

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.

1 PETER CHAPTER 2
Lesson 25
The Importance of Feeding Upon
God's Word

12 October, 2012

Verses 1-3

<p>1 PETER CHAPTER 2 BUILDS UPON THE THEME OF BIRTH.</p> <p>CHAPTER 1: BIRTH</p> <p>CHAPTER 2: GROWTH</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:3 “Hath begotten us again”</p> <p>1 Peter 1:23 “Being born again.”</p> <p>In Chapter one, being born again will get you to heaven and give you eternal life.</p> <p>In Chapter two, you must continue to hear the Word of God in order to grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice that chapter 1 leads into chapter 2. First Peter 1:25 says, “This is the word which by the gospel <u>is</u> preached unto you.” (Notice the present tense) • The Gospel <u>WAS</u> preached unto you to give you salvation. The Gospel <u>IS</u> preached unto you so you can grow. (Chapter 2) • Chapter 2: “Wherefore...” (because you’ve been born again by the Word of God) it’s time to get rid of your worldly ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Malice: hatred, meanness, cruelty. ○ Guile: deviousness, not talking straight, avoiding the truth without necessarily lying. ○ Hypocrisies: wearing a mask, changing who you are based upon your immediate company. ○ Envy: resenting someone because of their success and fortune. ○ All evil speaking.
<p>VERSE NUMBER 2: WHAT A NEWBORN BABE DESIRES</p>	<p>The Bible likens saved people to newborn babies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baby that doesn’t get milk will starve to death. • A Christian who doesn’t feed on God’s Word regularly will revert back to their old worldly ways very quickly. • A baby’s desire is singular. It wants milk. • Christians ought to desire God’s Word just as eagerly.
<p>PSALM 90: THE SOURCE OF PETER’S COMMENTS</p>	<p>Verses 1-2: When you first got saved, you were totally occupied with God.</p> <p>Verses 4-6: God abides. Man does not. God is eternal. Man’s life is fleeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has more to offer than man. We ought to desire what He has to offer in His Word. (Wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, light, advice). <p>Verses 7-11: Life is bad. Our lives are filled with troubles and then we die.</p>

<p>PSALM 90</p>	<p>Verse 12: Since your life is so short, it is important to make sure you are devoting all your time to something that is lasting/enduring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter interprets the “wisdom” in Psalm 90:12 as “the Word of the Lord” (1 Peter 1:25) and as “the sincere milk of the word” (1 Peter 2:2). <p>Verse 13: This is in direct contrast to verse 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God says, “You sinned, but return to me” (verse 3). God wants man to repent and turn back to Him. • Man says, “You’re wrong God, you’re the one who needs to return. You should see things MY way.” <p>Applying our hearts to wisdom (Psalm 90:12) and Desiring the sincere milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2) will change your position on the issues of life. Your position will become the same as God’s position.</p> <p>Verse 16: God’s glory will appear to his children when they apply their hearts to wisdom. The best place to see God’s glory is in his Word. Compare this to the radiance of a mother’s face as she feeds her baby. Intimate, loving care is there.</p> <p>Verse 17: There is beauty to behold when God is caring for his children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beauty of the Lord is imparted as God’s children feed upon His Word.
<p>1 Peter 2:3</p>	<p>“Ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”</p> <p>The day you got saved, somebody took the Word of God and showed you what you needed to know to be saved. That was your first taste of God’s grace.</p> <p>1 Peter 2 beseeches you to remember that first good taste of God’s Word and let it be the desire of your heart continuously, just like a baby desires milk.</p> <p>Milk: everything a newborn baby needs is contained in mama’s milk.</p> <p>The Bible: everything a born again child of God needs for spiritual growth is contained in His Word.</p>

Laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking. Verse 1

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

19 October, 2012

Lesson 26

Things That Will Keep Me From Reading God's Word

THE CHRISTIAN WHO LOSES HIS DESIRE FOR GOD'S WORD WILL DEGRADE TOWARD WORLDLY DESIRES.

Bible examples:

1. The children of Israel continually had a desire to go back to Egypt (Numbers 11:20, 14:3-4, 20:5; Isa 30: 1-3).
2. Demas (2 Timothy 4:10).
3. Jesus' disciples (John 6:66)

A continuous, fervent desire for the Word of God will dissuade (but not eliminate) the desire to go back to your old ways.

The less you attend church, read your Bible, and fellowship with other believers, the more likely you are to go back to the world and regress to your old habits and desires.

The purpose of going to church is to rekindle your desire for godly things and to be encouraged by how God has worked in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ (Acts 14:27).

WHAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF MY CHRISTIAN GROWTH?

Me! My habits, lusts, attitudes, relationships. All are works of the flesh.
Malice
Guile
Hypocrisies
Envies
All evil speaking

Not the Devil. (He's not mentioned until chapter 5 when you're a mature Christian).

EPHESIANS 4:21-24

1. **Put off the old man.** Your old man (you, before you were born again) has been around longer than your new man. You'll have to fight his old ways, habits, and practices. The old man will fight for attention. You will have to put him off.
2. **Which is corrupt.** Why would you want to follow such a putrid fellow?
3. **According to the deceitful lusts.** Why are they "deceitful?" Because they will try to convince you that there's nothing wrong with them.
4. ²³ **And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.** Notice that you have to put away the deceitful lusts first before you can renew your mind.
5. ²⁴ **And that ye put on the new man.** Feed on the Word, grow in the Lord, and become Christ-like.
 - a. But first you have to deny the lusts of the flesh. Deny your old self the opportunity to interfere with God's working in your life. If you don't, you will not grow.
 - b. Salvation isn't automatic. Spiritual growth isn't automatic. You have to want it. You'll have to apply yourself. (Psalm 90:12)

COLOSSIANS 3:5-10

⁵ **Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth.”**

1. Fornication (corruption of the sexual appetite always shows up first on the list).
2. Uncleanness
3. Inordinate affection
4. Evil concupiscence
5. And covetousness, which is idolatry.

