

Clear-minded and Watchful

A. 1 Peter 4:7, “*But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*” - παντων δε το τελος ηγγικεν σωφρονησατε ουν και νηψατε εις τας προσευχας.

1. “*But the end of all things is at hand:*” - *panton de to telos engiken.*

These believers were suffering as the result of something, but it wasn't specified as what. It is believed that the letter was written around 64 AD at the time of Nero, so obviously there was the suffering of persecution during that time. But there was also the looming date of 70 AD overhead when Israel was going to be destroyed by Rome. But whatever the source was there definitely was a need to be clear-minded in their thinking.

2. “*Be ye therefore **sober**, and **watch** unto prayer.*” - *sophronesate oun kai nepsate eis tas proseuchas.* Both of the verbs **sober**, (as they have it here), and **watch** are in the aorist active imperative, which we know are commands, but commands to start doing something now. They have not been thinking clearly and they have not been on guard and watching for the attack of Satan and his demons, so Peter commands them to start doing it! And in the active voice it tells us that each one of us is individually responsible to do this for no one can do it for us.

To be **sober** here is *sophroneo*, (clear-minded), from *sozo* – to save, and *phroneo* - the mind, meant to think clearly, to think doctrinally and objectively. *Phren* denoted one's perspective on how he views life, people, God and himself, but with *sozo* prefixed to it it spoke of having the correct perspective on life, people, God and yourself. When one has the correct perspective where he views these things from the perspective of God, then he has reached the state of mental clarity and sanity. Yes sanity for when one's perspective does not align with reality, then to that extent he is divorced from reality and is biblically insane, even though he may be nice, polite and be able to function in life.

There is a worldview, which we call human viewpoint, or cosmic viewpoint, which is how the people of the world view themselves, life, the world as it is, God and death. Then there is the perspective that Christians have toward these things, some of which are correct, and others follow the perspective of the world which Paul talked about in Romans 12:2, “*And be not **conformed** to this world: but be ye **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*”

One cannot be “clear-minded” if his thought pattern is governed or influenced by: 1) the viewpoint of the world system, which comes to us through the people of the world, television, schools and personal acquaintances; 2) by the emotional complex of the flesh nature with its feelings of fear, anger, guilt, grief, envy, human love relationships and the search for human happiness; 3) demonic thinking; 4) and if we have rejected Bible Doctrine.

There is a psychological concept known as **communicated insanity**, or in the French as **folie à deux**, which means the madness of the two, or three, or four, or *folie en famille* – the madness of a family, or *folie à plusieurs* – the madness of many. This is where negative concepts are communicated to other people, who in turn pick them up and communicate them to other people. It starts with 2 people, then 3, 4, or more, whole families can be infected by it, until it can sweep through a village or nation, which we are presently seeing going on in America today.

This describes the madness of the **wicked** in Psalms 1:1, “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the **ungodly**, (râshâ’) nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*” The *rasha* are those, believers or unbelievers, who have rejected the soul preserving concept of Bible Doctrine, which leaves their souls vulnerable to the influence of the sin nature in the flesh and the cosmic viewpoint of the demons in Satan's world with the result that their souls will be destroyed. But not satisfied with that the wicked seek now to destroy society around them beginning in the home, then spreading out and how they do that is by words, or folie a deux, **communicated insanity!**

But if there is **communicated insanity**, then there is **communicated sanity**, which is what Bible Doctrine does for us and that's what *sophroneo* is about - sanity of the soul, which comes about as the result of metabolized doctrine in the soul. Oftentimes we try to help these people because they are either family, friends, or co-workers, but the result is generally non-profitable for us because they don't want it. To get these people out of their insanity they must turn positive to Bible Doctrine and take it in on a consistent basis.

The ancients regarded *sophrosune* as inner self government, which has a constant rein on all passions, lusts and irrational thinking. It has the idea of not being given over to irrational thinking, hysteria and emotionalism. It was a mind guided by logic, reason and thought where one is not swayed by the group mind-set; it's to be mentally stable and in one's right mind.

