

A Living Hope

A Study in First Peter

LESSON TWO

Prayerfully read through 1st Peter, chapter two.

Peter ended chapter one with the contrast of our flesh, which like a flower quickly fades away, with the eternal Word of God, which endures forever. He now begins chapter two, again with the word, “therefore.” Because of Who God is, because of His eternal Word, made flesh for us, because of all that He has done for us, he now tells us what our response should be.

- 1) Peter first deals with the attitude of our heart as we approach His Word. Looking at **verse 1**, what are the instructions Peter gives us to prepare our hearts to receive His Word?

- 2) In **verse 2**, Peter further reveals to us what our response to God’s Word should be. What does he say?

The Greek word used for “desire” in this verse is “intensive.” It means to have a strong, hungry desire. Peter compares it to the desire of a newborn babe for milk. You do not have to convince a newborn baby of its need or desire for milk. They are so hungry for it, they care about little else.

- 3) David describes this hungry desire a little differently in **Psalm 42**. Look up and write out **verses 1 & 2** of **Psalm 42** below.

- 8) Read **1 Peter 2:4-6**. Peter now makes a comparison between the temple and the church. What does Peter call us in **verse 4**?

- 9) In **verse 5**, what purpose does God have for using us in this way?

- 10) The Jews had their temple as the place to worship God, but the church is a spiritual building, inhabited by God in His people. Every building has a cornerstone. **Verse 6** declares that Christ is our Cornerstone. Write out the glorious proclamation of Christ in **verse 6**.

- 11) **Verse 7** tells us that, although He is precious to us, there are those who have rejected and refused to come to Him for salvation. What does **verse 8** tell us this Chief Cornerstone has become to them?

The NLT reads, **“They stumble because they do not obey God’s Word and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.”**

- 12) In contrast to that, what does **verse 9** tell us about the plans and purposes God has for us, as believers?

- 13) Stop and meditate on this verse for a moment. This is our divine calling! This is the purpose God drew us to Himself. We have been given a privilege and honor that is beyond anything else we could pursue. And this privilege and honor is especially profound to us as Gentile believers in Christ. What does **verse 10** add to this?

- 14) With all of this that we've been given, how does Peter tell us we are now to live in **verses 11 & 12**?
- 15) The importance of living in a way that honors what Christ has done for us is so that the evidence of God's saving grace would be observed by those who don't yet know Him. If we want our witness for Christ to be taken seriously, we need to **walk** our **talk**. Look up the following Scriptures that speak about this.
- Matthew 5:16 -**
- Titus 2:7 & 8 -**
- James 2:18 -**
- 16) Peter goes on to tell us that one significant evidence that we have experienced new life in Christ is our submission to authority. In **verses 13 & 14 of 1 Peter, chapter 2**, he speaks about our submission to government. Record those verses below.
- 17) What reason does Peter give for why this is important in **verse 15**?

18) Peter reminds us in **verse 16** that we have been freed from our slavery to sin, but that freedom is not to give us a license for sin. As the old **Bob Dylan song** goes, “**You’re gonna have to serve somebody.**” We are no longer slaves to sin, but who does Peter remind us that we now serve in **verse 16**?

19) We submit to government authority, as good citizens and as good representatives of Christ. But that does not mean we do so if what we’re being told to do is contrary to God’s Word. Look up and record in your own words the example we find in **Acts 4:18-20**.

20) Peter summarizes his points in **verse 17** of our chapter. Complete the sentences below.

Honor _____.

Love _____.

Fear _____.

Honor _____.

21) In **verses 18 through 20**, Peter shifts his focus to our submission to our masters. We can certainly apply this to “our employers.” Note that Peter says we should submit to the authority of not only good and kind masters and employers, but even to those who are harsh. We have a hard time suffering an injustice. It is so contrary to our human nature. What is the **reason** Peter gives for why we should do so in **verses 19 & 20**?

- 22) Write down the **reason(s)** given for doing so from the following Scriptures. *(You do not need to write out the whole Scripture, only the reason stated).*

Ephesians 6:5-8 -

Colossians 3:22-25 -

1 Timothy 6:1 -

Titus 2:9-10 -

- 23) The final **reason** Peter gives us is found in **1 Peter 2:21**. According to this verse, what is that reason?
- 24) From **verses 22 & 23**, write down the description of Christ's example to us.
- 25) Christ's example for us goes far beyond His sufferings at the hands of unjust men. What does Peter state in **verse 24** that Christ **did** for us, and for **what purpose** did He do it?

- 26) Peter concludes his thoughts in **verse 25**. Write the verse down below.
- 27) We once lived only for ourselves. Selfish living was our natural response. But what does **2 Corinthians 5:15** tell us about how we are to live now?
- 28) What was your greatest take-away from this chapter?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2023