⁸ **But now ye also put off all these:** (Notice how these agree with 1 Peter 2:1)

1. Anger
2. Wrath
3. Malice
4. Blasphemy
5. Filthy communication out of your mouth
6. Lie not one to another

“Seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

- You can't put on the new man until you have put off the old man. (1 Kings 18:21)
- You can't live the new life until you stop living the old life. (Joshua 24:15)
- You can't feed on the Word of God till you stop feeding on the things of the flesh. (John 6:67-68)

First Peter 2:1

Remember that Peter is writing to saved, born again Christians. These are things that will keep a Christian from the Word of God and keep them from maturing:

1. **Malice.** A desire to see somebody else suffer.
2. **And all Guile.** Calculated deception. Not disclosing the whole truth.
3. **And hypocrisies.** Wearing a mask. Two-faced. (Part time Christian).
4. **Envy.** Despising somebody because you didn't get your way or because of their success.
5. **And all evil speaking.** Includes misleading someone, not telling the truth, cussing, telling dirty stories, making nasty remarks about somebody, spreading rumors, gossip, corrupt communication (Ephesians 4:29).

ROMANS 1:22-30

Notice verse 24: ²⁴ **Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts.”** God didn't give them up to homosexuality. He gave them up to the lusts of their own hearts.

- According to First Peter, Colossians, and Ephesians, I have lusts in MY heart!
1. **“...to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:”** (Always first on the list. These sexual sins are expounded in verses 24-28)
 2. **Maliciousness** (Malice).
 3. **Full of envy**
 4. **Deceit** (see “guile”)
 5. **Malignity** (Malice). Deep rooted ill will. Hatred. With evil speaking.
 6. **Whisperers, backbiters** (evil speaking)

Wherefore laying aside all malice...

if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 27

How God's Grace Enables Me to be Gracious

26 October, 2012

Verses 1-3

<p>"Wherefore laying aside all malice."</p> <p>(The desire to see someone else suffer)</p>	<p>Verses 1-3 are connected by a comma (verse 1) and a colon (verse 2) and therefore cannot be separated without harming the context.</p> <p>How can I lay aside all malice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By feeding on the "sincere milk of the word." (Verse 2)• Because "the Lord is gracious" (Verse 3).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Remembering that the Lord forgave me, though my sins put His Son on the cross at Calvary. <p>It's impossible to lay aside the things in verse one if you're NOT feeding on the Word and fellowshiping with the LORD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Because the natural tendency of the flesh is to be malicious, guileful, hypocritical, envious, and evil.
<p>"And all guile."</p> <p>(two-faced, double-tongued, deceitful)</p> <p>An answer calculated to avoid the truth... without telling an outright lie.</p>	<p>We all have a tendency in our flesh to <u>avoid</u> those parts of the truth that might cause people to turn against us or not support us. That's guile. That's deceit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the end, it causes more damage to your reputation.• Now people know you can't be trusted to tell the truth. <p>John 1:43-47</p> <p>Jesus found a man who was "without guile." His name was Nathanael. It's a rare find.</p>
<p>"And hypocrisies"</p> <p>To wear a mask.</p> <p>To pretend to be something that you're not.</p> <p>To hide what you really are.</p>	<p>There are 2 forms of hypocrisy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Acting like something you're not.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew 23:27-28<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Pharisees and Scribes appeared to be righteous on the outside.○ But Jesus saw what they were on the inside.2. NOT acting like something that you are.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Galatians 2:11-16<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Peter, in an act of hypocrisy, pretended to still be following the Jewish rules and regulations when in the presence of certain Jews.

	<p>Therefore, laying aside... all hypocrisies:</p> <p>We are to stop putting on the proper outward appearance to disguise what we are inside.</p> <p>We are not to deny what we are in Jesus Christ; we are not to deny or put aside the doctrines that we believe in so we can fellowship with people of different beliefs.</p>
<p>“And envies”</p> <p>The desire to be like somebody else or to have what they have.</p> <p>Despising somebody for having something you don’t have.</p>	<p>James 3:16 Where there is envy, there is “every evil work.” Envy results in covetousness, which brings trouble every time.</p> <p>Acts 7:8-9 The patriarchs (sons of Jacob) did evil things to their brother Joseph because they were “moved with envy.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The father (Jacob) decided to bestow special blessings upon one of his sons (Joseph), causing the other sons to be envious. • Your Father in Heaven may choose to bestow special blessings on one of your brothers or sisters in Christ. How will you react? <p>Matthew 27:15-18 Jesus was delivered up “for envy.”</p>
<p>“Desire the sincere milk of the word.”</p>	<p>Sincere; from “Sine Cera;” without wax; without mixture; without alloy; without deception.</p> <p>The word of God is sincere. It needs no help from man to make it better. It is the genuine, perfect article, purified seven times in a furnace of earth (Psalms 12:6).</p> <p>By feeding on the word, you’ll learn of God’s grace and be able to put aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings.</p>

	<p>Therefore, we see this prophecy given during the blessing of Joseph, which obviously refers to Jesus Christ.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “²² A fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over a wall.” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus sat on a well and extended his salvation to a gentile woman. 2. “²³ The archers have sorely grieved him, ...and shot <i>at him</i>, ...and hated him:” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus was pierced on the cross. He said, “They hated me without a cause” (John 15:25). 3. “²⁴ But his bow abode in strength.” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The more they did to Jesus, the more His power was revealed. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. When He’s dying, He’s saving the world ii. When He’s buried, He’s putting away our sins. iii. When He’s in Hell, He’s conquering the Devil. 4. ²⁴ The arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty <i>God of Jacob</i>; (from thence <i>is the shepherd, the stone of Israel</i>:) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. From thence; from the mighty God of Jacob. Not from Joseph. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, not Joseph. b. Here we have the first reference of Jesus as “the stone.”
<p>[1] THE SMITTEN STONE THAT GIVES LIFE</p>	<p>Exodus 17:2-6. People are dying. They need water. Moses smites the rock. Water comes out. They live.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 10:1-4, 11. The recorded incident where Moses smote the rock was written for our admonition; our benefit.</p> <p>John 4:6-7, 10-15. Jesus is at the well with the Samaritan woman. The water Jesus gives (freely) provides life; eternal life, but you must ask for it. He was smitten. Living water flows out. Who will partake?</p>
<p>[2] THE CHIEF CORNER STONE TO THE CHURCH WHO GIVES PEACE.</p>	<p>Ephesians 2:14-20. “<i>The middle wall of partition between us</i>” is not a partition between God and man, but between different cultures, religions, classes, types, groups. If your life is built on the Lord Jesus Christ you can love and fellowship with all the saints and all the household of God!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all Christians enjoy this peace because they will not own Jesus and recognize Him as the chief cornerstone and then build on Him. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similarly, if a man won’t come to the “smitten stone” for salvation, he will not receive eternal life.
<p>[3] THE STUMBLINGSTONE TO ISRAEL.</p>	<p>Romans 9:27-32. Orthodox Jews try to attain righteousness by keeping the Law. God sent Jesus as a stumbling stone to show them they can’t attain to that righteousness.</p> <p>Zionist Jews have their eye on the throne & want to set up the kingdom. When Jesus didn’t set it up, they rejected Him. They tripped over the stumblingstone.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:22. Most Jews know what you believe about Jesus. They reject Him because of their situation and circumstances in the world, i.e. “Why didn’t He fix this if He’s the Messiah?”</p>
<p>[4] THE HEAD STONE OF THE KINGDOM</p>	<p>Zechariah 4:6-7. Jesus Christ is coming back to Earth to rule and rein as Head of the Kingdom.</p>

