



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

June 04, 2017

PRESENCE

Reflections

I have found, in short, from reading my own writing, that my subject in fiction is the action of grace in territory largely held by the devil. I have also found that what I write is read by an audience which puts little stock either in grace or the devil.

Flannery O'Connor

More and more, Christians, to say nothing about our increasingly secular society, just don't believe in the Devil, at least not in any personal or literal sense.

Richard Beck, *Reviving Old Scratch: Demons and the Devil for Doubters and the Disenchanted*

How can one close one's eyes at the fact that the demons themselves have taken over rule of the world, that it is the powers of darkness who have here made an awful conspiracy...how could one think that these demons could be driven out with a bit of education in international understanding, with a bit of goodwill?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from a lecture in 1932

The modern world divides into those who are obsessed with demonic powers and those who mock them as outdated rubbish. Neither approach . . . does justice to reality. . . . Despite the caricatures, the obsession, and the sheer muddle that people often get themselves into on this subject, there is such a thing as a dark force that seems to take over people, movements, and sometimes whole countries, a force or (as it sometimes seems) a set of forces that can make people do things they would never normally do.

N.T. Wright, *Simply Jesus*

Scripture

1 Peter 5:8-14

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. ¹³ She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. ¹⁴ Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Sermon

Stand Firm and Resist Your Adversary

Rankin Wilbourne

Events & News

Community Group Fair, June 11

Get to know people from Community Groups that meet near your home or workplace. Community Groups are one of the best ways to connect with others and experience everything we talk, pray, and sing about on Sundays.

Building a Dynamic Prayer Life Workshop, June 17

For many Christians, prayer is one of those things we know we should do more but struggle to do well. This interactive workshop gives biblical and practical tools to deepen our prayer lives. You won't regret making this spiritual investment.

Membership Seminar, June 19

This is for anyone curious or thinking about making PCC your home church. Come and ask questions, have some dinner with us, and we will discuss the way the bible talks about membership and what it means to be a member of a local church.

View all events on our app, at PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or in our events brochure available at the Connect Center.

Ministry Resources

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.