

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

Beware of Lions

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8

We all have seen the sign “Beware of Dog.” This is a stark warning from someone who is familiar with the threat and potential harm that this dog may do to us. The sign alerts us to the danger that is behind the warning. The word beware derives from two Middle English words, been and war. It literally means “to be on one’s guard.” It amazes me the number of people who are believers who totally ignore this warning from Peter in this passage of scripture. This is a huge warning sign to the believer. There is not a dog on the other side of Peter’s warning but a lion. A lion can do far more damage to you than a dog. This is a stark warning to believers to be on guard. In this scripture the Lord uses the lion as a natural example of how the devil operates. If we take heed to His example we can learn what to look for and how to be on guard against this adversary. There are many things we can learn. I will only point out three. First of all He says a roaring lion. This is a lion that means business. He is not a cub. This lion is not to be played with or taken lightly. You cannot pet the devil. Lions have been known to stalk and kill humans. The devil is on the prowl looking for prey. Jesus reminds us that the thief comes to kill, steal and destroy. This is not a wrestling match where you get to go home when it’s over. He is trying to kill you. Secondly, lions attempt to scare their prey and cause them to flee from their place of safety. They frequently hunt at night and are opportunist, looking for the old, young, sick, weak or distracted. Believers should be careful the hours and the places they frequent. I know many believers who stop going to church or seeking God when they are going through difficult times? This move away from the safe place is exactly what the devil wants you to do. Stay in the safe place. Finally, the lion kills by suffocating its prey. The lion will grab its prey by the neck and strangle it until it dies. There have been so many times in my life when I didn’t feel like praising the Lord. The pain was so deep I just didn’t feel it. What I didn’t realize was, I had been caught by the neck and life was being sucked out of me. I remained silent and said nothing. If I would have continued to be quiet, I would not be able to encourage you today. I had to get past the pain and praise Him despite it. Then I was set free. Today, I make myself praise regardless of the feeling because the devil will never have me by the neck again. It would have been so easy for Paul and Silas to remain silent in the Philippian jail. He realized that he was not going to give this lion a victory. They began to sing praises to the Lord and the enemy HAD to release them. Glory to God! Today Beware of Lions. Make is a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill