

Christ suffered... for us (2:21)...

Called (to suffer) (2:21).

Husbands...won...by the wives. (3:1)

The weaker vessel (3:7)

1 PETER CHAPTER 2-3

Verses 2:21-3:7

Lesson 41

**Assorted Messages on the
Christian Life**

25 January, 2013

1. CHRIST... FOR US.

- a. Christ SUFFERED for us. (1 Peter 2:21)
- b. Christ was made SIN for us. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- c. Christ was made a CURSE for us (Galatians 3:13)
- d. Christ DIED for us (Romans 5:8)
- e. Christ Gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20). Notice it is personal to the believer.

2. FOR EVEN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED. (Christ suffered as our example).

- a. Mark 8:34. If you choose to follow Christ, you'll find a cross that you must bear.
 - i. When you come across some trouble, don't quit. Fight through it.
 - ii. Every Prophet of God experienced trouble or hardship.
- b. John 16:33. Ye shall have tribulation in the world.
 - i. Saved or lost, you will have trouble in the world.
- c. Acts 14:22. We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
- d. 1 Thessalonians 3:3-5. Believers are appointed to afflictions.
 - i. Don't let your troubles cause you to turn from the Lord.

3. THE SHEPHERD AND BISHOP OF YOUR SOULS. (1 PETER 2:25)

- a. 1 Samuel 16:11. He KEEPETH the sheep.
- b. 1 Samuel 16:19. He is WITH the sheep.
- c. 1 Samuel 17:15. He FEEDS His FATHER'S sheep.

4. HUSBANDS MAY BE WON BY THE WIVES. WON TO WHAT? (1 Peter 3:1)

- a. First of all, why does God give the wife this responsibility? (Malachi 2:14-17)
 - i. Malachi 2:14. God has a controversy with a man who doesn't treat his wife right.
 - ii. Malachi 2:15. God put something in a husband and wife that ties them together forever. Two become one.
 - iii. That means that no one can reach that man better than his own wife. She is his best hope.
 - iv. Malachi 2:16. God hates it when a man treats his wife wrong.
 - v. Malachi 2:17. God is wearied by the words (prayer) of a man who mistreats his wife. (1 Peter 3:7, 12).
- b. What is the husband being won to?
 - i. 1 Corinthians 7:14-16. The wife may "save" her husband. From what?
 1. From God's punishment! Consider Abigail (1 Samuel 25). She did right by her husband, but her husband Nabal kept doing wrong so God killed him.
 - ii. The husband may also "save" his wife from the same. (1 Cor. 7:16).
 1. This way, the children can be sanctified.

- a. If there is ONE parent in the family who is living right, they can teach the CHILDREN to live right. “That he might seek a godly seed.” (Malachi 2:15). And they can still enjoy God’s blessings in the household.
- 2. Why subjection? (The Bible way)? Why not contention (fighting back; the world’s way).
 - a. Proverbs 18:19. A person who has been offended is hard to win.
 - b. So give none offence (1 Corinthians 10:32)
 - c. Remember Christ’s example. (1 Peter 2:21). No matter how badly we treated Him, He continued to offer us forgiveness and salvation.
 - d. The Goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
- iii. James 5:19-20. You can “convert” a brother. This is not salvation. You can turn him around from a path of disobedience.
- iv. Titus 2:5. Be discreet. Use discretion when you open your mouth about your husband or wife. If you say the wrong thing or reveal something personal, it will turn them from the Lord.

5. AS THE WEAKER VESSEL, THE WIFE DESERVES SOME HONOR.

- a. VESSEL: an instrument to contain something or to carry it from place to place.
 - i. To carry the Gospel: (Acts 9:15, Paul; God’s chosen vessel).
 - ii. We need to keep our vessels clean (1 Thessalonians 4:4-5). Why? Because it is carrying the Gospel. It is carrying to truth of God.
 - iii. The wife (a vessel) has just as much right and obligation to carry the Gospel truth as the husband does.
 - 1. God instructed the woman to keep silent in the church assembly; not anywhere else. She is a vessel. She is to carry the truth.
- b. The weaker vessel. This is not a reference to a woman’s physical strength. This is a reference to her susceptibility to being deceived. She is more vulnerable than the man when it comes to spiritual matters.
 - i. This goes all the way back to Eve and the serpent. Why didn’t the serpent talk to Adam?
 - ii. Women were responsible for leading King Solomon into idolatry. (1 Kings 11:4)
 - iii. Jezebel caused King Ahab to serve Baal. (1 Kings 16:31)
 - iv. Many of today’s false religions were founded by women.
- c. The husband needs to recognize that his wife is a vessel. He should encourage her to witness.
 - i. But he needs to keep an eye on her religious activities and protect her from being deceived or led astray.
 - ii. The deceivers will always target the women because they are the weaker prey.

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 PETER CHAPTER 3
Verse 18
Lesson 42
Why did Jesus Christ Have to Die?

1 February, 2013

1 Peter 3:13. ...If you walk right, if you live right, if you do right... you WILL have some enemies who will set out to harm you.

Verse 14. If you are mistreated, make sure it's because you're good and right. You can be happy while you're being mistreated if it's for righteousness' sake.

Verse 15. When facing trouble and opposition, the answer is to draw nigh to God. Think upon God, not on the trouble. When you are full of joy in the midst of trouble, people will ask you "a reason for the hope that is within you."

Verses 16-17. They will speak evil of you, but make sure it's false. You'll have a clear conscience and they'll be ashamed.

First Peter 3:18

Jesus Christ suffered for sins. Was it for well-doing or for evil-doing? _____

Jesus suffered and died for our sins, the just (Jesus: blameless, good, upright, righteous) for the unjust (me, you, lawbreakers, not just).

Why did Jesus the righteous die for us (the unrighteous)? That he might _____.

There was no other way that it could be done. See John 14:1-6.

- Adhering to the teachings of Jesus won't save you.
- Trying to live like Jesus won't save you.
- Jesus had to DIE to bring you to God.

