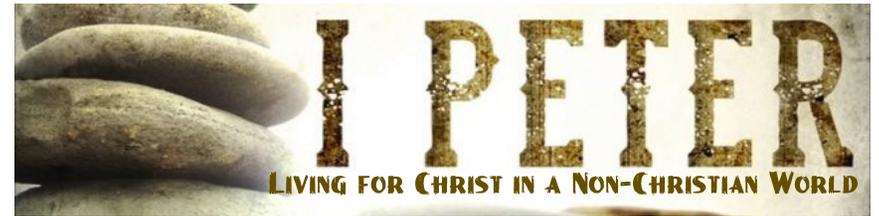


pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ^[20] But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ^[21] To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

^[22] “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

^[23] When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ^[24] He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ^[25] For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- ❑ Vss. 18-20 How is anyone who is a Christian in a bad situation suppose to act?
- ❑ Does this mean that nothing bad will ever happen to you? Explain your answer.
- ❑ The word suffering carries with it two parts. First is unjust treatment and second is enduring or repeated circumstances. How does this apply to the Christian today?
- ❑ Vs. 21 How does our suffering compare to Christ?
- ❑ Compare Vs. 11 to Vs. 22 How should our lives be a reflection of the life and ministry of Jesus? Why is this important?
- ❑ Vs. 23 How did Jesus respond to being falsely accused and mistreated?
- ❑ Vs. 24 What has Christ done for us? (2 key answers here)
- ❑ Vs. 25 The one who endures and submits does so because of their relationship with God.
- ❑ What are the benefits of being a submissive Christian believer?



Study lesson #4

© 2014 Rev. Bob Highlands III - Text 1 Peter 2.11-25

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

^[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.

- ❑ How does verse 11 describe the Christian relationship to the world around them.
- ❑ Vs. 11 What is the one thing we must do and what would be the results if this is not done? See also 1 Thessalonians 4.3-7
- ❑ Vs. 12 Peter uses the word pagans or gentiles, who is Peter referring to? Who is not included in this group?
- ❑ .How is the believer suppose to live in a world full of pagans?
- ❑ How will the non-Christian treat the Christian?
- ❑ What will be the results of our living our lives as described in vss. 11-12?

Before you start this section imagine yourself in the worst dictatorship in world today, and then read the following instructions from Peter to the believers in the 1st century and see how they apply to them and to you.

^[13] Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ^[14] or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ^[15] For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ^[16] Live as free men, but do not use your freedom

as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ^[17] Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

- ❑ Verse 13 opens with the word SUBMIT or to place yourself under the authority of someone else. It is much like being a soldier in the military where there are those who are of higher rank over you. Who does Peter mention in verses 13-14 and how do they compare to our leaders today?
- ❑ Vs. 14 What is the chief purpose of government?
- ❑ How does this compare to the modern concept of government?
- ❑ Vs. 15 What is the believer to do?
- ❑ What is the non-believer doing at the same time?
- ❑ Which one is actually accomplishing anything?
- ❑ Why does this benefit the believer?
- ❑ The word silence in vs. 15 means to muzzle. How does this picture of a muzzled dog allow us to see what our lives can accomplish?
- ❑ Vs. 16 & 17 tell the Christian to do six things, list them:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
- ❑ Vs. 16 How could a Christian use their freedom in Christ to cover up evil?
- ❑ What does it mean to live as a free man (person)?
- ❑ Read 1 Timothy 2.1-2 What is the Christian believer to do for those in authority over them? What is the desired results?
- ❑ Read Romans 13.1-3 What is the believer called to do for governing authorities?
- ❑ What does Paul say will be the results of rebelling against such authority?

- ❑ Why is the Christian to do right?
- ❑ Do any of these scriptures advocate rebelling or overthrowing of the government?
- ❑ Does this mean we should not stand against evil?
- ❑ Why is it so important to submit as a Christian?
- ❑ In what ways should the believer not submit to authority?

WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS CONQUERED FROM WITHIN IN LESS THAT 300 YEARS BY THOSE WHO PRACTICED THE PRINCIPLES THAT PETER WROTE ABOUT. THIS IS NOT ABOUT IGNORING INJUSTICE IT IS ABOUT FIGHTING A WAR AGAINST SIN TO WIN. ^{REH III}

Read verses 11 & 16 again. Remember that this is being written to Christian believers who are aliens yet free in Christ and servants of God. The following instructions are not an endorsement of slavery but are about the witness of the believer. William Barclay wrote about the slaves in Rome.

“there were as many as 60,000,000 slaves in the Roman empire...

It was by no means only menial tasks which were performed by slaves. Doctors, teachers, musicians, actors, secretaries, stewards were all slaves. In fact, all the work of Rome was done by slaves. Roman attitude was that there was no point in being master of the world and doing one's own work. Let the slaves do that and let the citizens live in pampered idleness. The supply of slaves would never run out...

In Roman law a slave was not a person but a thing; and he had absolutely no legal rights whatsoever. For this reason there could be no such thing as justice where a slave was concerned...

* William Barclay, *The letters of James and Peter*, rev. ed., The Daily Study Bible Series (Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1976), pp. 210-211.

^[18] Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ^[19] For it is commendable if a man bears up under the