

Peter's First Epistle

I-PETER

CHAPTER 2:11-17

TAPE SM. #252 ~ FEBRUARY 23, 1997

TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"GOD, GOVERNMENT & GRACE"

THE CHRISTIANS JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS OF THE WORLD

THEME OF THE BOOK:

1 Peter 5:12

I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 2:11-17

On ABC's Wide World of Sports last week they showed Sumo Wrestling (where two men weighing 500 to 600 Lbs. Each, step inside a circle, a ring, nearly naked with a bun in the hair - to see who's the strongest and quickest.

**THE FORCE THAT THEY MEET WITH
IS AN ESTIMATED 2,000LBS. PER SQUARE INCH**

(That's easy - if I saw a 500-600 lbs. Man, Naked, coming toward me with a bun in his hair - *I'd tell him that he's the strongest, then I'd turn and run!*)

How the Smaller Guy won was by, not resisting!
The moment he relaxed the other guy went flying outside the ring

"No More Resistance"

1 Peter 5:5

"...all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God **resists** the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

God Fights Against us when we resist authority

Romans 13:2

Whoever resists the authorities that are in power, resists the will of God, and those who resist God will bring judgment on themselves.

The Theme of the Text or Teaching:

Is Based Upon Verse 15

For this is the will of God,
that by **doing good** you (we) may **put to silence** the ignorance of foolish men--

Jesus Left Us An Example:

John 8:29

"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

1. There will never be success in our walks with God
2. There will never be fruit in our ministries for God
3. There will never be victory in any area of our lives

Until We Are Submitted to "The Will of God"

Until What "He Wants" is Our "All Consuming Desire"

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do **the will of Him who sent Me**, and to finish His work.

Luke 2:49

as Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus, Jesus was busy...
"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that **I must** be about **My Father's business?**"

It is Not Natural for Us to Obey God

(it's supernatural that we do at all)

We Must Be Committed to the Act of Submission to God

What Submission is Not:

- submission is not slavery and bondage to and for the pleasure of another.
- submission is not fearful and degrading and terrible

Because it is directed toward Jesus,
for Jesus, unto Jesus

What Submission is:

- submission is the “Recognition” of God’s Authority in and over your Life
- it is believing that no matter the case - God knows !!!

“God Knows!”

That Truth is Liberating Like Nothing Else

It’s the “Sticking to It-ness” that comes from God

“It’s Being Done As Unto the Lord”

1.) Grace means “Submission” for Our own Good

Verse 11-12

Verse 11a

*Beloved, I **beg** you as **sojourners and pilgrims**, **abstain** from fleshly lusts
which **war** against the **soul**,*

1a) Remembering Who We Really Are;

“Beloved, I beg you”

“Beloved!”

Children Greatly loved! - Highly Favored Ones!

God loves us because of Jesus -
Not because You think you're Cute

God Loves Us Because We Have Been Placed inside of Christ

Romans 8:1a

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are "in Christ "

1 Corinthians 1:2a

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified
"in Christ" called to be saints, with all who, in every place call on the name of the Lord
Jesus

Verse 11b

- * **Beg** *GRK 3870 parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh'-o)*
to call near, to invite, to plead with to the others benefit

Why ?

THERE'S AN INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WAR GOING ON

- * **Sojourners** *GRK 3941 paroikos (par'-oy-kos)*
resident aliens - having a home that is near by,
but not hear!
- * **Pilgrim** *3927 parepidemos (par-ep-id'-ay-mos);*
a resident foreigner: An Exile

Being a visitor from a foreign land

The natives are watching you, asking questions about you

Naturally Critical of You - You're Different !

Verse 11c

abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1b) Recognize the Battle that's Against You is You

- * **abstain** GRK 567 *apechomai* (ap-ekh'-om-ahee)
to hold yourself back from. To resist the pull

Self-centeredness is defiance against God
Submission is Impossible if we are nursing sinful desires

Commenting on this verse

“Dwight L. Moody said - *‘This one thing I’m sure of; - Dwight L. Moody have more trouble with Dwight L. Moody, than anyone Dwight L. Moody Knows’*”

- * **War** GRK 4754 *strateuomai* (strat-yoo'-om-ahee);
to be serving in a military campaign; an ongoing warfare

IT'S GOING ON AGAINST THE SOUL

(THE YOUNG MAN I MET WITH RECENTLY)

lust, passion, the burning

- * **Soul**, GRK 5590 *psuche* (psoo-khay')
the mental-vitality. The place or seat of the emotional heart. The mind, the soul

Man is;
A Body - A Soul - and A Spirit

Man is a little trinity

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul,** and **body** be preserved blameless till the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your soul is the “middle-man”...
“whatever” - is ok with him goes

- The Spirit says “Lets Worship”
- The Souls says “That sounds Good to Me”
- The Body says “No, I want to Eat and Play”
- The Souls says “That sounds Good to Me”

If the Spirit is Strong,

The Soul (the mind) will yield, and the body drags its heels following.