Jesus was "**put to death in the flesh.**"

- He had to become a man to die like a man.
- He had to be a man or he couldn't die for man.
- He had to have a body of flesh in order to take our sins in His body.

Jesus was "**quickened by the Spirit.**"

- Dying for us would not complete the transaction of paying for our sins.
- The Gospel (Good news) is: Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and on the third day rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- Every other religious leader died and stayed dead. Jesus rose from the Dead.
- Jesus was QUICKENED: He rose from the dead, never to die again.
 - Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, but He didn't quicken him. He died again. (John 11:43)

- Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, but He didn't quicken her. (Mark 5:41)
- Jesus raised the son of the widow of Nain, but He didn't quicken him. (Luke 7:14)
- Eutychus was raised up from the dead, but not quickened. (Acts 20:9-10)
- John 2: 18-22. Jesus told some skeptics to "Destroy this temple" (speaking of His body) and that He would raise it in 3 days.
 - His temple (body) was destroyed beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14).
 - But death could not hold Him. He walked out of the grave after 3 days.
 - The miracle: That God could die. God can't die, but He made a way! He did it for us.
- Romans 4:16-17. God quickeneth the dead.
- Romans 8:9-11. The same Spirit that raised Jesus up from the dead shall quicken you.

Jesus Christ was put to death in the flesh, but "**quicken by the Spirit.**"

- The Holy Spirit that guarantees that Jesus Christ will never die again guarantees that you will never die again if you've trusted in Christ. The Holy Spirit is in you.

"Christ hath ONCE suffered for sins."

- Hebrews 9:27-10:14. It is appointed unto men ONCE to die.
 - So Christ (as a man) has an appointment with death. (verse 28)
 - So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many. (verse 28)
 - The Law (all of God's commandments, rules, regulations) can NEVER make anyone perfect (can't save you). (Hebrews 10:1)
 - That means nobody in the Old Testament was saved by the Law.
 - Otherwise, we wouldn't need a Savior.
 - If the offerings purged your sins, why would you keep bringing more offerings? (verse 2)
 - It is not POSSIBLE for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (verse 4)
 - That is the reason why a body was prepared for Jesus Christ to come into the world and pay for our sins. (verse 5)
 - No offering under the Law pleased God. Nobody was saved by the Law. (verse 6). They were saved by faith.
 - Verses 7-9. We're lost in sin. The situation looks hopeless. Jesus says, "**Lo, I come!**"
 - Verse 10. Jesus Christ was offered ONCE for all.
 - Verse 11. Sacrifices offered by priests can NEVER take away sins.
 - Verse 12. Jesus offered ONE sacrifice for sins FOREVER.
 - If you're sanctified (verse 10), you're perfected forever (verse 14).
- Hebrews 2: 11-15. Jesus Christ removed the fear of death because he gave us everlasting life.
 - John 3:16. Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but HAVE everlasting life.

*By which also he went and preached
unto the spirits in prison.* 3:19

*Who shall give account to him that is
ready to judge the quick and the dead.*
4:5

1 PETER CHAPTERS 3-4

Verses 3:18-4:6

Lesson 43

The Quick, the Dead,
and the Spirits

8 February, 2013

THE ORDER OF EVENTS AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST (VERSES 3:18-22)

1. Jesus Christ suffered, died, and was buried. (3:18)
2. Preached to spirits. (3:19)
3. Was raised from the dead. (3:21-22)
4. Quickened by the Spirit. (Never to die again). (3:18)
5. Ascended to Heaven. (3:22)
6. Is at the right hand of God. (3:22).

ECCLESIASTES 3:20-21: The spirit of man goes upward; back to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7).

- The spirits of men do not go down to the earth.
 - Where do men's souls go?
 - Old Testament saints: Abraham's Bosom / Paradise in the heart of the earth. (Luke 16:22, 23:43)
 - Old Testament unbelievers: Hell (Luke 16:23, Psalm 9:7, 86:13)
 - New Testament saints (believers): Heaven (2 Cor. 5:8, John 14:3)
 - New Testament unbelievers: Hell (Jude 1:23, 2 Thess. 1:9, Matt. 7:13)
- Jesus could not have been preaching to the spirits of men.

HEBREWS 1:6-7: Angels are called ministering "spirits." (See Psalm 104:4)

JOB 38:1-7: Job wasn't there when God created the heavens and the earth, but there were some "**sons of God**" present at the creation (verse 7).

- Some of these angels rebelled and sinned against God and followed Satan. (Ezekiel 28:11-19, Isa 14:12-15, Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Rev 12:9).

GENESIS 6:1-14: "**Sons of God**" took "daughters of men" as wives. Their offspring were giants.

- Many teach that these "sons of God" are godly men from the line of Seth.
 - But that would not produce offspring who were "giants; men of renown."
 - Something happened that violated God's genetic code and produced giants!
 - Many Christians are taught that angels are "sexless" because "**in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.**" (Mt. 22:30).
 - That doesn't mean the angels are sexless.
 - All angels are male! Search the Scriptures! No female angels.
- Noah was "a just man and perfect in his generations."
 - That means his family tree was pure human. No angel cross-breeding in his family.

- The earth was filled with violence “**through THEM**” (the fallen angels & giants). So God destroyed them with the earth in the flood.

PSALM 82: God judges “among the gods.” (Remember Satan told Eve, “Ye shall be as gods!”)

- God told them, “**Ye are gods** (...small “g”); **and all of you are children of the most High.** (Psalm 38 and Genesis 6; they’re the sons of God) ⁷ **But (!) ye shall die like men!**”
 - Verse 6, the gospel was preached unto them so they could be judged like men in the flesh.
 - They died like men.
 - They are disembodied spirits locked up in a prison.
 - Jesus goes down and preaches the gospel to them so they can be judged like men.
 - The preaching of the gospel has a dual purpose.
 - To give a person an opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
 - To give God a basis upon which to judge the wicked.

