

1 Peter Part 19 of 20
PERSECUTION
HOPE
ENDURANCE
Engaging Our Adversary

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
 Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- How often **do** you think about Satan? How often **should** you think about Satan?
 Is Satan **only** behind bizarre, occult experiences—or is he also involved in ordinary, mundane sin?
 What does **the Bible** teach?
- Read 1 John 2:15-17. [**Note:** In biblical terminology, sometimes "the world" refers to people—whom God loves (see John 3:16)—while at other times (such as here) it refers to forces which oppose God.]
 Remember the most fundamental rule of interpretation: **"Context is King!"**
 List the three entities found in v. 16 we must not "love" (ie. "have allegiance to").

How do these three "allies" work together to drive a wedge between us and God (see v. 15b)?
 How have you personally experienced this dynamic?

- Read Mark 4:3-20. What does the **seed** represent (see v. 3 and 14)?

What does the **soil** represent ("These are the ones...", v. 15, 16, 20, and "Others are the ones", v. 18)?

What do the **birds** represent (v. 4 & 15)? Birds fly over **all four** soils—**why** is Satan able to steal seed **only** from the **hard-packed** footpath soil? What is a **hard heart** like (Ephesians 4:17-19)?

Although Satan is not mentioned in soils 2-4 (v. 16-20), what role do you think he plays in **their** lives?

Review the description of all four soils (see Sermon Summary). Which soil best represents you?

- Read 1 Peter 5:6-9. **What** are you doing to ...
 ...humble yourself under God's hand?
 ...sober your spirit and stay alert?
 ...resist Satan, firm in your faith?

Are you losing your spiritual battles?
 Let a biblical counselor help you!
 Write to: counseling@tcc.org

Application-Challenge

- Recognize Satan's existence and activity; resist him.
- Remember that you are not alone in this fight—and that there will be an end to this struggle!

Sermon Summary

Key Text: 1 Peter 5:8-14

In his first epistle, Peter tells us not to be surprised by our trials. It's interesting that he doesn't take the time to commiserate with his readers, nor does he offer advice on how to avoid suffering and pain. Instead, he reminds us that trials are part of living in a fallen world, and if you are a Christian, you can expect pushback and opposition from our culture. However, Peter also reassures us that God provides rich benefits for those who patiently endure suffering in the world.

The truth is that without some opposition in life there would be little spiritual growth at all. Character traits like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control often grow out of adversity. When suffering plagues us, our tendency is to think that God has abandoned us, but Peter reassures us that there is every reason to believe that God is there, sovereignly working in and through our suffering to make us more like His Son. Our problem is that we don't understand the role that God has appointed pain and trials to play in our lives.

According to the Scriptures, the culprit for much of the world's pain and suffering comes from Satan, our primary adversary. God calls us to press close to Him, to trust Him and to respond in an honorable way during times of trial. On the other hand, Satan will try to use our struggles to pry us away from God. And we tend to respond to trial in one of two ways: by turning to God or turning from Him.

In our passage today, Peter opens our spiritual eyes to the spiritual battle that rages around us and in the process provides some advice on how to keep Satan from gaining victory in our lives. As he draws his letter to a close, he turns our attention from a call to humility to a call to resistance, from a call to cast our anxieties upon God, to a call to take up arms against our adversary the devil.

Peter offers insight to help us identify our adversary, and advice on how to fortify ourselves against him.

I. Recognize Satan's Existence and Activity

Satan exists and is working in the world to oppose God and His people. He is a formidable yet subtle enemy whose strategy is to counterfeit whatever God does. He would thoroughly deceive us were it not for the Word and Spirit of God. His goal is to devour us: our marriages, children, families, churches, joy and Christian testimony. In Jesus' parable of the sower and the seeds, (Mark 4:13-20) we see following responses to the Word of God as illustrations of Satan's tactics of diversion in the human heart:

- Immediate rejection
- Reception followed by rejection in the face of trials
- Reception followed by rejection in the face of temptation

II. Resist him by using the Word of God

Satan is to be respected but not feared because his power is limited. Resistance implies an active, determined opposition which Jesus demonstrated when he was tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). We resist Satan by answering his attacks with the truths of God's Word.

III. Remember that you are not alone in this fight—believers, throughout time, have taken a stand for Christ in resisting our adversary, and will continue to do so.

IV. Know that there is an end to this struggle—Jesus will return to make all things right.



**SOUTH WAKE
BIBLE
INSTITUTE**

**“Help the Hurting, Share the Shepherding”
Fall 2019**

- Which problems does God's Word address?
- How do past experiences shape our lives?
- What is the source of conflict and quarrels?
- Does the Bible give hope for depression?
- When should I speak up to a struggling friend?

12-week course taught by Pastor Dan

- Experience personal growth.
- Learn how to disciple others.
- **Begins Tomorrow Night!**

“Help the Hurting, Share the Shepherding”

Our churches are full of hurting people. They struggle with marriage, depression, loneliness, anxiety, anger, wayward children, and so much more. They need someone to walk beside them and help them gain biblical perspective and hope to resolve their problems. But pastors can't do it all. Learn how people change, how to ask better questions, and how to connect the riches of Scripture to the problems of life. Your advice and conversations can be wiser and can touch the hearts of those you love.

Monday Evenings, 7–9pm / September 9—December 9, 2019

\$100 covers tuition and all books and materials

Classes held in Fuquay-Varina (at Wake Chapel Church)

For more information, go to: southwakebible.org

Last Chance!

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page to the left) is a simple way to study any passage.
Let's use it to study spiritual warfare...

Monday— Ephesians 6:10-12

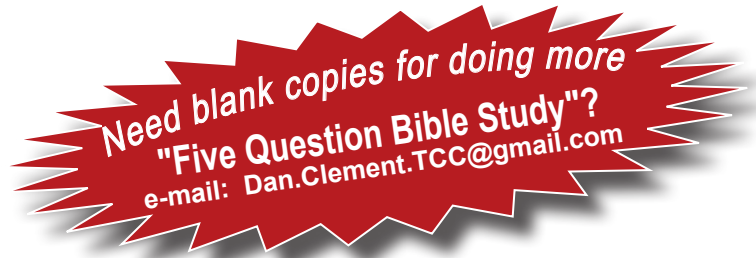
Tuesday— Ephesians 6:5-9

Wednesday— Ephesians 6:1-4

Thursday— Ephesians 5:22-33

Friday— Ephesians 2:1-16

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshiping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** read through 1 Peter.



Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]