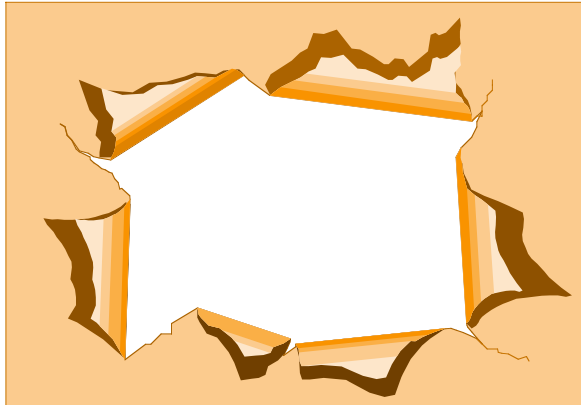


# THE PROTECTION OF GOD

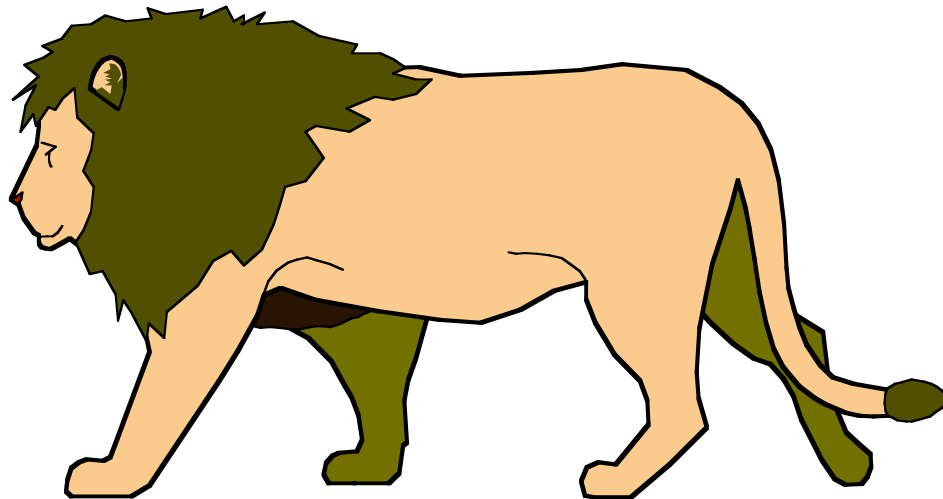
First Peter 5:8-11



Peter closes his first epistle by peeling back the curtain which conceals the driving force behind the church's persecution. We remember that he has spent the entire epistle telling the believers that they need to let their actions speak louder than their words. This should happen in the market-place, in the church, in the home, between husbands and wives, between slaves and masters, and between subjects and rulers. Despite the church being viewed with immense suspicion and treated with intense outbreaks of persecution, Peter admonishes the believers to

live *quiet* and godly lives (1Pet. 3:4). He uses words like *gentle* and *loving* to describe the Christian's response to persecution. He points them back to Jesus as the example of someone who conquered oppression through gentleness and love (1Peter 2:21).

1. Note who Peter reveals is the actual driving force behind their persecutors, in verse 8-



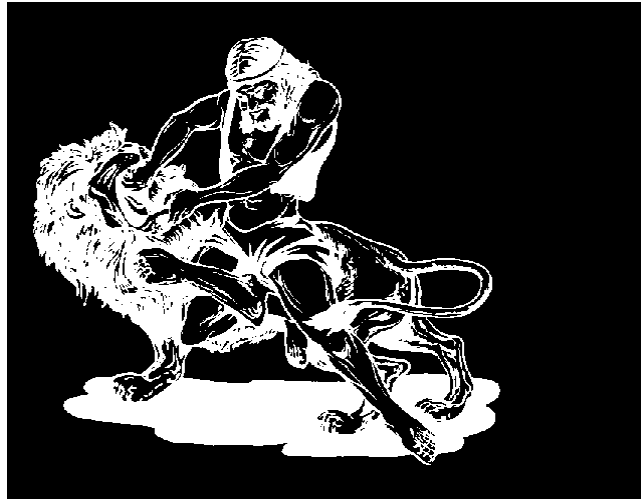
2. Knowing that it is the Devil who is at work to destroy the Church, what is Peter say believers need to do, immediately before mentioning the Devil? (vs. 8)

Being disciplined, sober, or self-controlled, is an action of the believer. It requires constant comparing to the standards of God's Word to keep our lives in order. By striving to live a godly and holy life, in word, deed and attitude, we are constantly *on the alert*.

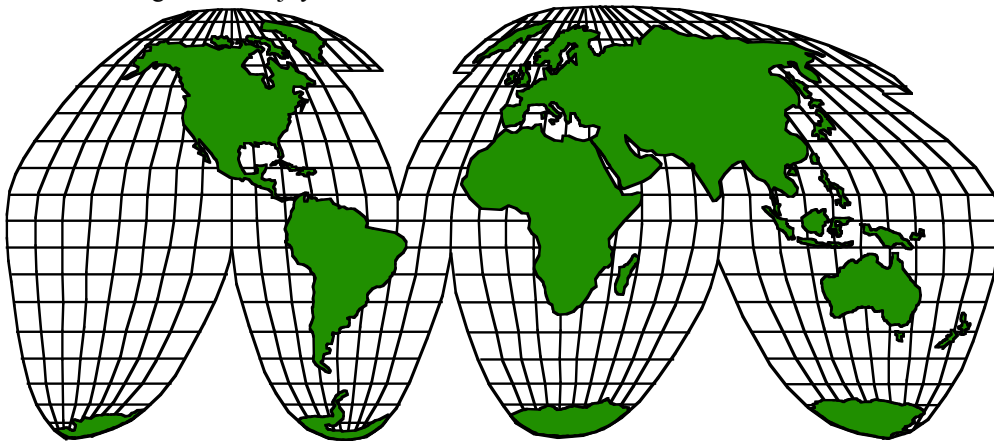
3. Why is the Devil on the prowl? (vs 8)

Who are likely to succumb to this prowling?

4. Peter tells us to "resist him" by *doing* something, and *remembering* something. What are these things? (vs 9)



In a tragic way, hearing of the trials of our brothers and sisters in foreign lands where Christianity is illegal, is an encouragement to us who live in a free “Christian” land to be more appreciative of the grace we enjoy.



## CALLED TO GLORY

The Bible is clear as to what awaits the believer: *glory*. Being saved now, is not the end of all that God wants to give us. There is more. But we can only have a taste of it now. It will be all ours once we arrive home.

5. In the meantime, what might we have to put up with? (vs. 10)

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6. What did Christ have to do before He received something else? (Luke 24:26)

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Peter concludes his epistle by giving glory to God. This is the chief end of mankind- to worship and glorify God. Even in the midst of suffering and trials we are required to praise, adore, worship and glorify God. When times seem incredibly “dark”, remember God is in the midst of the darkness. Even though God is light, He is still present in the midst of darkness. When He descended down onto the mountain to give the Law and Plans, He came *in thick darkness*. When the Tabernacle of Moses was built, the Ark of the Covenant was to be put in the Holy of Holies where there was no light. Even astronomers have recently discovered a variety of light in outer space that is “dark”. So, when when life seems dark, and God seems far away, He’s probably closer than you realise.

*Amen.*