*For further study on this topic, see 2 Peter 2 and the book of Jude.

FIRST PETER 3:20. Eight souls...saved by water.

- The ones who were saved didn’t get wet. They were safe in the ark.
- The ones who got in the water drowned. This isn’t teaching you that baptism gives you eternal salvation.
- This is a “like figure” (verse 21).
 - Like eight souls were SAFE INSIDE the ark (safe from drowning; safe from death.)
 - WE are SAFE INSIDE Jesus Christ! We are safe from death because we are quickened (Vs. 18)
 - This like figure doth NOW save us (present tense). So it is not referring to our salvation (past tense).
 - It is referring to a just man who finds a place of safety during a time of tribulation or trouble. That is a “NOW” salvation. I’m in Christ. I will not die. (quickened)

COLOSSIANS 2:8-15.

- Ye are complete IN HIM! (verse 10). So you are “just” and “perfect” like Noah.
- You are circumcised (vs. 11). That refers to a permanent separation from your flesh. This is a spiritual operation of God, not a physical cutting of your flesh.
- You are buried with Him in baptism (verse 12). This isn’t water baptism. The context is still a spiritual operation of God. This baptism is the Holy Spirit placing you in Christ. (1 Cor. 12-13)

PSALM 139:7-12. There’s no place that anyone (including the spirits) can hide from God.

Judgment Seat of Christ: Judgment only of those who are “in Christ”

Great White Throne Judgment: Judgment of the lost AND... Old Testament saints, Tribulation saints, and Millennium saints. (None of these are “in Christ” and therefore cannot be judged at the Judgment Seat). The faithful will not be cast into the lake of fire; only the wicked and unbelievers.

1 PETER CHAPTER 3-4

Verses 3:18-4:5

Lesson 44

The Lord, Ready to Judge

THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

2. **Acts 17:30-31** There is an appointed time.
 - a. God commands all men to repent right now.
 - b. Because there is a day appointed when you will be judged.
 - c. He will judge in righteousness.
 - i. Mercy, grace, pity, and compassion will not be the basis of the judging.
 - ii. It will be your righteousness vs. God's righteousness. They must match.
 - iii. It will be "by that man whom He hath ordained." That's Jesus Christ.
 1. Are you as good as Jesus Christ? No, all men come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).
 2. You will not be compared to any other person, but "that man whom He hath ordained."
3. **Revelation 20:10-12** There is an appointed place.
 - a. "I saw a great white throne." "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God."
 - b. "The dead were judged out of those things written in the books."
 - i. "According to their works." Your works are being recorded day by day. God will judge you according to the record of your life.
4. **John 12:44-48** You will be judged according to God's Word.
 - a. "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
 - b. Did you ever lie? "Thou shalt not bear false witness." (Exodus 20:16)
 - c. It will be your live vs. God's Book.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

1. **First Principle: Romans 2:1-2** God's judgment is according to truth, against individual men.
 - a. If you die without knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, when you stand before a Holy God, He is going to be against YOU!
 - b. Examine yourself. Have you ever committed any of these sins? (Romans 1:29-31)

Unrighteousness	Murder	Backbiters	Inventers of evil things.	Implacable
Wickedness	Debate	Haters of God	Disobedient to parents.	(unforgiving)
Covetousness	Deceit	Despiteful	Without understanding.	Unmerciful
Maliciousness	Malignity (hatred)	Proud	Covenant breakers.	
Envy	Whisperers	Boasters	Without natural affection.	

- i. If it be possible that you are not guilty of any of these sins, verse 32 includes them that "have pleasure in them that do them."
 1. Have you ever enjoyed watching somebody commit one of these sins in a movie or on a TV program? Guilty!

2. **Second Principle: Romans 2:6**, You will not be judged for another man's sins. You will be judged for your own sins.
3. **Third Principle: Romans 2:9**, This judgment lasts beyond the life of your mortal body and brings damnation upon the soul.
 - a. Your soul is everlasting; therefore it will experience everlasting tribulation and anguish.
4. **Fourth Principle: Romans 2:11**, It doesn't matter who you are; God is no respecter of persons.
 - a. Rich or poor.
 - b. Educated or illiterate.
 - c. Jew or Gentile.
 - d. Male or female.
 - i. What matters is, did you repent and receive Jesus Christ before you died?
5. **Fifth Principle: Romans 2:12**, You will be judged according to your knowledge of God's Law.
 - a. If you only know a little bit, you are required to do what you know is right for your whole life.
 - b. If you know more, you must obey according to all that you know.
6. **Sixth Principle: Romans 2:16**, You will be judged by Jesus Christ according to the Gospel.
 - a. The Gospel includes the fact that Jesus Christ came to this earth as a man and lived a perfect, sinless life.
 - i. That removes the excuse, "I'm just a man; I couldn't help it." There was a man who kept God's commandments.
 - b. The Gospel includes the fact that Jesus Christ died to pay for your sins.
 - i. You can't beg for mercy at the judgment if you refuse the Lord's mercy when He offers it today.
 - ii. If you tell the Lord to leave you alone today, when you die, He is going to leave you alone forever, as you wish.
 - iii. If you refuse the Gospel today, you will be lost forever.
 - iv. Don't refuse the payment that was made for you.

YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR FUTURE

1. 1 Peter 3:18, Jesus Christ paid for your sins (the just for the unjust).
2. If you will ask the Lord to save you, He will take the record of your sins and throw it behind His back, never to be referred to again.
3. Jesus Christ suffered for your sins on the cross so that you don't have to suffer for them in the lake of fire.

Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 4:5

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 4:1

1 PETER CHAPTER 4

Verses 1-19

Lesson 45

The Lord Chastens His Children

22 February, 2013

Judgment begins right now for the child of God. In this life you will reap what you sow. God said that He WILL chasten His children when they do wrong. We must believe it and live our lives in obedience to our Father in Heaven.

