

BE ON GUARD

2 Peter 3:17 “Dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.”

Warnings are a part of your daily life. Weather warnings warn you about impending violent weather that is a threat to your safety and life. Your automobile has a number of warning devices, gauges and the like. Some of those warn you about something happening to your automobile that could harm it or lead to an accident. Other of those devices warn you regarding the use of a safety device such as a seat belt. All of these warnings are meant for your good.

Earlier in chapter three of second Peter there are warnings about the coming of the end of the world. The warning includes exhortations to you to be prepared for this event. Here in verse 17, Peter reminds you that “you have been forewarned.” You have no reason to be caught off-guard. You have no excuse to be unprepared. You know the Lord will come “like a thief in the night.” (Matthew 24:32ff)

Here in verse 17 Peter warns you to be “on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless.” Paul also issues this warning in 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?” John boils lawlessness down to the fact that the sins committed are lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)

Why does the Holy Spirit inspire Peter to address the issue of lawlessness (sin) with a warning? He answers this question with the last phrase, so that you do not “fall from your secure position.” What would that be? As the end times approach, your security is in the fact that you are by grace, through faith in Jesus a forgiven sinner and an heir of heaven. The Holy Spirit, through Peter, warns you of the fact there are those among whom you live who will try to lead you away from your faith in Jesus, the salvation He has won for you and your place in heaven. Jesus says, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelations 2:10)

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast in my faith and trust in You until the day you call me to be with You in paradise." Amen.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.
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