

Peter's First Epistle

I-PETER

CHAPTER 2:18-25

TAPE SM. #253 ~ MARCH 1, 1997

TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“GOD, EMPLOYMENT & 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 2:18-25

Peter is Reminding us that we are a people who are “under the microscope” so to speak by those who don’t know God personally.

For all of us,
it became obvious to our friends & family, in-laws and outlaws,
that something different has happened to us

We confessed to them that we had received Jesus Christ as
Lord and Savior

...That Truth Began to Change Our lifestyles

John 10:10b

"...I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly. (An overflowing of life of quality and benefit)

**...and rightfully so because,
the world is watching us**

Because they're watching;

vv. 11-12 we are to submit for the sake of the Lost

If we are going to trust in Jesus and believe what He has said. Then we must adopt His Passion - that there is a real heaven and real hell, and that time is running out.

1 Peter 2:12 NIV

Live such good lives among the non Christians that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds **and glorify God** on the day Jesus appears for us. **(conversion)**

Because they're watching;

vv. 13-17 we are to submit for the sake of the Lord

Belief leads to trust, trust leads to action. We are as Christians to be Obedient to the "Powers that be"

1 Peter 2:13 NIV

submit Therefore yourselves to every ordinance of man **for the Lord's sake**, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to his governors,

Our Text Today - Peter's Understanding

Jesus Submitted for the Sake of Us All vv. 18-25

Verse 18

Servants,(employees) be submissive to your (employers) masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

Slavery In The Ancient World;

It is a well-known fact that the kingdoms and palaces of the world empires were all built by the hands of slaves.

The Babylonian World: - The Medo-Persian Reign:
- The Egyptian Dynasties: - And the Roman Empire:

Slavery During the Time of Jesus;

medical doctors, engineers, artisans, accountants, household governors

Dr. Luke - The Disciple, A Slave

Joseph, Was The Pharaoh's Personal Slave

Today, In Our World;

there are some 100 countries around the world that still traffic in the slave markets of the world, capitalizing from every human need imaginable!

This is Our Modern-Day Employment

Verse 18b

- * **Be submissive** **GRK 3610 oiketēs (oy-ket'-ace);**
a fellow resident slave, "a domestic aid"

- * **Harsh** **GRK 4646 skolios (skol-ee-os'**
a warped, perverse, or crooked master

This is a command to the Christian - so do it!

Verse 19

*For this is **commendable**, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.*

The Scenario presented here is one of "unfairness"

Suffering for being Wronged - not being your fault

**"GRACE" IS THE POWER
IT'S THE COOLANT - IN THE HEAT**

Verse 20

*For what **credit** is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is **commendable** before God.*

Luke 6:32-35

"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and the evil.

**God Has Placed You Where you are
...So others can see how Jesus is**

**Listen to what is be,
an observable fact of the true Believer**

- Christian Employee is to the Best at any Company, in any setting:
- They're on time - not late
- They always giving 100% - not stealing
- They never complain about their situation, pay, or people - supportive
- They're team players - for the company's interests
- They'll stay late if the company needs them - often volunteering
- The Christian is committed to the bottom line of the company - saving it \$

Why?

because we are not doing it for BAXTER healthcare, IBM, or TACOBELL

We are doing it for the glory of our Master, King.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:22

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

**What if your Boss is Mean?
GOD'S GRACE SAYS "YOU CAN TAKE IT"**

When should I quit?

Only after having #1 searched the Word of the Lord , #2 prayed hard to the Lord and #3 have received scriptural mandates from the Lord (verses)

UNTIL THEN...

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God; (WHY?)
(BECAUSE) I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Our Submission to Authority is God's Ordained Will for Our Lives

Even though we live in what is Considered;
a Free Society

Every one of us is Subject to a King that governs a Kingdom
Every one of us are slaves to a Master who owns our rights!

Bob Dylan's Theology was Correct when he sang

"Everyone's Got to Serve Som-Body, It might be the Devil,
It might be the Lord - But you've got to serrrrve Som-body"

To Whom or What you bow your knee to is your king and
you're subject to them or to it...

