

TODAY's TEXT:

1Pet. 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Roar of the Lion

- Persecution is a formidable enemy.
- Temptation is worse.
- Surviving the coming persecution = resisting the adversary.

The Roar of the Lion

- Your adversary is dangerous,
- And when he hunts is generally *very quiet*.
- Your adversary does *not* have everything he needs to destroy you.
- He is looking for an accomplice.

Missing Drama of 1Peter?

- No detailed discussion of temptation except this
- No specific mention of sin except Jesus victory over it and our emulation of his example.
- No detailed discussion of the hot topics, or the 'deadly' sins

What is the danger Peter actually addresses? Where is the lion?

Where is the Lion?

In the failure to follow the admonitions of chapters 2-4.

Loving, serving, patient, considerate relationships.

At a glance this looks simple. Where is the evangelism? What about discipleship? Or the church discipline? Or the doctrinal wrangling? Or the moral compromise?

Where is the Lion?

It's all in the small stuff… that apparently isn't so small.

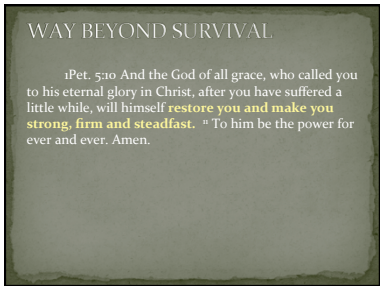
LIES: The Lion's Teeth

- Sometimes these are hard to distinguish.
- Master of camoflage and disguise.
- How to avoid the confusion he introduces:
  - 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Surviving the Lion

- How do we engage the attention of the culture around us?
- How do we facilitate worship and community when people are less comfortable with differences than ever before?
- What do we say and do in the face of violence, immorality, threats and contempt?

PETER's ANSWER: Remember what Christ did for you, and treat each other the way He would.


WAY BEYOND SURVIVAL
1Pet. 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.


Come, follow me
And I will
make you
Fishers of
Men