

# **1<sup>st</sup> Peter**

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

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1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

**When we, or those we love, go through trials and sufferings, what should we be thinking?**



# 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **18** Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19** *For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.* **20** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. **21** *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.* **22** “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly



## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **If I were to ask you if you want to please God I suspect you could all honestly say, “yes”.**
  - **What we come to realize early on as Christians is that doing what pleases God is not necessarily easy nor is it safe.**
  - **In truth, the very fact that obedience is often hard is a testimony to our good intentions. (we want to obey)**
  - **One of those hard things that pleases God is our obedience to governmental authorities.**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.**
  - Notice please the words “conscious of God” – in other words, when we peacefully accept harsh treatment **because we are concerned about His glory**, this is pleasing to God.
  - Why? Because it speaks volumes about the priority of God in our lives – what He says really matters to us.
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- In verse #20 Peter deals with the kind of suffering and harsh treatment that comes from our own bad behavior.
  - If we break the law and are sent to prison, we should not expect that enduring what we deserve will be pleasing to God.
  - This kind of suffering is just, and can be restorative to us, but it does not have the power to please that enduring unjust suffering does.
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- “20 But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called,”
  - Here Peter speaks of unjust suffering – when we do good and suffer for it unjustly *with an intent to glorify God, that is pleasing to Him.*
  - The fact that Christians seem to suffer unjustly on a frequent basis in this world is not a coincidence – it is a calling.
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- ***Acts 14:21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.***
- ***John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.***





## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**
  - **Phil 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- Now I am not sure exactly how to respond to truth like that – for while we may romanticize about suffering for Jesus, it is still painful, fearful, and often terrible in the moment.
  - We don't know the exact nature of what lies ahead for us – *but we do know that suffering is likely to be in the mix.*
  - So for us, perspective, is critical – suffering does not mean that God has abandoned us. *Much more likely it means He is with us.*
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **Rom 8:32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?**
  - **I want to focus on the idea that God didn't spare Jesus to redeem us – if He didn't spare Jesus to make us holy, why would He spare us from making us holy?**
  - **Holiness comes at a cost – the death of Jesus, and often the discomforting of us.**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **Heb 12:5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.**



## **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23**

- **When are called to go through suffering we should not necessarily search for some unknown sin our lives that we need to cast off. (this is rarely the case)**
  - **Instead we should try to rest in the hope that God is doing in us something far more weighty and eternal than anything the flesh, or an easy life, could produce.**
  - **God has His glory and our eternity in mind when He allows our trials and sufferings – the immature will remain immature without God’s discipline.**
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## **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23**

- **Is this not a great mystery to the uninformed?**
  - **The very fact that suffering can mean progress and that hardships can be blessings, is at odds with all that the flesh thinks.**
  - **The world thinks that blessing looks like a life of ease in a reclining position, but God has in mind a life of refining.**
  - **The world thinks now, God says now is preparation for eternity.**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **And then Peter reminds us that we have someone who has already experienced all of the hurts that we can face and has set an example for us.**
  - **Jesus could have avoided all of the sufferings that came His way, but didn't.**
  - **Fortunately, we do not have the power to stop our sufferings because we would probably use it to our own weakening.**
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# 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- Jesus could have called 10,000 angels to rescue Him, but opted for something He valued more than His own safety and comfort.
- Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.**
  - **Perhaps this is His hardest example to follow – to do nothing when we are mistreated.**
  - **So how would you advise new Christians to ‘stand down’ when mistreated? What would you say to them?**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **When we do not retaliate, we are not conceding that justice does not matter – we are saying that we believe that God is the ultimate Judge.**
  - **We rest in knowing that nothing happens to us that God is not aware of and concerned for.**
  - **A sparrow does not fall from the sky without Him noticing and He even keeps track of the hairs on our heads.**
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## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-23

- **We can also rest in knowing that those who have mistreated us will not have the last word, but they will be called to account for their deeds.**
- **This is a big, big, view of God and it speaks volumes about our faith and our obedience to Him.**
- **When our flesh cries out for revenge we are to be reminded of “vengeance is mine, I will repay”.**





# Questions