The second command Peter gives them and us is to **watch**, as it is here in the passage, which is the orist active imperative of *nepho*, which actually means to be **sober**. *Nepho* is even translated as **sober** in 1 Peter 5:8, “*Be **sober** (nēphō) be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*” Notice again that this is a command to put into action something they are not presently doing and to do it now!

Nepho speaks of mental sobriety where the believer's mind is free from the influences of drugs and alcohol, which would be obvious, but also free from the lusts, passions and emotions of the flesh nature, especially the **emotions**. When one or more feelings of the emotional complex of the soul enter into our minds, then we are no longer able to think rationally, doctrinally, or cognitively.

If any one of the 7 feelings of the emotions make their way into our minds, whether fear, anger, guilt, grief, envy, human love concepts, or human happiness concepts, then we are no longer able to call to mind doctrinal concepts, or apply a doctrinal rationale to what we're going through. Whatever “thinking” we may come up with will be *dokeo* thinking, which is subjective thinking based upon one's feelings, or how one “feels”, which is why America, its churches and people are spiraling downward into fragmentation, polarization and mental illness. Friendships are lost, marriages come apart, the children are swept into an insecure future all because of the emotions of people!

People get some kind of “feeling” in their minds, which becomes reality to them, and this feeling influences the way they think and how they relate to each other with disastrous results. “I feel you don't like me”, or, “this is how I feel about it”. That feeling gets into the realm of their thinking and off they go further away from reality into mental illness. **Emotional contagion** is the phenomenon of having one person's emotions and related behaviors directly trigger similar emotions and behaviors in other people. Some of the feelings or concepts associated with the fear complex are: fear, fright, worry, anxiety, consternation, dread, fright, terror, apprehension, uneasiness, nervousness, horror, terror, phobias of all kinds, insecurity, shyness, cowardice, fear of going ahead, being neutralized by fear, living in a state of fear, psychological addictions and physical addictions.

There's no way that we can think clearly, doctrinally, rationally if we are experiencing the feelings of fear, or anger, or grief, or guilt, or jealousy, or involved in human love, or human happiness concepts. We have to recover the F/HS through confession of sin, start claiming the promises once again and then we can begin thinking on BD and applying the doctrinal rationale. Being **sober**, or literally, **start becoming sober**, is a command to have our thinking free from the negative influences of: 1) the viewpoint of the world system, which comes to us through the people of the world, television, schools and personal acquaintances; 2) the emotional complex of the flesh nature with its feelings of fear, anger, guilt, grief, envy, human love relationships and the search for human happiness; 3) demonic thinking; 4) and if we have rejected Bible Doctrine.

Now what all this, being clear-minded in our thinking - *sophroneo*, and free from emotional thinking - *nepho*, have to do with is followed by the rest of the passage. **Unto prayer** – *eis tas proseuchas*. The preposition *eis* has several ideas: direction, goal, movement toward a goal, penetration into the goal. It has the idea of having the goal of prayer in mind and then wanting to get to that goal, or movement toward the goal of praying, which is what we have here in the passage.

Peter talks about the end of all things is near, so what do we as Christians need to be doing? Praying! Being clear-minded in our thinking and having our thinking free from the influences of drugs, alcohol and the emotions is absolutely necessary so we can pray like we ought! We were warned about this in the Gospels. Luke 21:34, “*And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*” - προσεχετε δε 'εαυτοις μηποτε βαρυνθωσιν 'υμων 'αι καρδιαι εν κραιπαλη και μεθη και μεριμναις βιωτικαις και αφνιδιος εφ 'υμας επιστη 'η 'ημερα εκεινη.

1. “*And take heed to yourselves*”, *prosechete de 'heautois*, to **take heed**, or **be careful**, is the present active imperative of *prosecho*, which meant to turn one’s mind to something, to be aware of something, to be alert about it, to apply oneself, to be concerned about, to occupy oneself with something. In the present active imperative it is a command that we are personally responsible to do and that we’re to keep on doing it.

