a very real enemy in the devil — and he is seeking to devour us — but we should resist him, steadfast in the faith...

- ***May we live in the far expectancy that one day we will both revel in God's glory and be sharers of that glory ourselves...***

May we live in the near expectancy that God is able to perfect, establish, strengthen and settle us as we humbly submit to Him...

- ***May we remind ourselves that today we are one day closer to this life's finale...***

So may we live sober and vigilant lives as we run our race looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...