

1st and 2nd Peter - The Series

2 of 8 | 1st Peter Chapter 2

SLIDE 1 Introduction

Last Sunday we introduced the letters of 1st and 2nd Peter. I gave a little background information about the circumstances and dating of when Peter wrote these letters and the churches he wrote them to. Then we went right into Chapter 1 where Peter salutes the believers he is writing to and explains the reason for his letter.

The believers and churches of this time were beginning to suffer persecution under the Roman Empire in the early 60's AD. Peter wanted them to understand how they were to respond to it and live in a pagan and ungodly world.

He explains that God has a purpose in suffering. If we bear up under it, it will produce godly character in us and God himself will reward us for it. This is what we are called to—our inheritance, if you will.

SLIDE 2 A Life of Submission

Today we will continue with Chapter 2. In Chapter 1 Peter sums up what he says by telling us to prepare our minds (gird up your loins) to suffer according to God's will and to rest our hope fully upon his grace. (1st Peter 1:13)

In this second chapter he continues his summation by going deeper into what this means—submission. Once we understand that God has a purpose in what we are going through, we need to quit fighting it and submit to it. Like Jesus said in the Garden of Gethsemane, *"Not my will, but yours be done."* (Luke 22:42))

Peter introduces this concept like this:

SLIDE 3 1st Peter 2:1-25 (NKJV) *"¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,** ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*

Christians do not grow in grace unless they are in the Word. This is not an experience thing. It's a faith thing, which only comes through believing and acting upon God's

Word. We do this by:

SLIDE 4 *"⁴ Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, **are being built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,*

SLIDE 5a *"Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."*

⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."

Peter is quoting from Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, and Isaiah 8:14. Peter then points out the reason people stumble in their faith—disobedience.

SLIDE 5b *They stumble, **being disobedient to the word**, to which they also were appointed.*

SLIDE 6 *"⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people **but are now the people of God**, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*

Mercy and grace are things we already possess. Jesus is a constant cleansing flow over our lives, which allows us to proceed until we get it right. We have obtained mercy.

Then Peter goes from concluding his reasonings to begging the believers to forsake their earthly pursuits and pursue a life-sustaining righteousness before God and man.

SLIDE 7 *"¹¹ Beloved, **I beg you** as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts **which war against the soul**, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."*

Your soul life is everything within you that is not visible to the human eye. We only see and hear the results of of who you are by your actions and your words.

Then next are the actions Peter calls us to demonstrate in light of these things:

1. God calls us to prepare ourselves for suffering. He equips us for it through his Word and the hope it gives us.
2. God calls us to grow up in him in all things through his Word.
3. He then calls us to display that hope and spiritual growth through our submission.

SLIDE 8 *"¹³ **Therefore submit yourselves** to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ **For this is the will of God**, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."*

Since we live in a nation where we can influence our government by representation, we sometimes become belligerent towards those who govern us. What we do not realize is that our resistance brings on a backlash of government resistance and suspicion. Yes, we many times bring on the problems we think we are trying to address.

SLIDE 9 Submission or Rebellion?

In God's eyes, this lack of submission to government is a rebellion to him. What we are saying by rebelling against government is that we do not trust God to give us the leadership we need.

Peter goes deeper into this and is the reason so many won't even consider this to be the Lord's way. He then talks about slaves submitting to their masters.

SLIDE 10 *"¹⁸ **Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 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. ²¹ **For to this you were called,** because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:..."

Peter then shows us how Christ responded to those who did him wrong. He begins by quoting Isaiah 53:9. We know Isaiah Chapter 53 as the open revelation of the sufferings of Christ. Verse 22 quotes Isaiah:

SLIDE 11 ²² *"Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth";* ²³ *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, **but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*** ²⁴ *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.* ²⁵ *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."*

We must always remember that God is the overseer of our souls. We are not in charge of the things of this world. We can barely oversee our own lives. We must commit everything to the Lord. In the modern context it would include our government—city, state, and federal; and it would include our employers. It would also extend to our families, especially to our fathers and mothers. We could not even go into the fact that both Ephesians and Colossians tells wives to submit to their husbands Thankfully Paul knew how bad it could get when he said, *"as it is fit in the Lord."*

Just because the things Peter instructs us in how to live are not culturally acceptable in this tremendously rebellious society, it does not mean we are not responsible to God to living a life of submission.

In truth, there are only two ways to live, in submission or in rebellion.

SLIDE 12 Altar Time

Are you trying to force change in your life because you are uncomfortable with how it might change you? Let's think about that. Let God be the overseer of your soul.