<p>[5] THE SMITING STONE TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH</p>	<p><u>Daniel 2:31-45.</u> King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about all the kingdoms of earth. In the end, “the <u>stone</u> that smote the image (of all the kingdoms) became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (verse 35) and “set up a kingdom, ...which shall NEVER be destroyed ... and it shall stand for ever” (verse 44). Jesus is going to destroy all the nations and fill the whole earth with the power and glory of the Lord.</p>
<p>[6] THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED.</p> <p>[7] THE HEAD CORNERSTONE TO THE BELIEVERS</p>	<p><u>Matthew 21:42-44.</u></p> <p>The believer comes to Christ, gets broken, receives eternal life and peace.</p> <p>The unbeliever will not cast himself on Jesus. He gets ground to powder.</p>

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Verse 5

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 29

The Priesthood of New Testament Believers

9 November, 2012

<p>THREE BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baptism by immersion; believers only. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The order is: you get saved first, and then you get baptized second. b. This is done in obedience to Jesus Christ. c. It is a public testimony that you have trusted in Him and He has given you eternal life. 2. Separation of church and state. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Government should not interfere with the affairs of the church. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Results in persecution of believers. b. The church should not be involved in the affairs of government. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Results in distracting Christians from their true calling. ii. Results in compromise of Christian principles. 3. The priesthood of all believers. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Baptists historically rejected the idea of one man (a priest) being the only one able to intercede or pray for you before God. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. This limits the effectiveness of the church. b. Today, Baptist churches who exercise "pastoral authority" have adopted the same error of the Roman Catholic priesthood. c. But the Bible says all believers are priests. All believers should be offering up spiritual sacrifices to God on behalf of your brethren. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. "As" the "living stone" (vs. 4), so the "lively stones" (vs. 5) are to offer up spiritual sacrifices.
<p>FIVE DISPENSATIONS OF THE PRIESTHOOD</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam to Noah: each <u>individual</u> offered up sacrifices for himself. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Examples: Genesis chapter 4. Cain and Abel. 2. Noah to Abraham: a man was a priest for his <u>family</u>. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Example: Job 1:4-5. 3. From Exodus 12- Exodus 27: A <u>nation</u> of priests. Israel was supposed to intercede for the nations of the world. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Example: Exodus 19:6, Romans 9:1-5 4. From Exodus 28 to Jesus Christ: The <u>Aaronic</u> priesthood; one family of priests. Aaron and his sons ministered to their brethren (the other tribes). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why did it end? Matthew 26:59-65. The priests rejected the priesthood because they didn't want to serve Jesus Christ.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Since the priests refused to serve Jesus Christ, Jesus rent the veil of the temple (from top to bottom, Matthew 27:51) giving all believers access to God. c. The Aaronic priesthood has been set aside for a time (Hosea 3:1-5). <p>5. New Testament priesthood of believers. (1 Peter 2:5, 9).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Jesus the Great High Priest(Hebrews 4:14) and his sons (John 1:12) are ministering today to the brethren. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Our service. ...Our intercession. ...Our gifts. ...Our sacrifices. ...Our labors. (But these are not the spiritual sacrifices offered up to God). ii. An isolationist Christian can't fulfill this calling.
<p>WHAT CAN I GIVE TO <u>GOD</u> BY JESUS CHRIST ON BEHALF OF MY BRETHREN?</p>	<p>Pray for them. It is a sacrifice of your time.</p> <p>Preaching, laboring, working, and giving for the benefit of the brethren are all good things to do, but they are not included in the priestly duties. You could do those things before even before you were born again.</p> <p>But every believer, regardless of talent, gifts, special abilities, etc. can come before God by Jesus Christ and pray for one another.</p> <p>Jesus gave the example of New Testament priesthood in John 17:8-9. He prays for believers. He does not pray for the world.</p>

Lesson 30

**The New Testament Believer's
God-Given Purpose and Place.
Acceptable Sacrifices we can Offer**

YOU ARE A LIVELY STONE	That is a supernatural work of God <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God gave life to something that had no life.• You couldn't do it yourself.
YOU ARE BUILT UP	That is a supernatural work of God <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just as you could not choose what part of the Body of Christ you are (1 Corinthians 12:12-26), you also cannot choose where you will be placed (as a lively stone) in God's spiritual house."• Every stone is a part of something much bigger, according to God's design.• No stone is left to itself. Every stone is "built up," and surrounded by other stones.• Each stone is connected and is dependent upon each other stone. We are "fitly framed TOGETHER." (Ephesians 2:21)• God put every stone (every born again Christian) in the building on purpose and for a purpose; every stone is important to the work of God.• When one stone is missing, it stands out; it is noticeable above all the other stones that are where they are supposed to be.
RELIGION IS A MAN-MADE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE WORK OF GOD	GENESIS 11:1-9 MEN USED BRICKS TO TRY AND BUILD A TOWER TO HEAVEN (verse 3). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bricks are man-made stones. They are a substitute for stones. MEN USED SLIME TO HOLD THE BUILDING TOGETHER. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slime is a man-made adhesive used to hold a building together. MEN DID THIS IN A CITY CALLED "BABEL." (verse 9). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Babylon started by men trying to get to Heaven without God.• Men wanted to make a name for <u>themselves</u> instead of calling on the name of the LORD.
GOD'S BUILDING IS PERFECT	1 KINGS 6:7 THE TEMPLE WAS MADE OF STONE, NOT BRICK. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God made stones. NO SLIME OR MORTAR WAS NEEDED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each stone was cut out of the earth and prepared for an <u>exact spot</u> in the temple before it was brought to the building site.• It was the glory of all the earth.

