

Book of 1 Peter—1 Peter 2

Instructions to Christians

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 2:1... malice**--“The word ‘malice’ we commonly apply now to a particular kind of evil, denoting extreme enmity of heart, ill-will, a disposition to injure others without cause, from mere personal gratification, or from a spirit of revenge - Webster. The Greek word, however, includes evil of all kinds.” [Albert Barnes’ *Notes on the Bible*]. ||||| “Malice delights in another’s hurt; envy pines at another’s good; guile imparts duplicity to the heart; hypocrisy (flattery), duplicity to the tongue; evil speakings wound another’s character—Augustine” [in *The Minister’s Monthly*, Vol 63, #10, October 1963, p. 90].
- 2:2... desire the sincere milk of the word**—“I am sure every preacher has had someone to say to him, ‘I wish I knew the Bible as well as you do.’ Do you know how diligent Bible students know the Bible? By being diligent in their study of the Bible. There are no shortcuts to knowing the word of God. It is a matter of spending hours and hours with your Bible and asking God for the wisdom which comes from above (Js 1:5-6). Just as we studied our English and math and history in our public schools, we must study the Bible to be proficient students of the Bible” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 82].
- 2:3... If so be ye have tasted**—“The metaphor of tasting that the Lord is good continues the figure suggested by reference to the milk beginning in verse 2. As an infant, once directed to the breast, continues to desire it, so their first experience in partaking of the delectable delights of the Lord should prompt them to return again and again to that feast” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 56].
- 2:4... To whom coming**—“...does not refer to the primary steps of salvation when the alien sinner first comes to Christ, but to the constant approaching of the Lord characteristic of all who find strength and support from the ‘living stone.’ It is only through continually reaching forth to Christ—the standard and ideal of Christianity—that the means and method of constructing the Christian structure may be found” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 56].
- 2:9... a peculiar people**—“The margin here is purchased. The word ‘peculiar,’ in its common acceptation now, would mean that they were distinguished from others, or were singular. The reading in the margin would mean that they had been bought or redeemed. Both these things are so, but neither of them expresses the exact sense of the original. The Greek λαὸς εἰς περιποίησιν *laos eis peripoiesin*) means, ‘a people for a possession;’ that is, as pertaining to God. They are a people which he has secured as a possession, or as his own; a people, therefore, which belong to him, and to no other. In this sense they are special as being His; and, being such, it may be inferred that they should be special in the sense of being unlike others (unique) in their manner of life. But that idea is not necessarily in the text” [Albert Barnes’ *Notes on the Bible*].
- 2:11... strangers and pilgrims**—“Here and in Eph 2:11, the meaning is metaphorical and describes the Christian who, though resident on the earth, has his real and permanent home in heaven. Though sojourning on the earth, he dwells there as a temporary tenant only, his citizenship being in heaven (Ph 3:20), whence he derives his rights, privileges, laws, etc.” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 65-66].

- 2:13... Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the lord's sake**—"We are to observe our speed laws, our game laws, and others—not only for our safety and well-being of others—but because that is what our Lord demands of His children. God knew and we ought to know that an orderly society could not exist without some laws governing human conduct" [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 112].
- 2:16... As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness**—"Though they were free, the freedom which Peter's readers enjoyed was not license to ungodly indulgence. ... They were to remember that, though free, they were under definite obligation and with responsibilities not to be disregarded. ... Liberty without restraint is license; and unrestrained license is abject bondage. The alcoholic, the dope addict, because they recognize no restraint, are in the most helpless slavery" [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 73-74].
- 2:21... leaving us an example**—"...occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It means properly "a writing copy," such as is set for children; or an outline or sketch for a painter to fill up; and then, in general, an example, a pattern for imitation" [Albert Barnes' *Notes on the Bible*].
- 2:24... bare our sins**—"The Lord not only died in our behalf; He also died in our stead. The vicarious aspect of the death of Christ is clearly taught here, as often elsewhere in the sacred writings (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45; 1 Tm 2:6). ... The Lord, in bearing the sins of the world, simply allowed the penalty of the law to fall upon him, the execution of which he suffered in our stead" [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 82-83].
- 2:25... Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**—"The Lord is presented here under two aspects (1) he is a shepherd, in that he feeds, guides, and protects his sheep; (2) he is a bishop (overseer) because he superintends, supervises, and directs their activity. Those whose duty it is to direct the affairs of the churches are undershepherds in feeding, guiding, and directing the work of the church; and they are bishops in overseeing, under Christ, the work committed into their hands (Eph 4:11; Acts 20:28)" [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 85].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III. Summary.

