

“Be On Your Guard”

1 Peter 5:8

Post-Easter, having celebrated our Savior’s victory over death and Satan, one might be tempted to think “game over!”. No more fight, struggle or danger.

Then we see a sermon title of “Be on your guard”, and might think, “man, can’t I just relax and celebrate the victory for a minute?!”

- Scripture calls us to be alert, watchful of Satan’s schemes...but not fearful.
 - 1 Peter 5:8
 - John 20:19, 26 (*Not like the disciples in locked room after the resurrection*)
 - Matthew 24:24
 - Ephesians 4:14
 - 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
 - Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus’s temptation)
 - What he tempts us with: unforgiveness, hypocrisy, greed/covetousness, pride, complacency, lust, laziness, idolatry, etc.
 - *“Schemes’ encompass every sin, immoral practice, false theology, false religion and worldly enticement” (MacArthur)*
- What is his goal?

- He can't snatch us out of the Lord's hand, but through temptation and deception, he can hinder our fellowship with the Lord and with one another; and he can hinder the message of the gospel and the conduits of the gospel (us)
- A specific danger
 - Artificial Intelligence. Essentially, AI is software programmed in ways that try to replicate human intelligence. Like an artificial brain, AI can be designed to receive sensory input from devices like cameras or microphones, interpret the data, and perform specific actions in response—including by means of an artificial body (a robot). (*Answers in Genesis*)
 - What's the danger? Isn't it just a tool?
 - Yes. And can be helpful. Many applications (see below). But unlike the printing press, that copied texts, this can generate ideas and texts, and even make decisions. (Weak AI vs Strong AI)
 - Uses of AI
 - Searches, diagnoses of vehicles, diagnoses of people, communication, teaching (Alpha School), writing papers, writing sermons, acquiring targets in war, etc.
 - *Some* dangers to be aware of:
 - Lack of critical thinking, removal of human agency.
 - Dependence on a crutch, increases our dependence on a crutch. It can, if not careful, cause the necessary muscles to atrophy. We've been given a "sound mind", and it is one of the things that we are to use to worship the Lord with (Matt 22:37)
 - No spirit, no conscience

- Deception
 - Scams
 - False wisdom
 - “New scripture”
 - Professor Yuval Harari, contributing author and conference speaker for the World Economic Forum (WEF)...remarked that “AI could not only write a new “Bible,” but also a correct one.” (*AIG*)
- A “substitute” for God
 - See golden calf and tower of Babel
 - Seeking guidance, etc