<p>THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD IS MADE UP OF ALL BELIEVERS FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER</p>	<p>EPHESIANS 2:19-22</p> <p>The building grows as more stones are added. The building doesn't build itself. The stones fit together, one upon the other. We are built upon all the Christians who came before us.</p> <p>You no longer fit in the world. If you go back to the world, you're just a lonely stone that's out of place.</p>
<p>THE CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE</p>	<p>1 PETER 2:5</p> <p>A house is a place where somebody lives. God lives in His Church. He's building His Church out of all believers. "The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands." (Acts 7:48) Man cannot build a place for God to dwell. God will dwell in what He is building.</p>
<p>WE ARE TO OFFER UP SACRIFICES THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD</p>	<p>WHAT ARE ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICES?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intercessory prayer. Jesus rent the veil of the temple (Matt. 27:51) to give all believers access to God so we can minister to the brethren in prayer. 2. My body as a living sacrifice (Romans 1:12). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The meat offering that followed the burnt offering pictured this living sacrifice. Notice the 2 offerings in Leviticus 14:20, 31. b. Jesus Christ is the burnt offering. He paid for my sins by His death on the cross. c. Now I am to FOLLOW that offering by living clean after I'm saved. 3. The sacrifice of thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15). 4. The sacrifice of communicating (giving). (Hebrews 13:16).
<p>THE OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING DEMONSTRATED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT</p>	<p>PSALMS 107:22</p> <p>PSALM 116: 1-17</p> <p>Make sure that your sacrifice is a sacrifice of thanksgiving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a sacrifice to appease God and try to get to Heaven. • Salvation will change the way you offer to God.

*"Which in time past were not a people,
but are now the people of God..."*

Verse 10

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 31

New Testament Believers Now the People of God

23 November, 2012

Verse 6

"He that believeth on him shall not be confounded." (confused, perplexed, puzzled)

The trials of this world will continue to confound the unbeliever, but not the believer; because of our belief in Jesus Christ.

Verses 7-8

Jesus Christ is precious to you because you believe.

Those who don't believe are not appointed to be unbelievers. They are appointed to stumble at the word because of their unbelief.

Verse 9

"But ye are" is in contrast to unbelievers. God says there is a very distinct difference between believers and unbelievers.

"A royal priesthood" to offer up praise.

In verse 5, we are a "holy priesthood" to offer up sacrifices.

Throughout eternity we'll be worshipping, praising, and serving God.

YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION

Generate: to give life.

Genesis: the book of generations; beginnings.

Generation: offspring; birth. (See Genesis 5:1, 3, 6; Genesis 10:1-2).

Who is the chosen generation? First Peter 2:10, those, **"Which in time past were not a people!"** So the chosen generation is not talking about natural birth.

John 1:12

The new birth is possible only by the Power of God. New bibles change the word "power" to "*right*." You can't become a child of God by "*right*." It takes power from on high!

Acts 2:1-11

Multitudes of Jews came from "every nation" under heaven. They were confounded while they were in unbelief.

Acts 2:32-47

The Gospel is preached (verse 32), they received the word (verse 41), and it resulted in them praising God (verse 47).

New birth into the church of the Living God results in no longer being confounded (1 Peter 2:6) and the Lord being praised! (1 Peter 2:9).

JOHN 1:12

“Which were born not of blood.” You need the birth that doesn’t come from your ancestral bloodline.

“Nor ...of the will ...of the FLESH!” You need a birth that is not the result of the efforts of a man and a woman.

“Nor of the will of man.” Men’s desire to go to Heaven causes him to create various systems of religion and doctrines, but man’s will won’t give you the new birth. God’s will is what is important (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Tim 2:4).

GOD’S will is that you believe on JESUS CHRIST!

PSALM 22. THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus Christ, through His death, burial, and resurrection has a **“seed”** (verse 30), **“that shall be born”** (verse 31), which the Lord accounts for **“a generation”** (verse 30).

That seed returns with Jesus Christ in the Millennium to **“declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*.”** (verse 31). We’ll be forever praising the Lord and telling men what He did for us.

ISAIAH 53

“He shall see his seed” (verse 10). Jesus went willingly to the cross because He foresaw the day when he could impart to you and me a SPIRITUAL birth and MAKE us God’s own children!

HEBREWS 12:2

Jesus endured the cross **“for the joy ...that was set before him.”**

The thought that He could give us a new birth and give us everlasting life gave Him joy. And that joy enabled Him to endure that crucifixion!

TITUS 3:3-6

Believers are RE-generated through the kindness and love of God our Savior.

You cannot be born again by your works of righteousness.

It is according to God’s mercy.

First Peter 2:10

We **“had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”**

1 PETER CHAPTER 2

Lesson 32

New Testament Believers

Now the People of God

Part 2

<p>YE ARE... AN HOLY NATION</p>	<p>This holy nation is comprised of born again believers; those who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior.</p> <p>This holy nation is one which never existed before, "which in time past were not a people!"</p> <p>This holy nation exists as the result of God's mercy. (vs. 10)</p> <p>The national language is Bible language. The constitution is the Bible. The Bible governs how we are to live. Our King is Jesus Christ. New Jerusalem is our address.</p> <p>According to the flesh, we have an earthly citizenship. We may use that to further the Gospel as the Apostle Paul sometimes did (Acts 16:37, 22:25). But we are not to waste time trying to reform the earthly governments and world systems. Our true citizenship is in New Jerusalem. We are to set our affections on things above (Col 3:1-2).</p>
<p>ISRAEL WAS GOD'S CHOSEN NATION FROM THEIR NATIONAL BIRTH IN GENESIS 12</p>	<p>But they rejected their King when He showed up. (John 1:11, Luke 19:14, John 19:15)</p> <p>Jesus anticipated the Jews' rejection of Him (Matthew 21:42-46). He said to them, "I'm taking the kingdom of God from YOU and giving it to another nation that will honor me and praise me.</p> <p>This is a cross reference to 1 Peter 2:6-10, where we find out who that nation is that Jesus was referring to in Matthew 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A nation that never existed before.• A nation that was generated by a new birth.• Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. <p>In Luke 12:32 Jesus said it is God's pleasure to GIVE you the kingdom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We don't have to fight for it.• We don't have to prepare the way in order for it to come.• We don't have to straighten out the world to make it happen.• We simply need to bring forth fruits that make us worthy of receiving what God said He is going to give us.
<p>THE LORD CREATED THE NATIONS</p>	<p>Genesis 11:1-8</p> <p>Men were building up a human kingdom up to heaven. They were doing it with no thought of God. They were doing it for themselves. "Let <u>us</u> build <u>us</u> a tower." "Let <u>us</u> make <u>us</u> a name." God confounded the languages (verse 7) and scattered the people (verse 8).</p>