But if the Body is Strong,

The Soul (the mind) will yield, and the Spirit will drag its heels following

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by **the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Exposing the Soul (Mind)

to Bible, to Worship, to Praise, to Service, to Fellowship

...WILL CLEANS IT FROM THE FILTH
OF THE WORLD

Like the last song you’ve heard - it sticks in your soul (mind)
until another one is heard

John 15:3

"You are already clean because of the word which I have **spoken** to you.

1c.) Submission is a Witness to the Non-Christian

Verse 12a

*having your conduct **honorable** among the Gentiles, that when (Not If) they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they **observe, glorify** God in the day of **visitation.***

The Fact of the Matter is;
We Are Witnesses at all Times, to Everyone,
Everywhere!

THE WORLD IS WATCHING US ALIENS & EXILES

Verse 12b

*having your conduct **honorable** among the Gentiles*

- * **Honorable** GRK 2570 *kalos* (kal-os')
the appearance, the view others see - honest, worthy.

when they speak against you as evildoers,

Speaking Evil (Slandering and slamming)

If they haven't yet, they will - so cheer up

Verse 12c

*That they may, (by your good works which they **observe**), glorify
God in the day of visitation.*

- * **Observe** GRK 2029 *epopteuo* (ep-opt-yoo'-o)
to inspect, to walk around and to inspect very inch. Watch
carefully and with interest.

That our witness will accomplish two things:

- #1 That in the end they will have nothing to say against
- #2 That by our witness - they will accept Jesus Christ and Glorify God

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

But Also at the Appearance of Jesus for their Salvation

- * **Visitation GRK 1984 episkope (ep-is-kop-ay')**
the times and seasons when the gospel is presented.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Submission to God,

is being set free from the power of passion.

Submission to God

enables us to control our sinful desires

A Great Story About this Truth

In the summer of 1805 a number of American Indian chiefs were asked to gathered together to hear a presentation of the gospel from evangelist and pastor Oliver Cram from the Boston Missionary Alliance.

They met at Buffalo Creek New York to hear the invitation. At the end of the message one of the Chiefs, Chief Red Jacket said "you say that there is but one great spirit and that he alone is to be worship. If that is true, why do you white men argue so much about him. If this message is true then it will first change the white man. And If it can change the white man, so that he stop cheating and stealing and robbing the Indians that are among him, then it can change the red man too and we will gladly worship such a great spirit as that"

1.) Grace means "Submission" for Our own Good

2.) Grace is "Submission" for the Sake of the Lord

Verse 13-17

Verse 13a

Therefore **submit** yourselves to **every ordinance** of man
for the Lord's sake, whether to the **king as supreme**,

* **Submit** **GRK 5293 hupotasso (hoop-of-as'-so)**
to subordinate yourself. To be obeying continually

Look at these Anti-Government Groups

look at the fruit of their beliefs
hostile, argumentative, rebellious, critical and self-protecting

I am Against more government, I am Against Abortion, I am Against Globalism
I am Against Liberalism; I am Against everything the Bible is Against

But I am for everything the Bible is for

Romans 13:7

Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Matthew 17:24-27

When they had come to Capernaum, the tax collectors came to receive tax and coming to Peter they said, "Does your Teacher pay taxes?" ²⁵ He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" ²⁶ Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. ²⁷ Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you."

**IF YOU'RE NOT PAYING WHAT YOU LEGALLY OWE
THEN YOUR A THEFT - AND GOD WILL JUDGE YOU**

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

In My Life;
The Most Powerful Man Know,
is the most Submissive man I Know

Submission is Attractive

1 Peter 3:1

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

The Greatest Act of Submission was Jesus on the Cross

Submission is Attractive

The Witness of Jesus - Changed the Thieves Mind

Matthew 27:38-42,44

Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And they both mocked Him ³⁹ And those (in authority) who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.... ⁴⁴ Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

But the Witness of Jesus - Changed Things

Luke 23:39-40,42

Then one of the criminals who was crucified blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." ⁴⁰ But the other, answering him with a rebuke, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

At The Foot of The Cross

Matthew 27:54

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Verse 13b

- * **Ordinance** *GRK 2937 ktisis (ktis'-is);*
institutions and organizations of authority

We might disobey a law
but still honor the institution from which it came...