WHY MUST JUDGMENT BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD?

- 1 Peter 4:1 God allows suffering to occur in my life so that my flesh will learn to stop sinning.
- Hebrews 12:4-11 A father who loves his child chasten (physical correction) his child. God loves you.
- A child who is not chastened by their parent may as well be an orphan (vs. 7).
- If you are God's child, He is going to deal with you in your flesh when you sin.
- Your life isn't bad because God chastens you. It goes bad when you won't receive it.
- God wants His children to read His Word and live right. If they don't, He will take out His rod of correction and make their flesh suffer until they learn that sin is going to hurt them.
- Don't blame the Devil when things go bad. More likely, your Heavenly Father is dealing with you in the flesh.
- 2 Samuel 7:14-15 God told David that he would use the "rod of men" to correct him when he sins.
- Proverbs 19:18 A loving father will chasten His child. He won't let you bargain or cry your way out of it.
- Proverbs 13:24 If you don't chasten your child, you hate your child.
- Proverbs 23:13-14 Chastening won't kill the child. It will deliver his soul from Hell. It teaches the child that judgment always follows sin and they'll make the connection that their souls will be standing before a holy God one day.
- 1 Corinthians 11:30-32 God chastens His children to keep them separated from the world.
- 1 Timothy 1:19-20 God delivers people who once had faith and a good conscience (meaning that they are His children) unto the Devil to teach them the consequences of sin.

Verse 1 PETER EXHORTS THE ELDERS.

Who are the “elders?” Verse 5, “⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.”

Chapter 1: citizens are instructed to submit to government.

Chapter 2: servants are instructed to submit to masters.

Chapter 3: wives are instructed to submit to their husbands.

Chapter 4: our flesh must submit to the spirit.

Chapter 5: the younger must submit to the elder.

IN CHAPTER 5, PETER GIVES INSTRUCTION TO THE PERSON IN THE PLACE OF AUTHORITY.

Who is an elder in the context of 1 Peter 5?

1. Someone who is older in years.
2. Someone who has been saved longer.
3. Someone who has more experience.
 - a. These are all people who should be able to teach you by their example.

1. FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD.

- a. The people under your authority belong to God. They are part of the “Church of God” (Acts 20:28).
- b. They are not “under” you. They are “among” you. The leader is one of the flock.
- c. The leader must give of his time, talents, and hard work. A leader must be willing to deny himself for the benefit of others.
- d. Leadership is not about getting more (respect, honor, recognition, pay, power). It’s about giving more.

2. BE A WILLING LEADER. (Not by constraint, but willingly).

- a. If God gives you a place of leadership and you receive it willingly, other people will willingly follow you.
- b. You don’t have to keep reminding people who’s the boss and who’s in charge.
- c. A willing leader won’t complain about his sacrifices and hard work and burdens. He’ll do the work with a smile.

3. **KEEP LEADING EVEN IF THERE IS NO REWARD.** (Not for filthy lucre).
 - a. Keep setting the example whether or not you see any visible return on your investment of time and effort.
 - b. Men, keep being a good husband, whether or not your wife notices or appreciates it.
 - c. Parents, keep being good parents even though the kids won't appreciate it until they're grown.
 - d. Bible teachers, keep putting forth your best efforts, even though some of the students are not interested.
 - e. Just keep doing what's right, regardless of what others do.

4. **BE THE EXAMPLE** (being ensamples unto the flock).
 - a. Every flock of God needs more than one example to follow (ensample = plural).
 - b. If you are elder in any respect, live a godly life. The younger are watching your example.
 - c. Do not attempt to instruct, teach, preach, exhort, reprove, or rebuke if you are not first being an example of all the words you want to say.
 - d. The parent who says, "Do as I say, not as I do" are creating rebellious children who will say, "Why should I do it when you don't do it?"
 - e. The wife who sees her husband rebelling against what God told him to do is not going to follow his leadership.
 - f. The preacher must be the example in all areas if he expects people to heed his instructions.
 - g. Don't be proud. Be humble (verse 5). God resists the proud and so do people who are trying to follow God.

If you follow these instructions for leaders, **"when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."** (verse 4)

*Humble yourselves therefore
under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due
time...*

5:6

1 PETER CHAPTER 5
Verses 6-8
Lesson 47
Pride Attracts the Devil
Humility Brings Forgiveness
and Grace

8 March, 2013

PRIDE: GOD HATES IT; THE DEVIL LOVES IT.

- I. **First Peter 5:6-8 with James 4:5-7**: We are warned concerning the devil in context with the subject of pride vs. humility.
 - a. First Peter 1-4: we will have trouble, difficulty, heartache, and sorrows. It's not the devil.
 - b. First Peter 5: Warning! If the devil smells PRIDE, that's when he'll be interested in you.
 - i. Job 41:34. He is the king over all the children of pride.
 - ii. The only way to get rid of the devil is to humble yourself.
 1. Bible knowledge, good works, and sacrifice won't scare him off. Those are things that might make you proud.
- II. **Proverbs 13:10**: Only by pride cometh contention (arguments, disputes, debates, etc).
 - a. Every relationship problem is the result of pride.
 - i. Because you think you should be first.
 - ii. Because you think you deserve respect.
 - iii. Because you think you should be in charge and people should listen to you.
 - iv. Because you want the chief place.
- III. **Proverbs 16:5**: God hates the proud man. They are an abomination to Him.
 - a. Proverbs 6:19 says God hates "he that soweth discord among the brethren." It doesn't say God hates the deed. It says He hates the person.
 - i. What causes that desire to sow discord (Prov. 13:10)? Pride!
 - b. "⁵ Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD."
 - i. An abomination is a detestable (hateful, vile, revolting) thing.
 - c. There are other things in the Bible that are an abomination to God.
 - i. Homosexuality (Lev. 18:22, 20:13), women who dress like men, men who dress like women (Deut. 22:5), bestiality (Ex. 22:19, Deut. 27:21), Idolatry (Deut 7:25, 2 Chron. 15:8, Jer. 44:4-5, 1 Pet. 4:3), witchcraft, wizards, charmers (Deut. 18:10-12).
 - ii. God includes PRIDE as an abominable thing. It is something He hates.
- IV. **WHY SHOULD WE BE HUMBLE?**
 - a. Because of what we are. God gave us life and He can take it away. We are not in control.
 - b. Because of what we've done. All have sinned.
 - c. Because of what we're capable of doing. Even if we're living right today, that could change.
 - i. The only reason we got saved is because we compared ourselves to the Holy God one day and humbled ourselves and submitted to Him.

