I Peter 5:6-11

3 Instructions On Advancing Toward Christian Maturity



Context/Background

Author: Apostle Peter

 Audience: Letter written from Rome to believers in Asia Minor (Turkey)

Major Theme: Holy living in times of persecution

 Chapter 5: Conclusion of letter; Having strong, loving and mature congregations

Aligning With God's Provision

- (vv. 6-7) As result of God's grace flowing to the humble Peter instructs believers to develop attitudes of humility and service
- Humility: remembering who we are in light of who God is
- Word, "exalt" to lift up, to raise up
- (v.7) Believers can "throw" all the worries of life onto Jesus who will carry them
- God provides what is needed to progress to maturity

• Ps. 55:22, "Cast you burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack."

Police seek Mr Getty's grandson

From Our Correspondent Rome, July 14

Police were searching today for Paul Getty III, aged 16, the grandson of the oil multimillionaire, who has been missing since early on Tuesday. It is feared that he has been kidnapped.

The alarm was raised yesterday by Mrs Gail Harris, aged 39, the boy's mother, after she received an anonymous telephone call in her Rome flat saying: "We have kidnapped your son. Get money ready for a ransom. We will call again later."

Mrs Harris, the first wife of Mr Paul Getty, Jnr, said she thought at first it was a hoax, but today she was not so certain. "It does not seem to look that way now", she said. She had telephoned her former husband but the question of ransom money had not been raised.

Police are not excluding the possibility that it might be some kind of joke, but the chances that kidnappers may have set their sights on young Paul are considerable in view of the success of several recent kidnappings in Italy.

Paul, a slim fair-haired boy with a gift for painting, mingled with hippies and sold metal trinkets he made in Rome's favourite hippy haunts, the Piazza di Spagna and the Piazza Navona.

The last time he was seen was in the early hours of Tuesday morning when he left a night club with some hippy friends. They said Paul had invited them earlier to go with him for a few days to Gaeta, but then he went off with a girl

Paul made news last January when he was arrested for taking part in an anti-Fascist demonstration in Rome, Proceedings against him were dropped.

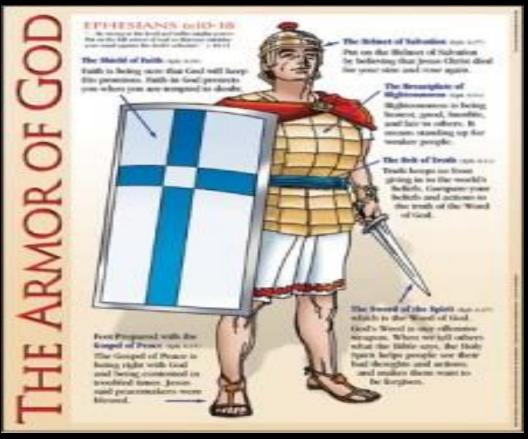
Mrs Harris, who married Lang Jefferies, an American actor, after her divorce and is now separated, lives alone in Rome with her son. "I don't know what to do", she said. "I only hope my son comes home."

Defending Against Satan's Programs

• (vv. 8-9) The ultimate cause of trials and persecution is Satan (Eph. 6:12, "We don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against forces of evil...")

- Believers and churches have a real and deadly enemy
- Adversary: enemy, one who is against, opponent
- As result; be sober, be vigilant
- Be careful of dismissing Satan, or being obsessed with

• Eph. 6:13, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."



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Trusting God's Promises

• (vv. 10-11) Peter expresses prayer for people; highlights God's grace and faithfulness

 Reminds people: If suffering/problems, God has purpose and reason, must trust Him and His word

 God will always see us through; He is the source of all comfort, peace, and help

• Perfect, Establish, Strengthen, Settle

• Eph. 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think according to the power that works in us,...."

• I John 4:4, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