Example:

Daniel 1 - the dietary laws of the Babylonian Kingdom

I Don't Have to Pay Income Tax?
YES, YOU DO
and if you're not - may you go directly to jail

Matthew 22:21

They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Romans 13:7

Render therefore to all their due: **taxes** to whom **taxes are due**, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Verse 13c

"the king as supreme"

* **Supreme** **GRK 5242 huperecho (hoop-er-ekh'-o)**
to positioned above all the others. The superior,
the highest one over the land

THE EMPEROR'S

decree over the Jews and the Greek speaking Alexandrians to get along with each other or
suffer the result.

(In Bill Clinton's first election, George Bush had more people
vote for him than for Bill Clinton, but who's the President
today? - Why? Because it was God's will that Bill Clinton be The
President) - *do you want to fight about - you'll fight God*

Verse 14-15

*or to **governors**, as to those who are sent by him for the **punishment** of
evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.*

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may **put to silence** the ignorance of foolish men--

* **Put to silence** GRK 5392 *phimoo* (fee-mo'-o)
to muzzle:

To Quiet Them by doing Good, because Doing Good is so Rarely Seen

Luke 6:27-30

"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸
"bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your Calvin Klines, do not withhold your Levi's from him either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.

2 Timothy 3:12

Yeah! and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Verse 16

as **free**, yet not using liberty as a **cloak for vice**,
but as **bondservants** of God.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:13

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Eric Hoffa said

"The Best Test of Freedom is not what you are free to do, but what you are free not to do"

I do not have to do anything - I am hooked on nothing

In Vancouver B.C. gangs robbed and pillaged several markets and stores
"yelling - 'we've been liberated'"

No - That's Vandalism which leads to bondage and a loss of freedom

John 8:36 KJV

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

*

Free GRK 1658 eleutheros (el-yoo'-ther-os);

to go forward in pleasure, to be a citizen, not a slave. To be freeborn or to walk at large without fear

We're "Citizens of Heaven" Now!
"Slaves" to what is "Good and True"
Our Passions are fixed on the one who frees Us

A Non-Christian

is in total Bondage and Blindness

to rage, anger, pride, to lust, to drinking, to self-seeking pursuits

- They Say that They're Free to Drink, free to do what they want, but the proof is... they cannot live without their crutch, their fix!!!
- But they can't go out without a beer, without coke, without a plan they cannot relax at home without a martini or X-rated video

THEY'RE TRAPPED

(Bob Dylan Sang the Song)

"You Gotta Serve Somebody - It might be the Devil, it might be the Lord"

*

bondservants GRK 1401 doulos (doo'-los)

a slave that has done his time and is free to go but chooses to stay

"The Nailing of the Aul to the Ear"

What He Hears - He Does

Verse 17

**Honor all people. Love the brotherhood.
Fear God. Honor Bill Clinton**

* **Honor** GRK 5091 *timao* (tim-ah'-o)
to prize high, put a high valuation upon; to hold in reverence

Value All - All that are in the World - The Humans (Good or Bad - The Value of an Eternal Soul)

Give the king honor because....

he must appear before God to give an account of his rule.

- Every King, Prime Ministry & President will answer to God
- Every Judge will give an account for every ruling he/she has every given
- Every policy maker will answer to God

Because of that - Give them Respect

**THERE'S AN AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
BUT BOTH ARE FROM HEAVEN**

Acts 7:51

"You **stiffnecked** (of the head) and **uncircumcised** in heart and ears!.... You always **resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you.

Stiffnecked GRK 4644 *sklērotrachēlos* (sklay-rot-rakh'-ay-los)
having the head and neck hardened, bent, jammed, or immovable. Stuck!

What Causes This Condition?

- **Pride** believing that you are better, and others are less
- **Self-Confidence** believing your own propaganda, you're the best
- **Ambition** believing that you have the answers, the solutions

The World Loves Those Words

- **Emotional Pain** (leads to hardness of the neck & heart)

(Causing us to take **defense**) which leads to **hypocrisy**

- **Disappointment** (*leads to hardness of the neck & heart*)
(Makes us to become **projectionist**) which is the root of **bitterness**

- **Fear** (*leads to hardness of the neck & heart*)
(That drives us into **isolation**) which leads to **dependence** upon self, not God

Your '*Will*' Must Change
or You '*Will*' Perish

Acts 7:51

"You **stiffnecked** (of the head) and **uncircumcised** in heart and ears!.... You always **resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you.

Ezekiel 33:11

"Say to them: `As I live,' says the Lord GOD, `I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

John 8:24

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not (trust) that I am He, you will die in your sins."