HUMILITY: GOD LOVES IT AND REWARDS IT.

THE PRINCIPLE: Luke 14:7-11. You will be humbled one way or another. It is better to humble yourself than to have God humble you in shame. If you humble yourself, God will lift you up and the praise and honor you receive won't go to your head. You'll still remain humble.

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED BLESSINGS WHEN THEY HUMBLING THEMSELVES:

- I. THE PHARISEE VS. THE PUBLICAN (Luke 18:9-14):** Jesus is teaching people who think they are better than others.
 - a. The Pharisee was self-righteous, causing him to despise other people.
 - i. He bragged (in prayer) about his good deeds and his righteousness.
 - ii. He compared himself to other men, pointing out their faults.
 - b. The Publican was humble and did not consider himself worthy to even speak to God.
 - i. Jesus said this man was justified and not the Pharisee.
 - ii. The Pharisee may have been justified in the eyes of those people who saw his good works. This man exalted himself. He shall be abased (brought down low).
 - iii. The Publican was justified in the eyes of God who sees the heart. This man shall be exalted.

- II. KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR (Daniel 4:28-37)**
 - a. King Nebuchadnezzar is proud (vss. 28-30).
 - b. God judges him and brings him down for 7 years (vs. 31-33).
 - c. He learns his lesson, humbles himself, and praises and honors God (vss. 34-37).
 - d. God restores Nebuchadnezzar and gives him "an excellent majesty" (vs. 36).

- III. KING HEZEKIAH (2 Chronicles 32:24-26)**
 - a. Hezekiah was sick unto death (2 Kings 20:1)
 - b. He prayed to God (2 Kings 20:2-3).
 - c. God answered his prayer and granted him 15 years to live (2 Kings 20:6).
 - d. Hezekiah was lifted up in his heart (2 Chron. 32:25). Pride!
 - e. God sends judgment on him and his people (vs. 25).
 - f. Hezekiah and the people humble themselves and God postpones His wrath (vs. 26).

- IV. KING AHAB (1 Kings 21:25-29).**
 - a. Ahab was a wicked king, worshipping idols and doing many abominable things.
 - b. God said Ahab did "very abominably" concerning his idolatry.
 - c. Ahab heard those words and humbled himself.
 - d. God rewarded his humility by postponing His judgment upon the land.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time... 5:6

1 PETER CHAPTER 5

Verse 6

Lesson 48

The Mighty Hand of God

15 March, 2013

“⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God.” To be under God’s mighty hand is to be under His authority. We are to humbly submit to all that God instructs us to do.

“**Under the hand**” refers to a person who is in charge or who is in command or is ruling. (Gen. 39:23; Num 4:28, 33:1; Judges 9:29; 2 Sam. 18:2)

“**The hand of God**” is a term used to describe some judgment that a person or nation is experiencing at “the hand of God.” (1 Samuel 5:6, 9, 11; 2 Chron. 30:12; Job 19:21).

Isaiah 40:10-15 THE POWER OF GOD’S HAND.

1. He measured the waters of the seas in the hollow of His hand.
2. He measured the dust that would make the earth.
3. He weighed the mountains and the hills in a scale.
4. He meted out the distance from one planet to another.
 - a. You are in God’s hand. Whatever is against you is no match for the power of God’s hand.
5. The nations are as a drop of a bucket; like a speck of dust; counted as a very little thing (verse 15).

Isaiah 59:1-2 THE LORD’S HAND, MIGHTY TO SAVE.

1. The same hand that created the universe can save a repentant sinner.
 - a. From the jailhouse, beer house, nursing home, living room, anywhere.

John 10:27-29 THE SECURITY OF THE LORD’S HAND

1. You are in God’s hand. Who could get you out of a hand that can hold an entire solar system?
2. No man is able to pluck you out of God’s hand. Plucking takes some force. You are a living part of God’s hand; not just lying upon His hand so that you could be “taken” out. You would have to be “plucked” out like a chicken feather. But Jesus Christ said even that is not possible.
3. Some say, “No man can pluck you out of God’s hand, but you can walk out.”
 - a. If the universe fits in God’s hand, that would be a long walk!

Ecclesiastes 9:1 THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WISE ARE IN THE HAND OF GOD.

1. **1 Corinthians 1:30.** Jesus Christ has made me righteous and wise.
2. All my works are in His hand; good or bad.

1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

There’s no better place to be than in God’s hand.

Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. ... 5:8

1 PETER CHAPTER 5
Verses 8-9
Lesson 49
Satan: Whom He May Devour

22 March, 2013

1 PETER 5:5-9 How to prepare yourself so that you're ready when the Devil shows up.

Humble yourself. Submit to God. You're safe under the mighty hand of God.

If you're proud, you are not submitted to God. You are easy prey for the Devil. He will target you.

HEBREWS 12:18-24

Heaven is the destination of all who are born again. God made that possible by His grace when He sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ to die for us. In light of this, we ought to count it a privilege to submit to such a loving heavenly Father.

The Devil had that opportunity. He failed to serve the Lord. Now he wants you to fail like he did. He's looking for opportunities to devour you.

PSALM 48:1-2 Mount Zion is the city of our God. It is located on "the sides of the north."

PSALM 75:6-7 Promotion (lifting up) comes from the Lord. Don't get impatient and lift yourself up. One day you'll be promoted to that heavenly city. In the mean time, serve God where you are.