We're Slaves to Passion ~ Whatever that Passion might be

Jesus Submitted for the Sake of Us All vv. 18-25

1.) He's Our Example ~ By His Life vv. 21-23

Verse 21

*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:*

Peter is leading us back to the night of Jesus' Arrest

Matthew 26:53

"Jesus said to Peter - "do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

The Example is This;

That a Christian can be in the **perfect will** of God, in **fellowship with** God, in **obedience to** God... Loved By God and Suffer Greatly - Even to the point of Death

Submission is Never a Sign of Weakness - But of Power

John 18:36

Jesus answering Pilate said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but My kingdom is not from this world

2 Timothy 3:12

YEAH, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
(Pressured and Pursued) - (KJV)

Verse 21

that you should follow in His steps

* **Literal translation:** "to follow by using His Foot Steps"

MN MN MN MN MN MN MN

(Like following someone in deep snow - you step where they have already stepped)

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

What if God were to fight back today?

Against all the;

CURSING, JUDGMENTS, ACCUSATIONS, BLASPHEMY
every moment of everyday, of every week of every year

Matthew 12:36

"But I say to you that for every **idle word** men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (Words that do no Good)

Matthew 12:37

"For by your words you will be justified, or by your words you will be condemned."

Luke 23:34b

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Jesus Submitted for the Sake of Us All

2.) By Being Our Substitute ~ In His Death vv. 24

Verse 24a

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree

The Jews Never Crucified Criminals - they stoned them...

But if the Offender was extra evil,
they would then hang him on a tree for shame

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

But Jesus was Crucified (Daniel 9:26)

Luke 23:33

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (**for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"**)

The Roman Empire created crucifixion a slower death - with the shame in your face

* **Bore GRK 399 anaphero (an-af-er'-o)**

to take up and to literally carry the load. to do the work of a servant or slave

Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely He has **borne** our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:11

He shall see the **labor** of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Colossians 2:13

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Verse 24c

that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness

can a dead man sin?

Romans 7:20

Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Jesus Submitted for the Sake of Us All

2c.) By Being Our Good Shepherd in Heaven vv. 25

Verse 25

For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Sheep have a nature all their own.

- They require constant care
- They are prone to danger
- They are defenseless
- Anything and everything can become a natural enemy

**YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT SUCH A DEPENDENT ANIMAL
WOULD BE PRONE TO INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY - BUT THEY DO**

The Human, by Nature,
is Absolutely dependent yet Defiant

The Human, by Nature,
is Corrupt and needs constant care

Jesus is the shepherd:

Luke 15:4

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

Hebrews 13:20

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd **gives His life** for the sheep.
(time and life)

John 10:7,9

Then Jesus said "truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.... :9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

A Shepherd's Quote:

"The sheep cannot go past me without running me over and a wolf will have to deal with me if he wants the sheep - so their safe from themselves and from wolves"

Why Such Care, Because...

The Bible Teaches that we God:

- #1 Mankind is Lost and Alone - Estranged from God
- #2 Man is Unable to rescue Himself
- #3 Jesus Christ Alone is man's hope for salvation
- #4 He gives us a new Heart
- #5 He renews our minds

Because Man is Sinful...

Psalm 14:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.
(The motivation of the heart)

Jeremiah 4:22

"For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

Jesus Finalized this Truth once and for all:

THE RICH, YOUNG, RULER

Matthew 19:16-17

behold, a young man came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" **17** So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? **No one is good but One, that is, God.** But if you want to enter into life

- Mark 10 says he was **rich**
- Matthew 19 says he was **young**
- Luke 18 says he had great **authority/power**

he was a Yuppie
and he needed salvation

No one is good but One, that is, God.

We Know This By Our Experience

Tell someone "whatever you do, do not look in that room - they will look!

Tell someone "whatever you do, do not cross that line - they'll cross it!

Tell someone "whatever you do, do look behind you - they look!

God says

"Whatever you do, do not eat from that tree"

you mean that one right there... why that one?

Why is that tree special and why can't I have my rights, it's my choice!

Verse 25b

For you (we) were like sheep going astray

PETER KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...

"Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." ³⁴
Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times. ³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You....."

Verse 25c

*but have now returned to the Shepherd and
Overseer of your souls.*

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³² "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

“But have now returned”