

## Vigilance

Pastor Wilson – December 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

### **Historical quote:**

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." - John Philpot Curran

Attributed to Thomas Jefferson, but also Patrick Henry. Other famous people associated with the statement were presidents James Buchanan, William Henry Harrison, and also Frederick Douglass.

**"Eternal"** means perpetual, ceaseless, endless.

**"Vigilance"** comes from the root word "vigilant" which means: keenly (characterized by strength and distinctness of perception; extremely sensitive with regard to one's senses) watchful to detect danger; wary. Ever-awake and alert; sleeplessly-watchful.

The word, "eternal" in front of a word that means "ever-awake" and "sleeplessly-watchful," isn't redundant or overkill, it's because the seriousness of the matter needs to be emphasized. The gravity of the issue **MUST** not be underestimated.

### **The spiritual significance of maintaining "eternal vigilance".**

The quote is most often traced back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Irish politician, lawyer and judge, John Philpot Curran, who stated: "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to men is eternal vigilance; which condition if we break, servitude is at once the consequence and the punishment of his guilt."

In the scripture we're told that our Lord bled and died so that we might be free from the bondage of sin and from the control of the cruel taskmaster, Satan.

#### **John 8:36**

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

In Christ we have LIBERTY! And further, we're given this admonishment:

#### **Gal 5:1**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

We can be "entangled again in the yoke of bondage" if we don't pay attention to the warning in:

#### **I Peter 5:8**, which says:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Oftentimes, the focus is placed upon the word “as,” to indicate that satan is only “as” a roaring lion. The claim is made that he’s actually a “toothless” lion that’s been de-fanged by the power of the cross. So, we strut around proclaiming that satan has no real power over us. The contention can be made though, that we have neutered the importance of Peter’s admonition by not placing enough focus on the other key words in this scriptural admonishment: Sober, Vigilant and Adversary.

**Peter is using his apostolic authority to command us in the fear of the Lord, to be “sober” and “vigilant” with regard to our “adversary”.**

Sober means: serious, solemn, sensible, thoughtful, grave, somber, staid, levelheaded, businesslike, pragmatic, no-nonsense. *Why would we need to be so sober if satan is a toothless enemy?*

As stated earlier, “vigilant” means: Extremely sensitive and keenly watchful to detect danger; wary. Ever-awake and alert; sleeplessly-watchful. Again, *why would we need to be so vigilant if satan is a toothless lion?*

The key to I Peter 5:8 is the word, “adversary” – In the original greek the word is *Antidikos* which means: opponent.

Adversary means: opponent, rival, enemy, antagonist, combatant, challenger, contender, competitor, opposer; opposition, competition, foe.

**Satan is not a passive enemy!**

Satan is our opponent, rival, enemy, antagonist, combatant, challenger, contender, competitor, opposer; opposition, competition, foe and he is aggressively combating against you and me and we have to be aware of it and not stick our heads in the sand. Satan is observant and he knows our weaknesses.

We preached this past Sunday that Sir Isaac Newton’s second law of thermodynamics basically says that that all systems, if left to themselves, move from a state of order to disorder. We told you that it takes maintenance and effort because over time, all things will degrade, degenerate, wane, decline and fall apart. And we admonished us to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

We preached that in addition to this scientifically-proved trend from order to disorder, we also have attacks from the spiritual realm to contend with as well. The devil came against Jesus in the wilderness with the temptations of the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. The same tools satan uses against us according to I John 2:16. So, we have these eroding scientific factors coming against our bodies, against our possessions, and even against our

relationships, but we also have to deal with the sneaky attacks of the devil in trying to kill, steal and destroy!

A closing admonishment in the words of the song, "Slow Fade," by Casting Crowns"

*Be careful little eyes what you see,  
it's the second glance that ties your hands  
as darkness pulls the strings  
Be careful little feet where you go  
For its the little feet behind you  
That are sure to follow*

*Its a slow fade  
When you give yourself away  
Its a slow fade  
When black and white are turned to gray  
And thoughts invade, choices are made  
A price will be paid  
When you give yourself away  
People never crumble in a day  
Its a slow fade, Its a slow fade*

*Be careful little ears what you hear  
When flattery leads to compromise, the end is always near  
Be careful little lips what you say  
For empty words and promises lead broken hearts astray*

*It's a slow fade when you give yourself away  
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray  
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid  
When you give yourself away  
People never crumble in a day*

*The journey from your mind to your hands  
Is shorter than you're thinking  
Be careful if you think you stand  
You just might be sinking*

*It's a slow fade when you give yourself away  
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray  
Thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid  
When you give yourself away  
People never crumble in a day  
Daddies never crumble in a day  
Families never crumble in a day*