ISAIAH 14:12-17 How did Lucifer become Satan? God tells us how in these verses.

Lucifer is a created being. He was a "son of the morning." Jesus Christ is the "Morning Star" (Rev. 22:16). Jesus Christ, the bright and morning star, created Lucifer. That makes him a "son" of the "morning" [star].

Lucifer was "cut down" (abased) because he exalted himself. He had his eyes on God's throne instead of on God.

Lucifer said "I will" five times in this passage. The definition of pride: Self will.

When a person places their OWN will above God's will, they expect God to submit to their will.

When God gives a command, man tends to think there is an alternative that God hasn't considered. But if God said "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt not," that is God's will. There is no other option or lifestyle or scenario or preference that would cause God to modify His commands for you. His will is the absolute standard and the unalterable law. When any person opposes God's will, they are exalting their own will above God's will.

Lucifer is characterized by the attitude of his heart: "Nobody is going to tell me what to do."

The result: He exalted himself up "to the sides of the north" (verse 13). God brought him "down to hell, to the sides of the pit" (verse 15).

EZEKIEL 28:11-18 God speaks to Satan in the King of Tyrus.

Lucifer was perfect (complete). He lacked nothing. He had nothing to complain about. But iniquity was found IN him (verse 15). It starts in the heart and works its way out.

In Ezekiel 28:16-18 God has five "*I wills*" to answer to Lucifer's five "*I wills*" in Isaiah 14.

REVELATION 15:1-2 the "sea of glass mingled with fire" identifies the location of the place where Lucifer walked "in the midst of the stones of fire." (Ezekiel 28: 14).

Lucifer was as close to God as anyone could possibly get, but his heart was on God's throne. You may be so close to God today in your Christian walk that you don't believe you are in danger of self-will or self-exaltation. Time to humble yourself! Pride is the Devil's playground.

JOB CHAPTER 41 Leviathan (Satan, the dragon)

The Devil will use subtlety and "soft words" (vs. 3) to try and convince you that he can help you. God says beware. You can't control him! "**His heart is as firm as a stone**" (vs. 24). How is your heart? Do you spend all your time criticizing other believers because you're more knowledgeable? Then you're full of pride. You are headed for a fall.

No weapon invented by man can protect you from Leviathan (vss. 26-30). The only hope you've got is to humble yourself under the mighty hand of God.

He is king over all the children of PRIDE! (Verse 34). When you're proud, Satan is your master.

GENESIS 3:1-5 The serpent in the Garden.

The Devil will lie to you and tell you that you can be on God's throne. He'll tell you that you don't have to listen to God anymore. Don't listen to him. No man is as powerful and wise as Satan. He's not getting the throne and neither are you. If you follow him, you'll end up where he went. Down!

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7 Qualifications for the spiritual leader.

He must not be a novice (new Christian). If a new believer gets a high position in the church too soon, it will cause him to become proud. The Devil will be looking for that man. Becoming proud as a result of attaining a high spiritual position is called "the condemnation of the devil" (verse 6)

Going outside (without) into the world, the Devil will try and get you so involved in business, and worldly success that you will never get to where God would have taken you in due time if you would have waited patiently. This is called the "snare of the devil." (verse 7)

First Peter teaches us to submit ourselves in every situation. If we will humble ourselves, we will be protected from the Devil. He's waiting for any sign of pride in us so he can devour us. Don't give him the pleasure.

Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. ... 5:8

1 PETER CHAPTER 5

Verses 5-9

Lesson 50

Satan: He Seeks the Child of God: The Results of Disobedience

29 March, 2013

Be Sober: keep a sharp mind, able to recognize deception & to see the enemy coming.

Be vigilant: always watching out; on guard.

Your adversary: the Devil. He is your enemy. He opposes you. His goal is to ruin your life.

The various names of your adversary:

1. Leviathan: refers to his governmental power and authority. (Job 41; Isaiah 27:1).
2. Serpent: refers to his physical characteristics. (not a slithering reptile, but a great dragon).
3. Satan: this is a title, such as President, Governor, General. Associated with a liar and murderer.
4. Devil: the deceiver. One who uses subtlety to lure you to your destruction.

As a roaring lion, walketh about: He never tires. He never takes a day off. He's always looking for an opportunity to ruin one of God's children. He is very dedicated and enthusiastic about his work. (Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2)

Seeking whom: notice that it is personal. The Devil is after individuals.

Whom he MAY devour: he is *capable* of devouring *any* individual, but he must have permission from God. (Job 1:12, 2:6).

Galatians chapter 1:3-9: If anyone (preacher, angel, friend, etc.) tries to pervert the true gospel of God, which is found in the Word of God, count them accursed and stay away from them.

First Kings Chapter 13: The man of God

- He goes where God tells him to go (vs. 1).
- He preaches what God tells him to preach (vss. 2-3).
- He prays for those who spitefully use and persecute him (vs. 6, Matthew 5:44).
- He obeys the specific commands given to him by the Word of the Lord (vss. 8-10).

THE SAD TURNING POINT

- He is visited by another Prophet (vs. 14). Galatians 1:8 warned, saying "**Though WE.**"
- He believed the old Prophet's lie about what "an angel said" (vs. 18). Galatians 1:8, "**or an ANGEL!**"
 - If it truly were God's angel that spoke to the old Prophet, he would never contradict what God said. God's angels will not contradict what the Bible already says.
 - Just as this old Prophet lied to a fellow Prophet, your Christian friends will lie to you and try to get you to compromise the Word of God.