	<p><u>Acts 17: 24-27</u></p> <p>God “hath made of one blood all nations.” All men have the same blood. God took those men and separated them to make the nations. God determined the bounds of man’s habitation. (verse 26)</p> <p>God confounded the language. God scattered the people to separate lands. God separated the land masses to create the various continents. (Genesis 10:5,25,32; Deuteronomy 32:8) The purpose of the separation was “that they should seek the Lord.” (verse 27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social programs and financial assistance cause people to rely on handouts rather than God • When we keep creating a fix for the sins that people commit, it removes the earthly consequences of sin and promotes repeat offenses. <p><u>Acts 2:1-8, 32</u></p> <p>In the new “holy nation,” God has reversed the curse at Babel and united people in a common bond.</p> <p>The apostles preached the gospel. Men were “pricked in their hearts” and repented. Then they were commanded to save themselves “from this untoward generation.” (verse 40).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get out from the generation of your first birth. Come out from the nation where you were born. You don’t fit in there anymore. • You’ve been RE-generated; RE-born. • You must give up your OLD citizenship to be part of the NEW citizenship.
<p>WE BECOME A CHILD OF GOD BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST</p>	<p><u>Galatians 3:25-27</u></p> <p>God is not everybody’s Father. (John 1:12, John 8:44, Acts 13:10) Joining hands with unbelievers for a good worldly cause will sidetrack you from preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may provide a temporary remedy for a worldly problem, but it won’t fix the real problem; sin. • Faith in Jesus Christ is the remedy for all the problems that need fixing in this world. • Ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (vs. 27) Racial and gender and denominational divisions are removed in Christ. <p><u>Ephesians 2:8-19</u></p> <p>In Christ, there is no longer Jew and Gentile. The two are made one.</p>
<p>THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME</p>	<p><u>Hebrews 11:13-16</u> We are strangers on earth because our home is in Heaven. <u>2 Timothy 2:3-4</u> We are not to be entangled in the affairs of this world. <u>2 Corinthians 5:20</u> We are ambassadors of Christ.</p>

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake” Verse 13

1 PETER CHAPTER 2
Lesson 33
Submit to The Laws of the Land
For the Lord’s Sake

7 December, 2012

Many Christians feel it is their civic duty to protest and battle the wicked government and try and make things right. But getting involved in these worldly causes interferes with the Christian’s ability to preach the Gospel. We are to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12) and submit ourselves to the government laws and ordinances. Jesus paid taxes (Matthew 17:27) and told us to do the same (Matthew 22:21). He didn’t fight the government when He was wrongfully arrested, but submitted to being executed on the cross (John 19:11).

Many Christians believe they have some “proof texts” for disobeying the government. But nowhere in the New Testament Scriptures do we find instructions to do so or examples of any Christian refusing to obey the laws of the land.

The overall context of 1 Peter 2:11-3:7 is obedience and submission in circumstances where it may go against the desires of our flesh. Our fleshly lusts make it very difficult to obey these commands.

- 1 Peter 2:11 “As strangers.” Christians are to live as strangers in this world. Our home is in Heaven.
“And pilgrims.” A pilgrim is wandering in a strange land, but he has a destination. A vagabond wanders with no destination.
- 1 Peter 2:12 If you live right, people will still speak evil against you, but you will glorify God when those who accused you stand before Him on judgment day and must confess that they lied about you.
- 1 Peter 2:13 Submit to the King. Peter is under an ungodly king at the time he is writing these instructions.
- 1 Peter 2:14 Submit to the Governor. Look upon the government as the bringer of justice.
- 1 Peter 2:15 Doing well is the Christian’s strongest weapon against ungodliness in all forms.
- A wife can win her husband to Christ by living right. 1 Peter 3:1
 - A servant can glorify God by doing right. 1 Peter 2:19-20
 - Christians can convert an ungodly government through well doing.
- 1 Peter 2:16 We have liberty in Christ, but should not allow that liberty to make us rebellious. Don’t say, “The Bible says--- so I don’t have to!”
- 1 Peter 2:17 We are to treat people right and honor the government; why? Because we “fear God” (vs. 17). Because it’s for “the Lord’s sake” (vs. 13). Because it’s “the will of God” (vs. 15). Because we are “the servants of God” (vs. 16).

Our flesh is going to be against us as we attempt to live right. The flesh wants to take the easy way. It’s easier to fight the government than to fight for Jesus Christ in winning the lost with the Gospel.

Romans 13:1-7 We are to obey the laws of the land that we are living in, even if it doesn't seem right. If we disobey, we should expect to pay the consequences.

If you decide to take a stand against an unjust law, you'll have to sacrifice the stand you SHOULD be taking for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You only have time for one stand in this life.

WHEN ARE CHRISTIANS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST INJUSTICE?

Mathew 10:21-23 When persecuted, the instructions here are not to fight, but to FLEE. Go where it's safe.

Hebrews 11:23 When baby Moses' life was in danger, his parents didn't fight. They quietly found a solution that was not against the law or against God's will.

Daniel 3:15-18 The three Hebrew children were told by Nebuchadnezzar to obey a command that directly violated the commands of God. In this case they chose to obey God and suffer the consequences of disobeying the government.

Matthew 26:51-52 Peter acted in haste and used poor judgment when he tried to kill the soldier Malchus. Christians need to remember that anybody who dies without Christ will go to Hell. Jesus died for our enemies so they wouldn't have to go to hell. Let's not take away their opportunity to come to Christ and be saved.

WHAT IS THE PROPER COURSE?

Romans 12:18 Live peaceably with all men. If you can't, FLEE (Matt. 10:23).

Revelation 12:11 It's better to die than to lose your testimony. Consider the life of John Huss.

2 Corinthians 10:4 Our weapons are not carnal; they're spiritual.

Ephesians 6:12 Our fight is not a physical fight, it is a spiritual battle.

Luke 4:5-8 The kingdoms of this world presently belong to the Devil. He is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Why fight for something that belongs to Satan? Our kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. Fight for the Gospel and the Church of the Living God.

John 18:35-36 Jesus said "my kingdom is not of this world." We belong to a heavenly kingdom. We don't need to fight for an earthly kingdom.

EXAMPLES OF NOT RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 4:18-20 This verse is commonly used as a proof-text for a Christians right to disobey the government. But the context of the passage is not the government. It is religious Christ rejecters telling Christians not to preach the Gospel. (See verse 5)

Acts 5:29 Another "proof" that Christians should rebel against government. Not according to the context (verse 17), which is a bunch of Religious Sadducees who don't want Christians to preach the resurrection.

