THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING
1 PETER 5:8-9 / 12-11-19 / WED

I. WHAT ARE CHRISTIANS TO DO TO BE READY IF PERSECUTION COMES?

A. Peter suggests two courses of action.

1. First, be alert—“v.8 Be alert”.
   a. Alertness describes the action of being on the look out for danger of any kind.
   b. In other words, don’t get caught off guard when Satan attacks.

2. Second, be sober—“v.8 Be of sober mind”.
   a. Sober means to be serious.
   b. In other words, take Satan’s attacks seriously.

B. The language Peter is using here applies to soldiers.

C. However, Peter’s words are also fitting for Christians.

II. SECOND, WHO IS THE SOURCE OF PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING?

A. Peter uses three words to describe who we are facing.

1. First, he is the “enemy”—v.8. Satan isn’t our friend, he is our enemy.

2. Second, he is the “devil”—v.8. Devil means slanderer or accuser.

3. Third, he is a “lion”—v.8.

B. Peter makes at least three deductions from the word lion to describe the devil and his tactics.

1. First, he is our “common” enemy—v. 8 “Your enemy”. This is a collective pronoun indicating that Satan is the enemy of all of us.

2. Second, he is a “cunning” enemy—v. 8 “prowling around like a lion”

3. Third, he is a “cruel” enemy—v.8 “looking for someone to devour”.

III. THIRD, HOW CAN WE FACE OUR ENEMY?

A. First, we should “resist” the devil—v9a “Resist him”.
   
   a. Resist is a positive not a passive action. We must do something, not just sit back and wait.
   
   b. Oliver Cromwell, an English military commander, once said, “Trust God and keep your powder dry.” It’s appropriate to trust God but also appropriate to take necessary precautions.

B. Second, we should stand firm in our faith—v.9b “Standing firm in the faith”.
   
   a. We must make sure we are “in the faith” if we hope to face the devil.
   
   b. We must also be sure we “know” our faith too.

C. Third, we should stand together with other Christians—v. 9c—“Because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”