- He went back with the old Prophet (vs. 19), in direct disobedience to the Word of God.
- The word of the Lord was delivered by the old Prophet (vss. 20-22).
 - The Word of God is still the Word of God, even if it's delivered by a liar.
- A lion met the man of God and slew him (vs. 24).
 - That lion was walking about.
 - The Prophet crossed paths with the lion because he disobeyed God. He should have passed that spot long before that lion ever showed up.
- The lion slew the man of God, but he didn't consume him.
 - The typology: A Christian can't be consumed by the Devil or be part of him ever again. The Devil can't drag a Christian down to hell.
 - But a Christian can be destroyed by the Devil so that they can never again minister for God.
 - More typology: The lion didn't kill the donkey. That's not his purpose.
 - The Devil wants "the man of God." He's not worried about the unsaved people who are already captive by their sin.
 - More typology: The lion didn't kill the old Prophet. The old Prophet was a liar. The Devil is the father of lies. Why would the devil harm someone who is on his side?

If you're right with God, the Devil can threaten you all he wants, but God won't give him permission to harm you.

If you allow yourself to be drawn away from the Lord (by Christians, angels, or friends), he MAY devour you.

Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. ... 5:8

1 PETER CHAPTER 5
Verses 5-11
Lesson 51
Lessons Peter Learned About Satan:
The Results of Pride and Self Confidence.

5 April, 2013

THE LORD'S DESIRE

Luke 22:14-15 Jesus has a desire to fellowship with the ones He loves (Rev. 3:20). When you humble yourself, be sober, be vigilant, and cast all your care on Him, you are choosing to fellowship with the Lord. He feeds you.

SATAN'S DESIRE /THE LORD'S WARNING

Luke 22:31 Satan desires to fellowship with those he hates. When you walk in pride and self confidence, you will find yourself in fellowship with the Devil. He feeds ON you.

THE LORD'S CARE

Luke 22:32 After Jesus warns Peter of Satan's desire, He tells him "I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not." Was Peter humble?

PETER'S PRIDE

Luke 22:33 No! He said, "I am ready!" Peter is self-confident when he should have leaned on the Lord.

THE RESULT OF PRIDE AND SELF CONFIDENCE

Luke 22:34 Jesus told Peter, "You think you're ready, but you're not. You will deny me three times." Peter's confidence was based upon his own personal ability. If you trust yourself, you will fail. If you trust the Lord, He'll give you the victory.

PETER'S SUPERIOR ATTITUDE

Matthew 26:33 Peter thinks he's more capable than any other man.

Matthew 26:34 Jesus said, "No, you're not. You're going to deny me."

Matthew 26:35 Peter, by saying, "No, I won't deny you," is calling the Lord a liar. He doesn't believe what the Lord said because he has a high estimation of himself.

Matthew 26:36-44 Jesus told Peter to watch. Three times, He finds Peter sleeping. Peter didn't take the Lord's warning about Satan seriously. He's not watching.

Luke 22:39-40 The Lord told Peter to pray that he enter not into temptation.

Luke 22:45-46 Peter didn't pray. He didn't think he needed to.

Luke 22:47-54 Peter had said, "I'm ready to go to prison" (Lk 22:33). But when the soldiers came to take him to prison, he drew his sword (vs. 50) because he didn't want to go to prison.

Peter had said, "I'm ready to die with you." But when the soldiers took Jesus to die, Peter followed "afar off" (vs. 54).

- Matthew 26:69-75** The Devil approaches and tempts Peter three times through a damsel, a maid, and others that stood by.
- 3 times (!) Jesus told Simon Peter to watch and pray.
3 times (!) Simon Peter fell asleep. ...He thought he was "ready!"
And 3 times (!) he denied the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8** After Jesus arose from the dead, He made a special, private appearance to Peter alone (vs. 5). Peter had trespassed against the Lord. The Lord had a fault against Peter. He wanted to gain his brother back (Matthew 18:15).
- Galatians 6:1** Peter had a fault. His fault was that he was self-confident. Jesus made it His first priority to restore Peter. In Mark 16:7 an angel at the empty tomb says, "Tell his disciples AND Peter." Peter needed to be restored.
- John 21:15-17** Jesus asks Peter three times "Do you love me?" Peter's responses reveal his conversion. He's no longer proud. He no longer believes that he is superior to the others who love Jesus.
- Acts 2:1-14** **The proof of Peter's conversion.** He is not ashamed to preach in front of a large crowd of people from all over the world and to proclaim his love for his Savior. Now he's trusting in the Lord and not in himself.
- The Lord used Peter 3 times to minister the Gospel to 3 groups of people; the Jews (Acts 2), the Gentiles (Acts 10), and the Church (1st and 2nd Peter).
- Luke 9:30-31** **The Mount of Transfiguration.** Moses and Elijah spoke of Jesus' "**decease which he should ACCOMPLISH.**" Jesus wasn't killed by the Romans or the Jews. His death was the accomplishment for our salvation. He accomplished the salvation of our souls by suffering unto death.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9** "**Knowing that the same afflictions are ACCOMPLISHED in your brethren that are in the world.**" If you want to accomplish something for God, it may involve suffering or death. It will involve the Devil and self-denial.
- To avoid suffering for Jesus: don't humble yourself, be proud, and let the Devil defeat you. You won't accomplish anything for God and you won't bring Him any glory.
- Luke 22:54-58** The "**little while**" mentioned in verse 58 when Peter denied Jesus is one of the only instances in which that phrase does not glorify the Lord or speak of His glorified position in Heaven. (See Haggai 2:6-7, John 7:33-34, John 12:32, 35, 16:16, Hebrews 10:37, etc.)
- 1 Peter 5:1, 10** Notice Peter mentions suffering "**a while**" in context with "**his eternal glory**" (vs. 10)
- 1Peter 5:11** "**To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**"

1 PETER CHAPTER 5
Verse 9
Lesson 52
What We Resist
What We Should Resist.
What We Should Not Resist.

WHAT WE RESIST

GOVERNMENT

God has ordained certain authority structures:

Romans 13:1-3

Government: man is to be subject to the legal authority of the land. (1 Pet. 2:13-14, Titus 3:1)

Parents: children are to obey their parents. (Prov. 1:8, 6:20, 23:22, Eph. 6:1, Col. 3:20)

Husbands: wives are to submit to their own husband. (Eph. 5:22, Col. 3:18)

When you reject the authority which God has established, you are resisting God Himself.