1 PETER CHAPTER 2
Lesson 34
Living Right
in the Presence of Unbelievers
For the Glory of the Lord

<p>"ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS" Verse 11</p>	<p>"Abstain from" does not mean "Do not have." You will struggle with lusts as long as you are in this body of flesh. The command is to abstain. Withdraw from them. Do everything in your power to give up your former lusts. Don't let those lusts have the victory over you.</p>
<p>LUKE 6:26</p>	<p>Jesus said there is something wrong if <u>all</u> men speak well of you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evil people will speak evil of you when you do right. • Good people will be concerned about you when you do wrong. • If you can live in a way that all men speak well of you, it is certain that you have no principles and no convictions. Politicians are a good example of this. • You need to state your position and refuse to compromise.
<p>HAVING YOUR CONVERSATION HONEST AMONG THE GENTILES.</p>	<p>Conversation = manner of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's OK if the unbeliever mocks or ridicules you for doing right. • Don't give them reason to mock you by doing wrong. • Practice what you preach or else stop preaching. <p>Matthew 5:13-16. When you live for Jesus, you'll be visible to the world like a city on a hill or a candle that is burning in a house. Living for Jesus brings God glory.</p>
<p>THE DAY OF VISITATION Verse 12</p>	<p>There are two aspects of "the day of visitation:"</p> <p>1. JUDGMENT.</p> <p>a. Isaiah 10:1-3 speaks of an unrighteous government. God will visit the unrighteous on the "day of visitation." God will be glorified as a result.</p> <p>b. Luke 19:41-44 speaks of the first visit Jesus made to Jerusalem to judge them; whether they would receive Him or reject Him.</p> <p>2. A TIME OF SALVATION OR OPPORTUNITY IN THIS LIFE.</p> <p>a. Luke 1:57, 67-69. Zacharias prophesied about Jesus visiting His people for the purpose of redeeming them; to give them an opportunity to be saved.</p> <p>b. Acts 15:14. God visited the Gentiles to take out a people for His name.</p>
<p>THEY SHALL BEHOLD Verse 12</p>	<p>Ephesians 5:15. We are told to walk circumspectly. We are to go through life looking around to make sure there is nothing that will mess up our testimony. People are</p>

	<p>watching us.</p> <p>Hebrews 10:32-33. As soon as you got saved, people started gazing at you like a man out on public display with his head in the stocks. They looking to judge you.</p>
<p>AS FREE Verse 16</p>	<p>We have freedom in the Lord, but we are not to abuse that freedom and do whatever we can lawfully do.</p> <p>Other people are affected by our actions.</p> <p>We may stumble some young Christian.</p> <p>We may turn somebody away from Christianity and they'll end up in Hell.</p>

1 PETER CHAPTER 2
Lesson 35
Following Christ
Will Prevent You From Sinning

Ye should follow his steps: who did NO sin.

If you are sinning, you are not following Jesus Christ.

- You may be saved.
- You may be going to Heaven.
- But you’re not following Christ. You cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:27).

The closer you get to God, the more unrighteous you will consider yourself to be.
If you think there is no sin in your life, you are far, far from God.

Examples of men in the Bible who came in contact with God. The effect.

ABRAHAM (Genesis 18:26-27)

In the presence of the Lord, Abraham said, “[I] ...**am but dust and ashes.**”

- If you see the sins of others, but not your own, you’re not looking at the Lord.
- When you see the Lord, you will not think so highly of yourself.

MOSES (Exodus 6:28-30)

When God called on Moses to preach to Pharaoh, Moses said in the presence of the Lord, “**I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh hearken unto me?**”

- Many zealous young men are looking for an opportunity to preach God’s Word. They may have the skills, knowledge, and ability, but they need to humble themselves in the sight of the Lord and let Him lift them up (James 4:10).
- In God’s presence, you’ll feel your unworthiness and your inability and the necessity for you to rely upon your Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ISAIAH (Isaiah 6:1-5)

When Isaiah saw the Lord, he said, “**Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**”

- I am undone. I’ve got a long way to go before I’m a finished product and have everything figured out.
 - My thinking’s not done.
 - My walk is not done.
 - My heart’s not done.
 - My deeds aren’t done.
 - My motives aren’t done. (etc.)

PETER (Luke 5:1-8)

When Peter came to the understanding that he was in the presence of the Almighty Lord, whom he had just disobeyed, he said, “**Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**”

- Have you ever felt so ashamed of your sin that you didn’t want the Lord to be near you?

THE PRODIGAL SON (Luke 15:16-21)

This story pictures our relationship with God the Father.

In the presence of his father, the son who had sinned said, “**Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.**”

- The closer you get to the Father, the more you’ll feel, “I’m not worthy to be called a son of God.”
- I don’t deserve to be saved.
- I don’t deserve to be loved.
- I don’t deserve to go to Heaven.
- I don’t deserve to have the Holy Spirit.
- I don’t deserve clothes on my back.
- I don’t deserve food on my table.
- I’M NOT WORTHY!!!”

THE APOSTLE PAUL (1 Timothy 1:12-15)

Though he knew his sins were forgiven, Paul still saw himself as the chief of all sinners (verse 15).

- Paul was a great man because he knew he wasn’t a great man.
- Seeing himself as a great sinner deserving of hellfire, Paul was more grateful for God’s mercy, grace, love, and forgiveness.

First Peter 2:21-24

Last week we learned: We are free from all sin. We can have victory over our flesh, the world, and the devil.

This week we learn: The closer we get to God, the more sinful we will know that we are.

Is this a contradiction?

The KEY is this: I am not to view myself as being without sin. I am to view Jesus Christ as the one who BORE my sins in His body on the cross at Calvary.

- He conquered my sins.
- With Him, I’m victorious
 - The moments my eyes are on Him, I am living in victory.
- Without Him, I’m a failure
 - The moments my eyes are off of Him, I fall into sin.

*For even hereunto were ye called:
because Christ also suffered for us,
leaving us an example, that ye should
follow his steps.* Verse 21

1 PETER CHAPTER 2
Lesson 37
Our Calling:
To Follow In The Steps of Jesus.

4 January, 2013

Verse 19: Your conscience toward God will enable you to endure grief and suffer wrongfully without complaint or retaliation.

There is glory in it. It is thankworthy. It is acceptable with God.

Verse 20: But if you suffer rightfully (you are at fault), there is no glory. You should take your punishment.

