Be On Your Guard

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INTRODUCTION

- We have a tendency toward carelessness, laxity, sloppiness, and it's supposed to say a lack of vigilance.
- Spiritual focus is so often diverted by simply the passing of time and as it passes, the constant bombardment of the visual.
- Christians ought to constantly be in a state of readiness.

1 Beware of Heart Clutter

Luke 21:34–36; Luke 12:13–21; 2 Peter 3

- That your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life. And that day come on you suddenly like a thief.
- But keep on the alert at all times, praying, in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place. And to stand before the Son of Man.
- The point of the story is that this man is not rich toward God. He is so focused on his stuff that he's left God out of the equation.
- What he's trying to tell us is all of this is very temporary. And we need to keep reminding ourselves of that. Be in a spiritual state of readiness. Beware of heart clutter.
- In our affluence, we're focused on the future so often. And that's part of the heart clutter. A state of readiness requires that we think about today.
- We need to give some thought about how fragile and tenuous life is.

2 Treatment and Attitude Toward Others

Luke 17:1–5; Romans 12:16

- It is inevitable that stumbling blocks should come, but woe to him through whom they come. You better be careful that you're not the reason why somebody else is lost.
- Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
- These statements speak of the very high responsibility that we have toward others.
- Be humble in spirit, not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead.
- It only takes one incident that we weren't expecting. Some situation or circumstance that unfolds where our countenance toward a brother or sister in Christ is affected.
- As you would have others treat you, so treat them. It's the law and the prophets.

3 Be on Guard With What You Say

- By your words you'll be justified or condemned, Jesus said. Guard your mouth and guard your soul from troubles.

- We need to constantly be on guard with our speech.
- Thoughts in your mind do not necessarily mean because they're thoughts in your mind that they need to be expressed.
- We need to think about these words that are coming out of our mouths and the impact that they're going to have.
- Be on guard means always use the filter of should I be saying this? Is it helpful? Is it good?

4 Be on Your Guard About Influences

2 Peter 3:17

- You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand. It's not like you've never heard this before.
- Be on your guard lest being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness.
- You're getting bombarded with a lot of other people's worldview and how you ought to think and live.
- You need to be very watchful of the impact other people are having on you.
- It only takes the allowance of one bad influence to send you down the path of falling from your steadfastness.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you on the right course? How is your spiritual alertness this morning? Is the heart clutter winning? Or have you chosen to exalt the needs of the soul above all else?

MY NOTES