

The Letters of **Peter**



Lesson 2-Living by Christ—Our Spiritual Rock—and His Word *Focus: 1 Peter 2:1-25*

- **Being built up in Christ—our Spiritual “Rock” (v.1-5)**
 - We should feed continually upon the word of God which will build us up Spiritually! (See Psalm 119:9-16; Romans 10:17; John 17:17; Joshua 1:8; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 17:18-20). The word of God is filled with wonderful power that will recreate our souls after the image of God and increase our faith! (Hebrews 4:12).
- **Serving Christ—our “precious” Savior and Rock of Strength (v.6-10)**
 - The “builders” of Christ’s day had acted foolishly and had rejected the very stone which was to be the corner stone—that is the most perfect and important stone for the whole building was rejected by them. But, those who have accepted Christ Jesus are to receive the blessing of God for put their faith in the very source for all life and righteousness!
- **Letting your light shine before men to the glory of God (v.11-16)**
 - Jesus taught us this principle in His famous Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:13-16).
 - Paul also points out this truth in Romans 13:1-10. This concept of Christians always being good citizens and respecting the government for righteousness sake and for the glory of God was taught unitedly among both Christ and His apostles. Christ said to “render to Caesar what is Caesar’s but to God what is God’s” (Matthew 22:21; John 18:30). We have been instructed to live lives for the honor and glory of God! Following the Laws of God’s Kingdom should make us more respectable and admirable people in many ways all around us.
 - The prophet Daniel was very faithful to God and was a wonderful citizen in his earthly country (Daniel 6:1-4). The only time a Christian has a reason to disregard certain laws of their country is when the laws of that country are in conflict to God’s Laws (which are much higher, all perfect, and eternal). The Bible gives us that example too (Daniel 6:5-10; Acts 5:29).
 - (v.15) By well doing and by setting a good example a follower of Christ can silence the arguments of enemies who want to say bad things of Jesus! If our life is righteous then Christ’s opponents will not be able to find any evil thing to say of Him or of us! Like in Daniel’s case, they will be silenced by beholding a righteous life (See Daniel 6:4).
 - (v.16) We are not to do some evil or malicious behavior, making freedom in Christ Jesus to be our excuse for such terrible or wicked action toward a government, person, or any other thing!
- **Christ Jesus our Example took suffering He did not deserve—therefore even we can do so (v.17-25)**
 - As followers of Christ, we are to honor Him and to honor and do good to others. We should “fear God” and “honor the king.” We should help all men and care for the

brothers and sisters within our church families! We must be loving, caring and responsible people to serve the others around us!

- (v.18) If we are servants then we must do good to the masters who are over us—not just to the good ones, but also to the bad ones.
- (v.18-22) Christ Jesus did no wrong, yet He suffered and took it patiently. Therefore we should be able to take things patiently too. If Christ the innocent one took such things patiently, then we too, being innocent, can handle things well and not retaliate with bad behavior. See also Christ's teachings in Mathew 5:38-48.
- (v.24-25) The Apostle Peter was here making reference to the prophecy of Isaiah 53 which was written about 800 B.C. This prophecy, written 800 years before the time of Christ actually revealed the necessary death of the Messiah for our sins and also His resurrection from the dead. He suffered and died for us although He Himself was innocent! The prophet recorded those details many many years before the event so that people would know what to expect when the Messiah came. Surely the prophet must have desired to look into those things more, but his words were for us especially. He may have seen the things that were coming in vision, but those in Christ's day were able to see the actual reality. And we today are able to look at the facts of History and to know that God reveals His future plans long before they ever happen! *Please see **Isaiah 53:4-6** for the details of this amazing prophesy that Peter was referring to in his letter!*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you diligently study the Bible and plan to grow in faith by the grace of God? _____