If you suffer wrongfully at the hands of wicked men and you do NOT take it patiently, it is unacceptable with God. Sooner or later you'll blame God.

Verse 21: A biblical Christian calling is to endure suffering without complaint; to take it patiently.

Don't let somebody else's sin make you a sinner.

Take grief and aggravation without losing your joy and peace.

Keep your eyes on the Lord when you're being mistreated.

JESUS CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE. WE ARE TO FOLLOW HIS STEPS.

Jesus was beaten, whipped, falsely accused, spat upon, mocked, treated with disrespect, and nailed to the cross. He took it all patiently. He didn't complain. He didn't retaliate or fight back. His goal was to save sinners. That should be our goal. To do so, we'll need to follow in the steps of Jesus and endure mistreatment patiently, keeping our eyes on the goal of winning lost souls to Christ.

Verse 22: "Who did no sin." This is most difficult when we are provoked.

Verse 23: ²³ **Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again!"**

Definition of Revile: To treat as vile or common. To treat with language mingled with contempt or disdain. To censure with severity. To blame.

When Jesus was reviled, He kept His mouth shut and took it.

This is your calling. It's not easy. When somebody's reviling you, it's really hard for the flesh NOT to retaliate.

"When he suffered, he threatened not."

Definition of suffer: "To feel or endure pain, ANNOYANCE, or the like. To submit to pain, annoyance, or the like... with distress or grief."

Consider the many times Jesus must have been annoyed by His disciples, by the Pharisees, and by the Jews who rejected Him. It caused him grief and distress, but He submitted to it. Why? Because He was the only chance they had!

Definition of threaten: “To hold up to, as a terror, the expectation of evil; the alarm with a promise of evil.”

God gave us the right to threaten our children with punishment when they do wrong, but we have no right to threaten one another. Jesus Christ left us an example.

“But committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

God judges righteously. I can't cause somebody to be judged by God if they don't deserve it.

If they DO deserve judgment, I don't need to threaten. They will be judged by a righteous God.

I don't need to tell God about the person who made me suffer. He already knows.

I need to commit MYSELF to God and pray that I won't hurt someone else the way I've been hurt.

Don't allow the sins of others to make you a sinner. Let it drive you to your knees in prayer. Let God help you not to sin as a result of you being mistreated.

Verse 24: “²⁴ **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree**” Jesus knows what you're going through! He bore it in His body.

“That WE (!) being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” The context is SIN and going ASTRAY (verse 25) not physical healing. I'm healed from the dread disease of my sin. Since Jesus already paid for my sin, its power over me is broken. When I sin, it is because of my lack of devotion to the Lord

“²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” I was out of control in sin. Now I'm under control. I've returned to the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Since Jesus already paid for my sin, its power over me is broken. When I sin, it is because of my lack of devotion to the Lord.

“Nowhere in the Bible does God say that I'm responsible for the way you act. But from cover to cover, He says I'm responsible for the way I REACT.” Lester Roloff

likewise ye wives (3:1)...

likewise ye husbands(3:7)...

ye should follow his steps (2:21).

1 PETER CHAPTER 2-3

Verses 2:19-3:12

Lesson 38

How to Have a Happy Home

11 January, 2013

WHY DO CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS?

1. Not from a lack of hearing the preaching of God's Word. They've received the biblical instructions for a happy life.
2. It's because they don't BELIEVE what they heard preached. They don't believe God.
 - a. They have already decided which parts of the Bible to agree with and which parts to ignore.
 - b. They have their own opinions and desires. If God's Word differs from that, the preaching doesn't have any effect. (Hebrews 4:2).
 - c. If you BELIEVE the Word of God, it will have an effect on you; it will change you. It will help you. (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

1 PETER 2:19-24 REVIEW

1. If you suffer grief wrongfully due to your faith in God, it is thankworthy. (verse 19)
 - a. Christians will have times of suffering and grief. Many just give up during those times.
2. There is no glory in suffering for your faults. But if you suffer for doing well and you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. (Verse 20).
 - a. If you don't take it patiently, it is not acceptable with God.
3. You were called to suffer because Jesus Christ suffered as an example for us. (verse 21).
 - a. If you follow in Jesus Christ's steps, you will suffer as He did.
4. Jesus' example:
 - a. He did no sin (verse 22)
 - b. He spoke no guile (deviousness, not talking straight, avoiding the truth without necessarily lying).
 - c. When reviled (hateful, disrespectful talk), He took it patiently without retaliation. (verse 23)
 - d. He suffered (physically and emotionally; pain and annoyance), but He made no threats. He committed Himself to God. (verse 23)
 - e. He bore our sins on the cross so we could live righteous lives (verse 24), and continue to follow Him (vs 25).

1 PETER CHAPTER 3: "LIKEWISE YE WIVES (VS. 1);" "LIKEWISE YE HUSBANDS (VS. 7);" (LIKE JESUS CHRIST)

1. Endure grief, suffering wrongfully, take it patiently, don't sin, don't revile when you are reviled, speak the whole truth plainly (no guile), don't threaten when you are mistreated, live unto righteousness.
2. To obey this command from God's Word requires effort and self-denial and sacrifice.
 - a. Most Christians are not willing to pay the price for a happy home.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

1. Elder women are to train younger women to love their husband and children. (Titus 2:1-5).
 - a. Not only by verbally teaching them, but by their behavior; by their example. They must live it or nobody is going to follow their advice.
2. Christian men have a responsibility to train young men and boys how to live righteous lives, including the treatment of women (Titus 2:6).
 - a. Again, this must be done by example; you must give them a pattern to follow.

EXCUSES

1. "Yes, I know that's what the Bible says, but my husband..."
2. "Yes, I know that's what the Bible says, but you don't know my wife."
 - a. If you choose to abandon the principles of the Word of God, you will not be able to fix the problems in your relationship/marriage.
 - b. If you think you've found a better way than God's way, you will fail. You will live a miserable life together or you will end up in divorce court.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION ON THE TREATMENT OF OTHERS

1. Romans 12:17. "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
 - a. That includes your husband/wife.
 - b. If you treat your spouse differently in public than you do in private, then you're treating them wrong.
2. Romans 12:18. It is my responsibility to try and keep the peace with others.
 - a. Don't wait for others to make peace with you.
3. Romans 12:19. Don't avenge yourself. Don't get even. Trust God to take care of it.
4. Romans 12:20-21. Overcome evil with good. If you do good when others do bad, you can overcome their desire to do evil deeds.