This chapter provides a great challenge to all who are interested in spiritual growth. One of the most important elements of a program for growing spiritually is given in the second verse, where we are told to desire the sincere milk of the word. If that characteristic is true of us, we will be moved to accomplish great things for the Lord. Peter urges us to think of our relationship to Jesus Christ in the building we are building. He reminds us that we are the people of God who have obtained mercy. We must realize we are only pilgrims on this earth and must abstain from fleshly lusts. Our influence, when proper, will be one that will cause outsiders to glorify God. We are to be obedient to the laws of the land. Honor and love is to be characteristic of our behavior among others. We are to endure whatever persecution comes, remembering our Savior also suffered for us, and to follow His example.

IV. Outline.

1. Christians must lay aside certain things (1 Pet 2:1).
2. As babes, desire the sincere milk of the word (2-3).
3. Christ and our building (4-8).
4. Who is a Christian? (9-11).

- 5. Be aware of your influence among unbelievers (12).
- 6. Obey the laws of the land (13-16).
- 7. Honor, fear, love (17).
- 8. Instructions to servants/employees (18-19).
- 9. Further instruction about suffering (20).
- 10. Christ, our Example (21-24).
- 11. Christ, our Bishop (25).

V. Questions.

True or False

- 01. _____ Servants should only respect and obey their masters when they are good and gentle.
- 02. _____ Fleshly lusts war against the soul.
- 03. _____ In this chapter, the word BISHOP refers to elders in a local congregation.
- 04. _____ There is such a thing as SINCERE milk.
- 05. _____ Christians are urged to do good deeds that God may be glorified.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

- 06. _____ To the disobedient, Christ is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, but to faithful Christians, He is: (a) practical; (b) precious; (c) predestined.
- 07. _____ Those things which Peter teaches that Christians are to lay aside number: (a) three; (b) four; (c) five.
- 08. _____ Peter teaches that Christians should live unto righteousness and be: (a) alive to faith; (b) dead to sins; (c) alive to works.
- 09. _____ Peter urges that we honor all men and: (a) the brotherhood; (b) the king; (c) ourselves.
- 10. _____ Christians have been called out of darkness into what kind of light: (a) glorious; (b) bright; (c) his marvelous.

Fill in the Blanks

- 11. Those who believe on the Chief Cornerstone will not be _____.
- 12. "For this is _____, if a man for conscience toward God _____, suffering wrongfully."
- 13. Christians are to submit to every ordinance of man for the _____.
- 14. Christians once were not, but now are the _____ of God.
- 15. We have an Example, whose steps we should _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Questions on 1 Peter 1... [(1) True, 1 Pet 1:4; (2) False, 1 Pet 1:2; (3) True, 1 Pet 1:9; (4) True, 1 Pet 1:25; (5) True, 1 Pet 1:17; (6) b, 1 Pet 1:24-25; (7) c, 1 Pet 1:8; (8) b, 1 Pet 1:6; (9) d; (10) a, 1 Pet 1:18; (11) obeying, 1 Pet 1:22; (12) every, work, 1 Pet 1:17; (13) Jesus Christ, 1 Pet 1:19-20; (14) inheritance, fadeth, heaven, 1 Pet 1:4; (15) word, gospel, 1 Pet 1:25.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

- 1. **Wherefore laying aside...** (1 Pet 2:1). Living the Christian life involves laying aside certain things. Paul refers to it as MORTIFYING (Col 3:5)--or putting to death--certain aspects of one's life as it was before, while living in the world. Being CALLED

OUT of the world will mean that the life a Christian lives is different than the life lived by those who are still lost in the world.