To understand this we have to put it in its context of the end times. The years have gone by and evil men have grown worse and worse; internationalism has taken over the planet; freedom is gone; the Church has grown apostate; the love of most believers has grown cold; there is a noticeable void in the teaching of the Word of God; people are now characterized across the board as noted in 2 Timothy 3:1-5; “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*”; the economic controls over everything; the New World Order; traitors and betrayers; the intensification of the angelic conflict as demons flood the world from the skies; the antichrist rising to power; the marking system of the beast; the fears and insecurity; and the spiritual oppression of it all.

And now, on top of all that, signs in the sun, moon and stars; the shaking of the heavenly bodies and all sorts of natural phenomena, earthquakes, etc., will be taking place. The words of the Lord are not to be taken lightly when he said that this will be the time of the greatest tribulation, pressure, that the world has ever seen. “*For then shall be **great tribulation**, (thlipsis – pressure), “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21*

It's in this context when the Lord said to us, "*And take heed to yourselves*". Every stabilizing concept that man has on earth: nature, government, nationalism, the weather, people, family, Christianity, etc., will no longer be stable, but unstable to the point that insecurity and fear will dominate everything and everyone on earth – everything. "*Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I **shake** not the earth only, but also heaven.*" Hebrews 12:26

One can only imagine what it will be like living in those times, but we are already beginning to see it now! The assassination of our President in 1963; the Watt's riots in 1964; the Vietnam War; the Hippie revolution, drugs; the breakup of the family unit; the Laodicean Church; loss of jobs because they were transferred overseas; massive debt; loss of freedom; a police state; the NWO; the constant state of war in our country; the weather; a nation immersed in drugs both legal and illegal; the absence of doctrinal teaching in churches; massive weather fluctuation, sinkholes, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc.. And a communist attempt to take over our country. We are already beginning to experience these things and we've got to apply ourselves so we can remain living in the spiritual life dynamic.

2. "*Lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting,*" - *mepote barunthosin humon hai kardiai en kraipale*. "*Or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation*" NIV. To be **weighed down**, or **overcharged** is the aorist passive subjunctive of *bareo*, which referred to carrying a burden or anything that puts a burden on you. It speaks of having to deal with pressure and stress.

Life has always had its pressure. Finances, bills, our health, the job, family, nature, the weather, oppressive government are but a few of the things we have to bear, which make up our burden in life. But this is to be expected for Paul told us that we will have to go **through many kinds of pressure before we enter into the kingdom of God**. "*Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation (pressure) enter into the kingdom of God.*" Acts 14:22

In the last days all this will intensify with added pressure being put on our souls impacting the heart! The **emotions** will react to all this with constant fear, anxiety and anger. As Christ said in Luke 21:26, "*Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.*", men will faint from terror apprehensive of what is coming on the earth. But for the believer, when these things begin to occur we need to be encouraged because we know that the Lord's return is very near. "*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*" Luke 21:28

The two words **dissipation** and **drunkenness**, *kraipale* and *methe*, are used together here showing there is a connection between the two. *Methe* has been translated as drunkenness, while *kraipale* looked at the carousing, intoxication, hangover, nausea, dizziness and the squandering of one's money. They translate *kraipale* as **dissipation**, so as not to state the obvious of being drunk, or stoned, and all that goes with it, but to show the wasting of one's resources, and that's not limited to just money, but one's physical and spiritual resources.

But what are we really looking at here? Some only see the "wine, woman, song" idea, but what it's talking about is people trying to cope with the phenomenal pressure of living in the last days! Instability is all around; the weather is crazy; earthquakes everywhere; people are out of control arrogant and narcissistic; governments become thuggish police states and all getting crazier by the day. All these things make it hard for us to keep our thoughts clear and sober so we can pray.

3. “*And cares of this life,*” - *kai merimnais biotikais*, and the anxieties of life. The word for **life** is *biotikos* and it refers to one’s life with a view towards the means of life, or maintaining one’s life. What are we going to eat? Where are we going to live? What shall we wear? What happens if we have a medical problem? Where are we going to come up with the money? What about our rent, our bills, food? Are the questions we ask ourselves all the time. These matters and more have been a constant pressure on God’s people ever since we have been here on earth, but will be greatly exacerbated by inflation, food problems, devaluation of one’s currency, oppressive government control and all the other things we see going on in the last days. Anxiety over making ends meet.

