

1 Peter 2

1 Peter 2.1-3

V1 – Sins to be put aside? Malice (wickedness, desire to hurt someone else), guile (to deceive, as bait before a fish), hypocrisy, envy, slander

-**What kind of sins are these?** Mostly sins of the tongue

-**Why are those sins mentioned during a time of persecution?** Christians must control their tongues during persecutions

V2 – Do newborn babies have to be urged to take milk? No, they are very eager and will drink all they can get

-**When we are babes in Christ, what should we long for?** More knowledge of the Bible, often seen in new converts

V3 – Once we have tasted salvation, we keep coming back, like tasting ice cream

1 Peter 2.4-10

V4 – Why could Christ be called a “living stone”? Raised from the dead, not like idols

-**How did people treat this living stone?** Rejected it

V5 – What is the application to us? We are always to be living stones

-The church is not the building (real stones), but the living stones (the Christians)

-**What are our sacrifices?** Prayer, praise, contribution, worship, etc.

V6 – Quote from:

Isaiah 28.16 “Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.”

V7 – Quote from:

Psalms 118.22 “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.”

-**In what sense is Christ the cornerstone of the church?** He is the head of the church, not the pope

V8 – Why do some people “stumble” over Jesus? Because they are disobedient to the word (they are not interested in the truth)

V9 – A beautiful passage about the chosen race (*Isaiah 4.20*) – used to be applied to the Jews

-Here it is applied to the Christians

-**White race? Black race? Red race?** No

-Royal priesthood (*Isaiah 61.6*) – see v 5 – *a holy priesthood*

-Holy nation (*Exodus 19.6*) – **USA? China? Russia?**

-A people for God’s own possession (*Ezekiel 37.23*)

-**What is our obligation as God’s people?** To spread the Word

-Notice the contrast between darkness and light

-Purpose of v 9? To build up the confidence of the persecuted Christians

V 10 – Meaning? Jews were just nomads in days of Abraham, but God made a nation of them

-How do v 4-10 apply to Peter's theme (encouraging Christians being persecuted)? It is a great privilege to be a Christian

1 Peter 2.11-12

V 11 – Some translations: **sojourners and pilgrims**

-In other words, we are to live clean, moral lives

V 12 –Why should Christians live good lives? To influence the Gentiles (non-believers)

-Day of visitation? Day when they have opportunity to obey the gospel

1 Peter 2.13-17

Theme: submission to civil rulers

-One of the most common charges against Christians in the First Century was that they disobeyed the laws

-Why would this charge have been made against Christians? Because Christians refused to offer incense to Caesar and proclaim him to be Lord

-Also, remember *Acts 4* when Peter and John were ordered by the Sanhedrin to stop preaching Jesus as Christ

V 13-14 – What was Peter's commandment on this subject? To obey the laws of the land, unless they conflict with the laws of God

-What type of government does the Bible recommend? No recommendations

-Some people think that God's form of government has to be a democracy, but not so

-Regardless of the form of government, Christians are to submit (even dictatorship, as with a king)

-What is the purpose of the government? *V 14b* – to punish evil-doers and reward good behavior

V 15 – What is the value of obeying the laws? To silence the critics of the Christians

-Don't give them an excuse to attack and persecute Christians

V 16 –Don't use freedom to do evil

-Example? Pornography business today; abortion is also big business

V 17 – Be fair with all people

1 Peter 2.18-20

Theme: Duties of servants to masters (some Christians must have been slaves)

-Why would this be important in a time of persecution? To rebel against slave owners would just bring on more persecution of the Christians

V 18 – What does Peter say to Christian slaves? Honor their owners
-What about a bad and cruel slave owner? Still obey him

V 19 –Why obey a bad owner? For the sake of conscience

V 20 – What finds favor with God? Bearing up under harsh treatment

- What book in the Bible tells us how to bring slavery to an end? Book of *Philemon*
- Sometimes we do business with someone who just hates his job and criticizes the boss; he is not happy with his pay, etc.
- But the Christian should not be complaining and saying, "Take this job and shove it"
- That is not the Christian attitude
- We can change jobs, but constantly complaining about a job just makes things worse
- In the long run, the hearts of people are changed more by our good behavior than by our rebellious spirit

1 Peter 2.21-25

V 21 – Why did Christ suffer? As an example for us

V 22 – Was Christ guilty of anything? No – a quote from *Isaiah 53*

V 23 – How did Christ treat those who persecuted him? He did not return evil for evil, but practiced what he taught (See *Matthew 5.38-48*)

-What will God do about those who wrong us?

Romans 12.17-20 - Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD."

V 24 – How Jesus suffered - references to *Isaiah 53*

-Result of Jesus dying on the cross? We should die to sin and live righteous lives

V 25 – They had returned to the Shepherd

-What was the purpose of this verse to the theme of *1 Peter*?

-Magnificent language here

Revised 2013-04-24