

CHALLENGES TO OUR SECURITY IN CHRIST

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Text. 1 Pet. 5:8-11 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 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. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION:

A. We hear a lot about security- home security, homeland security, social security.

A. However, one of the greatest blessings we have as Christians is our security in Christ.

C. We must constantly be aware of the challenges to our security

1. The popular doctrine of the impossibility of Apostasy gives a false sense of security.

2. Satan is always making attempts to rob us of the security we have.

3. We are secure but it depends on us- 2 Pet. 1:5-11 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

D. Let's notice some ways in which our security in Christ can be and in fact is challenged.

BODY: (All of these from 1 John)

I. THE CHALLENGE OF PERSONAL SIN- 1 JN. 1:6-2:2 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

A. It is possible for a child of God to sin- 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1. All have sinned- Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

2. Sin will lead to bondage- Rom. 6:16-18 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

B. If we sin, we have an advocate- 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

1. Conditional on walking in the light- 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. We must be penitent- 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

II. THE CHALLENGE OF WORLDLINESS- 1 JN. 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

A. God has given many warnings against worldliness.

1. Rom. 12:1-2 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. 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.

2. Jas. 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world

3. Jas. 4:4 (NIV) You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

4. 1 Jn. 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world

B. There are things more important than worldly things.

1. The world passes away- 1 Jn. 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

2. Matt. 6:33 "seek ye first the kingdom. . ."

3. Our eternal reward will be greater than this world- 1 Pet. 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

III. THE CHALLENGE OF NOT LOVING ONE ANOTHER 1 Jn. 3:11-18 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

A. Not loving others leads to sin.

1. Example of Cain- 3:12

2. Without love we know not God- 1 Jn. 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

3. God commands us to love- 1 Jn. 2:3-4 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

B. Follow the example of God's love.

1. We ought to love one another because God loves us- 1 Jn. 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

2. He gave His son.

a. 1 Jn. 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

b. Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3. Jesus loved enough to die- Rom. 5:6-8 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die;

yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

IV. THE CHALLENGE OF FALSE TEACHING- 1 Jn. 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

A. God warns against false teachers.

1. Matt. 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

2. Acts 20:28-30 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

B. Let us always be on guard.

1. 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2. 2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

3. How can I tell? Acts 17:10-11 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

CONCLUSION:

A. Satan is trying to challenge our security in Christ- 1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour

B. Our best defense is the Word of God.

1. Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord

2. Psa. 119:11 "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you."