FIRST PETER CHAPTER 3

- Verse 1. **Wives**, if your husband does not obey the Word of God, your only chance of winning him is without the Word.
 - He won't listen to you if you try to preach the Bible to him.
 - If you don't have faith in the Word, it cannot have an effect (Heb 4:2).
 - You'll have to live a godly life in order to win him.
- Verse 2. Your husband may not listen to you preach, but he's beholding /watching you.
- Verses 3-4. Your inward adorning (Jesus in your heart) is more important than your outward adornments.
 - A meek and quiet spirit comes from the Spirit of God, not from your will-power.
- Verse 5. Holy women of God were those who trusted in God.
 - They adorned themselves with a meek and quiet spirit toward God.
 - That was manifested in a submissive spirit toward their husbands.
 - If you won't submit to God, you won't submit to your husband.
 - You might submit to a boss for a paycheck, but the command is to submit to your own husband.
- Verse 6. Ladies, don't be afraid to trust God on this issue of submission. Don't be amazed that God would suggest this course of action for you in your relationship. God knows what works.
- Verse 7. **Husbands**, if you honor God, you will obey this command and give honor to your wife and support her.
- Verse 8. "Be ye ALL of one mind." So, the instructions given to the wives also applies to the husbands.
 - Philippians 2:1-2. If you want your home to be a place of consolation, comfort, love, joy, and fellowship, "Be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind."
 - Ephesians 5:21-22. Submit yourselves one to another. Wives submit to your husband.
 - The man must lead the way so the woman can follow.
- Verse 8. Show love, have pity, be courteous to your family members (not just to church members and strangers)
 - Don't take your family for granted. Show some appreciation for them.
- Verses 9-11. Do you want to love life? It's up to you. Don't wait for others to do right. If you do what you are supposed to do, in obedience to God, you will see good days.
- Verse 7, 12. If you treat your husband right; if you treat your wife right, God listens to your prayer and helps you.

THINGS THAT CAUSE THE MOST MARRIAGE PROBLEMS

January 17, 2013

1. THE WRONG THIRD PARTY.

- a. There will be a third party.
 - i. If it's the "other man" or the "other woman," that is the wrong third party.
- b. Two are better than one. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11).
 - i. For encouragement and support.
 - ii. When one falls, the other is there to help.
 - iii. There is warmth between two.
- c. There is a third party that will make a couple stronger (threefold cord) (vs. 12)
 - i. Jesus Christ will strengthen your marriage.
 - ii. Any other third party will weaken and destroy your marriage.
 - iii. You need to maintain a right relationship with the Lord.
 1. If you don't, you've left an opening for the wrong 3rd party to try and take His place.
 - a. The 3rd party that shows up will have all the qualities you thought your husband/wife should have.

2. DEBT.

- a. Don't be covetous. Be content (Hebrews 13:5).
- b. Credit can be dangerous. It opens the door to strife, argument, debate, bitterness, accusing, and quarreling.
- c. Start out modestly. Live within your means. Don't expect to have all the things your parents have. They worked for many years before they could afford those things.
- d. When you borrow, you are a slave to the lender (Proverbs 22:7).
 - i. If you don't pay your bills, they'll repossess your stuff.
 - ii. This puts undue stress on a marriage relationship.

3. DEFRAUDING IN THE BEDROOM.

- a. Touching the opposite sex leads to fornication (1 Corinthians 7:1).
 - i. For that reason, single people should never touch the opposite sex.
- b. The physical relationship is reserved for married couples only (1 Corinthians 7:2).
 - i. It should be *expected* that there will be physical contact in a marriage. This is biblical. This is not dirty.
 - ii. God said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Genesis 1:28)
 - iii. In marriage, your body is not your own (1 Corinthians 7:4).
 - iv. Married couples are commanded not to defraud one another concerning the physical relationship (1 Corinthians 7:5).
 1. If you deny your spouse the physical touch, the Devil will use that to his advantage. He'll send someone else to tempt you into adultery.
 2. A padlock on the bedroom door will lead to marriage failure.

- c. ⁴ **Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.** (Hebrews 13:4)
- i. Whoremonger:
 - 1. A woman who uses the physical relationship to allure a man for money.
 - a. Actresses, Models, dancers, prostitutes.
 - 2. A man who supports a woman's depravity.
 - a. Buying a dirty magazine or movie ticket. Going to strip clubs, etc.
 - ii. God will judge. You will not get away with being a whoremonger or an adulterer.

4. HUSBAND BITTER AGAINST THE WIFE / BLAME. (Colossians 3:19, Genesis 3:12)

- a. Oftentimes the man finds it too convenient to blame his problems on his wife.
 - i. He forgets that he had those problems before he got married.
 - ii. If you've got problems in your life, don't blame your wife. Get right with the Lord.

5. YOU CHANGED; LET YOURSELF GO (DECEIT / BAIT AND SWITCH)

- a. Women go to great lengths to look beautiful, and to be everything that a man is looking for in a woman. But once she succeeds in attracting him, when the marriage contract is signed, she turns out to be a completely different woman.
- b. Men try to charm a woman and impress her in all the ways that count. After marriage, he returns to his true nature; a rude, crude man.
- c. Don't quit putting forth the effort to please your husband/wife.
 - i. The Bride of Christ prepared and adorned herself for her husband (Rev. 21:2) after 1,000 years of marriage!
 - ii. The virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:17, 27) exercised and didn't get lazy.

6. NEITHER PARENT OR ONLY ONE PARENT IS DISCIPLINING THE CHILDREN.

- a. First Samuel 2:12-23. Eli the priest had two wicked sons; the result of his slack parenting.
 - i. Proverbs 20:30 **"The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly."** Spankings are beneficial towards ridding a child of evil.
 - ii. Spanking won't kill the child (Prov. 23:14).
 - iii. **Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying** (Prov 19:18).
 - iv. **Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.** (Prov. 23:14).
 - v. A heart to heart chat with your children will not suffice.
 - vi. God would judge Eli for neglecting to restrain his sons from evil (1 Samuel 3:13).
 - 1. It's not enough to ask them not to do something.
 - 2. You've got to restrain them. Use every effort to prevent them from sinning.
 - 3. The rod must be used; not reproof alone. (Proverbs 29:15)

7. ONLY DOING WHAT PLEASES OURSELVES AND NOT THE OTHER PERSON. (Romans 15:1-3)

- a. Once again, Jesus Christ is the greatest example for us. He lived His life for others.
 - i. If we would live our lives for the other person, no marriage would fail.
 - 1. Even if your spouse may be lacking, if you do right and live for him/her, you can keep your marriage strong.