Somebody’s Watching You!
Message 9 in I Peter Sermon Series
I Peter 2:11, 12

Today as we resume our series from the Book of I Peter, I would like for you to please turn with me in your Bibles to I Peter 2:11,12.

Read: I Peter 2:11,12

P R A Y E R

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

Do you ever get that feeling that SOMEBODY’S WATCHING YOU?

ILLUSTRATION: How many of you are familiar with the term “GOOGLE EARTH?”

For those of you who don’t have a computer or internet service let me explain what Google Earth is. Google Earth is a website that allows you to connect with a Satellite orbiting above the earth.

You type in the address you want to search and the camera aboard that satellite will allow you to zoom in on that address.

Out of curiosity I typed in my address on Google Earth and pretty soon this satellite camera begins zooming toward the earth.....then toward eastern North Carolina.....then toward Shirley Farm Road where I live.
At first I couldn’t recognize the location where the satellite had zoomed in. But after moving my computer mouse a little bit I recognized the 29 ponds at the Fish Farm next door to where Linda and I live. I moved the mouse a little bit more and there it was. I could see the pond right beside our house and could even see our paddle boat on the pond bank. I saw the top of our house, our barn, our one acre pasture beside the barn and even our little pump house behind the barn.

While the camera will only zoom in to about 1,000 feet above my house, this scary thought occurred to me: If I can zoom in that close to my house with our little desk top computer, just how close can the Government zoom in on my house?

We’ve always heard “Big Brother is watching.” I believe it!

ILLUSTRATION

The next time you go to a Wal-Mart store, look at the surveillance cameras on top of the building. Those cameras watch your every move from the time you pull in the parking lot until you leave. And there are hidden cameras inside the store monitoring your every move. **SOMEBODY’S WATCHING YOU!**

The next time you walk into a convenience store to pay for your gas realize you are under surveillance! **SOMEBODY’S WATCHING YOU!**

The next time you go to your ATM to withdraw some cash, SMILE AND SAY CHEESE because your every move is being filmed. **SOMEBODY’S WATCHING YOU!**

And if you ever get stopped by a State Trooper for speeding, don’t waste your breath arguing, because the Trooper’s dash cam will tell the truth. **SOMEBODY’S WATCHING YOU!**

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In our scripture text today, PETER is reminding the persecuted Christians who first received this letter, as well as Christians throughout all generations that SOMEBODY’S WATCHING US! And that “somebody” is the whole world.

As Christians we must understand that our lives are held to a higher degree of scrutiny than any other group of people on earth. Our lives are under constant surveillance by non-Christians. Somebody is always watching us!

Because our lives are being watched so closely, Peter admonishes us to do two things:

First of all……

I. We Must GUARD Against All Evil (v.11)

v.11 Dear Friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

ILLUSTRATION

The other night I was watching a show on TV that was comparing two very different approaches to sex education in our public schools. One school was in Massachusetts, the other was in Texas.

The school in Massachusetts uses an approach which actually encourages teens to engage in pre-marital sex. I was literally sick at my stomach as I listened to the teacher of that class talk to those teenagers about human sexuality in such graphic and crude language. It was absolutely appalling!

The school in TEXAS on the other promotes abstinence before marriage. The class is actually taught by a former Miss Texas who tells her students the greatest gift they can give their future mate is to remain PURE. And when the class is completed, each student is challenged to sign a “Pledge of Purity.” Which the show revealed has been signed by millions of teens.
1. In essence, Peter is challenging all Christians to make a “Pledge of Purity” to abstain from sinful desires which war against your soul.

2. When Peter talks about “sinful desires” he is talking about something much broader than just “sexual sins.” By “sinful desires” Peter is referring to all sins of the flesh. Paul gives us a list of the “sins of the flesh” in Galatians 5:19-21. (I want you to turn to Galatians with me and let’s look at these verses together, because I want to explain some things.)

Paul writes: *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery* (debauchery refers to anything filthy, indecent or shameful) *idolatry, hatred, discord* (that refers to being contentious or always looking to stir up trouble) *jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions* (that refers to disrupting unity or causing divisions) *factions* (refers to rejecting the fundamental teachings of the scripture) *and envy, drunkenness* (refers to abstaining from taking drink or drugs that lowers one’s defenses for lust or sinful pleasure) *orgies* (is referring to “wild parties” where anything and everything goes) and the like.

Now notice Paul’s stern warning in the last part of verse 21 “I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

3. Now let’s go back and look again at what Peter says about this. (I Peter 2:11)

verse 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in this world to ABSTAIN FROM SINFUL DESIRES, WHICH WAR AGAINST YOUR SOUL!
4. As Christians, “we are IN the world, but we are not to be OF the world.” In other words, “We live in the world, but we are not to live our lives like those who don’t know Christ.