The word for **cares** is *merimnos* here to describe the believer’s state of mind about their ability to live and go on during those times and it will be one of anxiety. It’s hard for many believers today to cope with their lives without worrying by living in the faith rest life, but when the pressure keeps on increasing, then it will be even more difficult resulting in the potential for heightened anxiety.

The worries accompanying just getting by, making a living, keeping our lives together, etc., will drive many, as we say, to drink! But we know that alcohol is not the answer, even alcoholics know that. In fact, it can create more problems. But what is going on here in the end times is that many will turn to the bottle to cope with the pressure, so they can escape it, at least for a while. Some will turn it into an all day thing where they are drunk or buzzed most of the day.

So **drunkenness** and its resultant **dissipation** become **stress coping devices** to deal with pressure and the mounting insecurity of living in those days. But the **solution** for us is to stay in the Word, stay in the faith rest life, believe God’s promises, and apply the doctrines of prophecy we know to what’s going on around us in life.

4. “*And so that day come upon you unawares.*” - *kai aiphnidios eph’ humas episte he hemera ekeine*. The word for **unawares** is a compound of two words: *a* – negative, and *phaino* – to appear. To **appear** is to be clearly visible, understood, discernible, one can see it, from which we get the word **apparent**. This is what happened to Job; he had heard of the Lord, but he really didn’t perceive him thoroughly until the Lord **appeared** to him. “*I have **heard** of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye **seeth** thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*” Job 42:5,6

The word *aiphnidios* is translated as: unawares, unexpectedly and suddenly and they are true, but they are looking at the **result** of *aiphnidios* and not what led up to it. Just like in the days of Noah the people were eating and drinking not paying attention to what was going on spiritually, then all of a sudden the rains came. “*For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*” Matthew 24:28

What this tells us is that the Last Days, not just the near time of the Lord’s return, but the last days that could go on for years preceding the Lord’s return, could appear to us as life going on as normal! There are three reasons for this: 1) Christians not living in doctrine and the spiritual life; 2) Christians chasing after the deception of riches and materialism as an extension of the Laodicean phase of the Church Age; 3) a worldwide deception fooling everybody into thinking life is still normal!

Unawares means that **you are not aware of what’s going on!** Now there are two reasons as to why doctrinal Christians won’t be aware of what is happening and how close the Lord’s return is: 1) a false impression is being given to them by the world rulers over TV and propagated by their churches; 2) they will have their eyes and minds focused on just trying to survive and get by. And it has been designed by Satan to be not apparent to us so as to deceive us!

This passage tells us that their hearts will be burdened down with the pressure and stress of just trying to get by in those days. But what really is **surfeiting** and **drunkenness** all about? These are coping mechanism that people turn to to deal with stress. The only remedy for that is the faith rest drill. So what this tells us is that believers can be unaware of how close we are to the Lord's return, and I mean in our hearts and not just academics, due to our occupation with just trying to survive, but also because Satan and his followers, through their control of the media and getting many of us off track by chasing after the things of the world, will be deceiving us into thinking that life is still normal. There may be a few problems here and there, which they will handle, but life is still normal. What this tells us is that we won't be aware of what's really going on, that's *aiphnidios*.

B. 1 Peter 5:8, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*” - νηψατε γρηγορησατε 'οτι 'ο αντιδικος 'υμων διαβολος 'ως λεων ωρνομενος περιπατει ζητων τινα καταπιη.

“*Be sober, be vigilant,*” - *nepsate gregoresate*. Both verbs here to be **sober** and **vigilant** are in the aojist active imperative, which tells us that this is a command that the individual believer is to do, and only he or she can do this, and that it is a command to put into action right now because they are not doing it. So we can translate them as start becoming sober and start being on the lookout for something.

The word for **sober**, *nepho*, we have had and it denotes having one's mind free from any mental intoxicants that might influence our thinking; obviously drugs and alcohol are included in this. But the main problem we have is from our emotions; the emotions of: fear, anger, guilt, grief, envy, human love and human happiness concepts.

