***All Things New***

New-Life Lessons from the Apostle Peter’s First Letter

**New Community: Spiritual Warfare and Joy**

An evil enemy, an elementary strategy, an eternal victory

1 Peter 5:8-14

While we think of suffering as something to be avoided at all costs, the Bible sees and explains it differently because of the Cross. The spiritual reality is that righteous suffering is the very portal to joy when we understand that this world is a battleground, not a playground. Peter connects the dots, showing that while we have an enemy, our victory is certain.

***The strategy of the battle --*** *vv. 8-9a*

Peter’s words are similar to those given soldiers on the front lines. The most important thing is keeping your wits about you, and remembering where you are: a battle zone! The dangers are distractions, diversions, the devil, and doubt.

Be sober: Be resolute, not flippant or careless.

Be watchful: Pay attention, remain alert, man your post.

Satan is alive and well, and only a secondary danger. His power is limited, but real, and he seeks weaknesses in our resolution and our faith.

Resist the enemy who will take advantage of your . . .

***Suffering: the nature of the battle --*** vv. 9b, 10

 Peter has warned us of the nature and certainty of suffering, and now reminds us that it is everywhere, but only for now, and best of all, it is purposeful and brings about good things for us.

Suffering is universal (so don’t think God is targeting you).

Suffering is temporary (so don’t think of it as permanent).

 Suffering is redemptive and results in . . .

***Glory: The purpose of the battle --*** *v. 11*

*The Cross of Christ presents us with a forward look, and so our own suffering is a reminder that God will restore order to the cosmos because His Kingdom encompasses all things.*

***Closing Greetings --*** vv. 12-14

We are reminded that we live in “Babylon,” are in a common bond of electing grace and love, and treat one another accordingly.

***Applying Truth to Life: Victory comes through discipleship. . .***

Meaning learning of Jesus. Matthew 11:28-30

 Jesus calls all who will listen to walk with Him in meekness and joy.

 Have you put on this “easy” yoke or are you still burdened with sin, shame, uncertainty, and despair?

Meaning discipline of self. Luke 9:57-62; 1 Cor. 9:24-27

 You are made right with God in an instant (justification by faith), but discipleship is the work of a lifetime.

Meaning cooperation with others. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

 We dare not try to make this trip alone. Be a part of it all.