2. **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word...** (1 Pet 2:2). We have to wonder how many Christians pay heed to this exhortation from the inspired apostle. It seems if we truly did want the unadulterated word to the same degree that the little baby wants milk that we would have much more knowledge than is evident among us. The only way we can follow the example of our Lord, as is urged upon us in verse 21, is to study the Bible!
3. **If so be ye have tasted...** (1 Pet 2:3). TASTE, what a powerful sense it is! We taste something that appeals to us and we immediately want more. This figure speaks of that which will cause us to grow. When we truly understand the greatness of God and of our Savior and of His plan for saving man, we will want to be totally committed to the work attached to it. That work is the saving of souls through the spreading of the message. As we allow our “spiritual taste buds” to operate, they will spur us on toward doing more and more that will bring glory to God (v. 12).
4. **Ye also, as lively stones...** (1 Pet 2:5). Here is another figure of speech which helps us to understand for what Christians are here. We are here to serve our Lord. We are building as we live our lives each day and we need to ask ourselves if the building we are building is properly centered on spiritual concerns.
5. **...ye should show for the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light** (1 Pet 2:9). It is SO MUCH better to be in the light than to be lost in the darkness. Christians should be so thankful and happy for the blessing of walking in the light. Out of this thankfulness and appreciation will flow a life which truly leads others out of their darkness and into the light of truth. If we are happy with the life we live, surely we will see the need to challenge others with the life of praise we have.
6. **...strangers and pilgrims...** (1 Peter 2:11). Peter will later explain very clearly why this figure is so appropriate for Christians. In 2 Peter 3:9-11 he shows what will eventually happen to this world and all that is in it—**they will be burned up**. His question to us is: **Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness** (v. 12).
7. **Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake...** (1 Pet 2:13). A Christian is to be a good citizen. The higher powers are ordained of God (Rom 13:1ff). The only instance in which we must not yield to the law of the land is when such a law would cause us to violate God’s law (cf., Acts 4:18-20).
8. **...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example...** (1 Pet 2:21). Not only in the matter of suffering, but in EVERY THING, Jesus Christ is the proper example for you and me to follow. The Hebrews writer challenges us to run the race that is set before us and we must, in the running of that race, keep our eyes focused on Jesus (12:1-2).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

H T G E B V F R E D P C S X S H Q A Z X
 S O W E X D C V F D I R T T G B E N Y U
 H M N L K A I O O P L U U J M N H A Y T
 G O B O A V M O F R G E M D C D C X D S
 W Q N A R Y H P Z X R S B C E E V F F R
 T G B E N T I M L J I U L I K S L P O I
 U J M N S H Y N T E M G I B V I F R T V
 C D E E X T Z E G A S Q N W S R X I C D
 V F I R E D C W S A X C G V F E M R T G
 P R B N H N Y T G B S V F R E B D C X S
 P E Q A E Z X S W E D I C V U F R T Y T
 S N C L D I D N O S I N D S H Y U J M C
 U M I U C H I E F C O R N E R S T O N E
 O S N H L R F V C D E W S X T Q A Z X J
 I S W E D I C V F R T G B N N H Y U J B
 C M J U Y H A R F Y C D A W S S C D E U
 E V F R T G B R C N H V Y J U I E B V S
 R V F R T G B R N H R Y U J M K I N Z E
 P X S W E D E V F E R T G B N H Y U T B
 B G T Y H M N M S G R A C I O U S D R L

[In the list below you will find directions to words in Scripture which were used in the presentation of this lesson. You will have to look up the passage in your Bible. The only version that will work in every case is the KJV. Find the specified word in the Bible text, and then find it in the puzzle above. I sincerely believe that it is good “exercise” for us to look up Scriptures in our own Bibles. We need to be familiar with where the various books of the Bible are located and be able quickly to find particular verses. **NOTE:** Even one-letter words are counted. DRL]

1 Peter 2	
01. Verse 1, 2 nd & 3 rd Words...	11. Verse 11, 9 th Word...
02. Verse 2, 4 th Word...	12. Verse 12, 4 th Word...
03. Verse 3, Last Word...	13. Verse 13, 1 st Word...
04. Verse 4, Last Word...	14. Verse 14, 9 th Word...
05. Verse 5, 14 th Word...	15. Verse 15, 16 th Word...
06. Verse 6, 15 th , 16 th , and 17 th Words...	16. Verse 16, 3 rd from Last Word...
07. Verse 7, 4 th From Last Word...	17. Verse 17, 3 rd From Last Word...
08. Verse 8, 5 th Word...	18. Verse 18, 2 nd & 3 rd Words...
09. Verse 9, 14 th Word...	19. Verse 21, 7 th From Last Word...
10. Verse 10, Last Word...	20. Verse 22, 2 nd , 3 rd , & 4 th Words...