Personally I don't see America turning around because the people living here now are the most subjective, emotional thinkers I have ever had the displeasure of being around. They are incapable of separating their emotions, or personal issues from their thinking, Christians included. Everything becomes to them a personal, subjective matter without the ability to think think, or discuss issues based upon objective facts.

The only thing that will spare our minds is Bible Doctrine metabolized in the soul under the filling of the Holy Spirit, so we can think doctrinally, rationally apart from the influence of the emotions. But if we refuse that, then there is nothing left but the flesh nature and its emotions and we will become an emotional, subjective believer on the road to mental insanity!

As the Lord said in Deuteronomy 28:28, “*The LORD shall smite thee with **madness**, (*shiggâ'ôn* – insanity, mental illness), and **blindness**, (*ivvârôn* – spiritual blindness, unable to comprehend reality or any doctrinal information), and **astonishment**, (*timmâhôn* – agitation of the heart, tumult, deep fear and anxiety, being overwhelmed by the emotions), of heart.”*

Becoming overwhelmed by the emotional complex of the soul is the direct result of rejecting Bible Doctrine and the spiritual life dynamic that God has given to all his people. And if we reject that, which is our choice, then we need to understand the consequences of our bad decision and that will be: 1) being overwhelmed by the emotions where stress, anxiety, fear and all the others will be our daily, hourly state of mind. 2) we will be unable to comprehend any spiritual information, or to be able to even think rationally. 3) And finally a descent into madness! All of these things we are presently witnessing in the nation and the churches of America.

The word for **alert** is the aorist active imperative of gregoreo and is the word for the military guard standing watch trying to perceive the slightest detection of enemy presence. Military personnel are trained to look out for the various schemes and ploys enemy troops employ so as to be able to launch an attack against them and so should we!

Paul stated that he and the others were not **ignorant** of Satan's devices and neither should we be! 2 Corinthians 2:11, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” One of our nation's famous quotes is, “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”. We always have to be on the lookout for those who would steal our freedom both in our churches and in our nation. “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**.”, 2 Corinthians 5:17

And this applies both to our client nation and to our churches. Galatians 2:4, “And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our **liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage.” Galatians 5:1, “Stand fast therefore in the **liberty** wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

Peter and some of the others had gotten caught up in legalism over which Paul stood up to him face to face. Galatians 2:11, “But when Peter was come to Antioch, I **withstood** him to the face, because he was to be blamed.” Galatians 2:13,14, “And the other Jews **dissembled** (*sunupokrinomai* – joined in their hypocrisy) likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their **dissimulation** (*hupokrisis* - hypocrisy). But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?” Paul said that Peter was guilty of hypocrisy and against grace!

Now in 1 Peter 4:7 we were to be clear-minded and mentally sound free from the influence of emotions with a view toward praying. In this passage we are to be free from the influence of the flesh's emotions, and booze and drugs as well, so we can be on the lookout for the incursion or attacks of Satan! His attacks on ourselves, our families, our jobs, our homes and our church!

As we go down into the end of the age, and with a nation in apostasy and under judgment, as well as an apostate Christianity, the effect of all that we will be a dramatic increase in demonism, which means that those doctrinal believers out there will be having to contend with an increase of demonic attacks against them, their families and their churches, Which means that we will have to have clear-mindedness in our thinking, having our thought processes clear of emotionalism and always be on the watch for the attacks of Satan!

The **roaring** of the lion was designed to impact the auditory nerve of the animal, so as to neutralize any fight or flight reaction to defend itself. For the believer the “**roaring of the lion**” is gripping the believer with fear. Once fear sets in, the believer is: 1) unable to apply Bible Doctrine to his/her situation, 2) they are unable to claim the promises, 3) they are unable to think rationally any more, 4) they are unable to apply the doctrinal rationale 5) they become overcome by their emotions.

The **devouring** of the believer is where they are now totally swallowed up by one or more of the 7 feelings of the emotional complex of the soul. They are now totally under the control of their old sin nature and are being eaten up by their feelings. The final result is the loss of the soul's well being and ultimately mental illness, unless they recover the spiritual life dynamic.

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