

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 9, for Sunday, December 16, 2001

**And after you have suffered for a little while,
the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.**

To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:10 NAS

The Outline

IV. Divine love as a guide in church life (5:1-5:11)

A. Elders to rule in love (5:1-5:7).

B. The Devil to be resisted through divine grace (5:8-5:11).

V. Closing salutations and benediction (5:12-5:14)

The Argument

Do the right thing! Those of you who lead the congregation must do so with a proper attitude. Avoid the conflicts of interest which make it even appear that your motives might not be right. Avoid the plague of pride. Do all that you do from a pure motive. Love those whom you serve through your leadership, and lead them by example.

Do the right thing! Those of you who do the work of the congregation must do so with a proper attitude. Avoid the conflicts of interest which make it even appear that your motives might not be right. Avoid the plague of pride. Do all that you do from a pure motive. Love those whom you serve through your work, and serve them by example.

Do the right thing! Do not try to exalt yourself; God will do it for you, in His own sweet time. Worrying doesn't help matters any, even if you are very good at worrying. Take all those problems to the Lord. Thoroughly resist all of the tempter's devices, as these testings are common to all Christians. The Lord Himself has called you for this purpose, and is working in you and through you toward His perfection.

Do the right thing!

The Key Words

Elder: πρεσβύτερος -- (a) old man, (b) elder: an adult male advanced in years - 'old man.' Examples: 'I am an old man and my wife also is advanced in years'; Lk 1.18 'your old men will dream dreams' Ac 2.17.

Witness: μάρτυς -- (a) witness; (b) martyr: (derivative of μαρτυρέω 'to witness,') a person who witnesses - 'witness, one who testifies. Example: 'in order that everything may be confirmed on the basis of what two or three witnesses say' Mt 18.16.

Humble: ταπεινός -- (a) make low; (b) level off; (c) make low; (d) make humble; (e) embarrass: to cause something to become low in height Example: 'all hills and mountains shall be made low' Lk 3.5.

Devil: διάβολος -- (a) Devil; (b) demon; (c) slanderer; (d) wicked person: (a title for the Devil, literally 'slanderer'); Σατανᾶς (a borrowing from Aramaic; a title for the Devil, literally 'adversary'): the principal supernatural evil being - Examples: 'he seized the dragon ... that is, the Devil or Satan' Re 20.2; 'to be tested by the Devil' Mt 4.1.

Resist: ἀντίστημι -- (a) be hostile toward; (b) resist: to oppose someone, involving not only a psychological attitude but also a corresponding behavior - 'to oppose, to be hostile toward, to show hostility.' Examples: 'when they opposed him and said evil things about him' Ac 18.6. It may be that in some languages one can best render ἀντιτάσσομαι in Ac 18.6 as 'to speak against,' though in some languages opposition is often expressed idiomatically as 'to show a sour face toward,' 'to have a mean heart toward,' or 'to turn one's back on.:' 'I opposed him to the face' Ga 2.11.

The Quotations

1 Peter 5:5b “... God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Proverbs 3:34