**ANALOGY**

Let’s say I’m in Mexico. And while I’m there I buy me a Big Sombrero and a poncho to throw over my shoulders. And as I walk the streets of Mexico City, I say “cheesy” things like, “Que Pasa and Que-o-pectate” “And “se senior” and “se senorita” and “Taco, burrito, and gordita to you!”

Do you think I would be able to fool any of the Mexican people that I was a genuine Mexican? Of course not! I might be in Mexico, but I’m not a Mexican.

5. As Christians, you and I might be in this world, but there should be no mistake that you and I are NOT of this world.

6. Brothers and sisters, its time that we as Christians stopped living like LOST PEOPLE and start living like SAVED PEOPLE!

7. That means we must GUARD against ALL EVIL!
II. We Must **GIVE** Our Enemies No Ammunition (v. 12)

v. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

1. Here once again, Peter is reminding us of just how bad the persecution was against the Christians of his day.

   Many of those who would first read this letter from Peter had been **the victims of slander** and **false accusations** on the part of those who were persecuting them.

   A number of them had been falsely accused of immorality, while others were wrongfully charged with crimes they didn’t commit.

   As a result, many of those Christians were **imprisoned**, many were **tortured** and a great number of them were even **executed**.

2. Peter is reminding these persecuted Christians that while they have no control over those who are falsely accusing them **there is one thing they can do to combat their accusers.** And that is **“don’t give them any ammunition!”**
ILLUSTRATION

Perhaps my favorite TV show of all time was the Andy Griffith Show. And my favorite character on that show was Deputy Barney Fife.

While Barney always meant well, his highly nervous temperament made him a dangerous man at times, especially when he had a gun in his hand. That’s why wise Sheriff Andy Taylor only allowed Barney to have one bullet for his gun. Andy didn’t want to give “ol Barn” any more ammunition than he already had.

Skeptics and enemies of Christianity are constantly watching your life and mine for the “slightest stumble” “the tiniest little slip up in our faith” so they can point their accusing finger and say, “Ah-hah, you’re a hypocrite just like every other Christian.”

Like Sheriff Andy Taylor, we have got to be very careful about giving our critics any more ammunition than what they already have.

3. Look at that 12th verse again and let’s read it very slowly to absorb what Peter is saying.

READ SLOWLY VERSE 12

Peter is admonishing the Christians of his day as well as all of us to live such good, decent, honorable and righteous lives that even if non-Christians mock you, ridicule you, persecute you, lie about you, point an accusing finger at you, mistreat you, abuse you, or wrongfully blame you…….YOUR LIFE WILL BE SO GENUINE AND AUTHENTIC IT WILL PROVE THEY HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR THEIR CHARGES.
Illustration: A couple of weeks ago I took Linda’s van to get it inspected. The inspection went something like this:

“Turn on your headlights.”
“Now turn on your brights.”
“Left turn signal”
“Right turn signal.”
“Now honk your horn.”

Then he walked to the back of the van…….

“Left turn signal.”
“Right turn signal.”
“Now hit your brakes.”
“Turn on your emergency flashers.”

After being thoroughly examined, the van had passed inspection.

Peter says, “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on “the day He visits us.”

While we are here in this world, our lives are being watched! We are being closely “inspected” each and every day by unbelieving family members, co-workers, friends and neighbors.

And perhaps nothing has drawn more unbelievers to Christ than the witness of a real, genuine, authentic Christian. It has happened many times before and it is still happening.

Imagine someone walking up to you in heaven one day and saying, “Thank you!” Somewhat startled, you respond: “What are you thanking me for?” And they answer: “Thank you for pointing me to Christ by the genuine, authentic life you lived on earth!”
One day you and I will realize THE WORLD wasn’t the only ones watching us.

The LORD is also watching us. And one day we will stand before the “mercy seat” of Christ and the LORD will do a thorough “inspection” of every detail of our lives.

CONCLUSION

“Oh Be Careful Little Ears”

Oh be careful little EARS what you hear. Oh be careful little EARS what you hear.
For the Father up above is looking down in love. So be careful little EARS what you hear.

Oh be careful little EYES what you see. Oh be careful little EYES what you see.
For the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little EYES what you see.

Oh be careful little MOUTH what you say. Oh be careful little MOUTH what you say.
For the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little MOUTH what you say.

Oh be careful little HANDS what you do. Oh be careful little HANDS what you do.
For the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little HANDS what you do.

Oh be careful little FEET where you go. Oh be careful little FEET where you go.
For the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little FEET where you go.

Oh be careful little MIND what you think. Oh be careful little MIND what you think.
For the Father up above, is looking down in love, so be careful little MIND what you think.

Brothers and sisters, don’t ever forget, “Somebody’s Watching You!”