Result of resisting what God has ordained:

Those who disobey the law of the land end up in jail or prison.

Wives who won't submit to their husbands will have an unhappy family life and eventually end up in divorce court.

Children who disobey parents will not experience the joy and happiness that comes from being righteous (Prov. 23:22-25). The disobedient child brings shame and reproach to the family (Prov. 19:26). Their lives will be shortened (Deut. 5:16, Prov. 30:17, Eph. 6:1-3).

1 Timothy 1:8-9

If man were righteous, we would not need laws. The law is good because it governs ungodly sinners.

We've got a bad heart. Therefore, we need to read the Bible daily. We need to be in church every time the doors are open.

MEN RESIST THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 7:51-54

Unholy people are annoyed by the presence of the HOLY Ghost. Their face will reveal this first, followed by their actions. They "stop their ears," refusing to hear the truth.



They become violent against the truth bearer.

They're pushing against the Holy Ghost to prevent Him from making them HOLY.

THE RIGHT RESPONSE: Acts 2:37. “What shall we do?” When you learn, by the preaching of God’s Word that you are living wrong, don’t resist. Find out how to fix it.

WHAT MEN SHOULD RESIST

Hebrews 12:3-4 **SIN:** We ought to strongly resist every sin that is trying to push its way into our life. Resist the lusts and desires of the flesh.

James 4:6-8 **THE DEVIL:** Pride in your life reveals the Devil’s attempts to get you to exalt yourself to the point of forgetting God. Don’t let the Devil get you puffed up.

WHAT MEN SHOULD NOT RESIST

Matthew 5:38-42 **EVIL:** there are a lot of bad things happening in this world. Don’t waste your time fighting temporal and material battles. Spend your time fighting for the truth of the Gospel (2 Cor. 10:4)

James 5:1-7 If you’re mistreated, tell God about it. He’ll ensure that proper judgment is dispensed against the evildoer. We are to fight against the evil in OURSELVES first and foremost. God will take care of our adversaries.

Pick the battles God said you can win! He’ll take care of the rest. In the mean time, be patient (vs. 7)...because the Lord is coming!

*The same afflictions are
accomplished in your brethren
that are in the world ... 5:9*

1 PETER CHAPTER 5

Verse 9

Lesson 53

We're All the Same

19 April, 2013

THERE IS NO NEED TO ADAPT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE TO SUIT THE VARIOUS AUDIENCES

1 PETER 5:9

THE SAME AFFLICTIONS: The Lord told His disciples in Mark 16, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

- He didn't instruct them to start humanitarian efforts to care for the sick, poor, and homeless, etc.
- He sent them out to preach the Gospel to every creature because everybody out there is suffering under some kind of affliction that is common to all.
- The Gospel message speaks to anyone and tells them that Jesus loves them and cares for them no matter who they are.

PSALM 33:13-15

THE SAME HEART: The Lord looks upon ALL the inhabitants of the earth (not just certain ones). All men's hearts are fashioned ALIKE!

- Advertisers rely on this fact to play on our common desires, motives, lusts, and fears, which are all in common.
- God can give one message to all men to cover all of these things. His Gospel appeal strikes every heart because they're all the same.
 - People long for satisfaction, happiness, personal attention, recognition. God can meet all those needs.

ACTS 17:24-28

THE SAME BLOOD: No matter where you come from, you've got Adam's blood.

- The life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11, 14).
- The soul that sinneth, it shall die (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Therefore our blood is corrupt; we're going to die.
- We need a Savior; one who doesn't have Adam's blood.

1 COR. 10:13

THE SAME TEMPTATIONS: Sometimes you may feel that you are going through some temptations, weakness, or problem that nobody else has faced, but in fact, it's common to every man.

- The Devil only needs a few common tricks to tempt every man.
- God can sum up our temptations in three categories.
 - The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16)
 - When you preach the Bible and use the word "sin," it covers every sin ever committed and each person who hears it will apply it to their own sin.

1 Cor. 2:11

THE SAME SPIRIT: “The spirit of man” is not speaking of an individual man’s spirit. It is a human spirit that is common to all men.

- Every unique individual personality has in common, the spirit of man.
- Preach the Gospel and expect **THE SAME RESPONSE** from every person.
 - They may belittle you, annoy you, threaten you, and provoke you.
 - The spirit of man wants its own way. It doesn’t like to be told what to do.
 - It’s with you from birth till death.
- Since you have the same spirit, you know how to reach them (Luke 6:31).
 - People may not understand the message you’re bringing, but they certainly understand your attitude, or the spirit in which you say it.
 - The Lord told us more about how to live right and treat others right than He did about the plan of salvation.

1 JOHN 2:1-2

THE SAME SAVIOR: Though not all are saved, Jesus died for all.

HEBREWS 2:9

Jesus tasted death for every man.

1 TIMOTHY 2:3-6

God’s will is for all men to be saved. Therefore Jesus gave himself a ransom for ALL.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Preach the same Gospel to every person you see.

Ignore the external differences. Don’t judge people by their looks, or even by their actions.

We’re all the same on the inside.

We all have the same need of a Savior.

Romans 3:23	All have sinned
Romans 6:23	The wages of sin is death
Romans 10:9-10, 13	Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus
Acts 4:12	None other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved
Philippians 2:10-11	At the name of Jesus every knee should bow.
John 14:6	I am the way, the truth, and the life.
John 3:16-18	For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.
Ephesians 2:8-9	It is the gift of God.
Titus 3:5-6	Not by works of righteousness
John 1:12	The power to become the sons of God.
2 Corinthians 5:17	If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.
John 3:7	Ye must be born again.
1 Timothy 4:2	Preach the Word.

1 Pet 5:10

Lesson 54

The God Of...

THE GOD OF _____ (First Peter 5:10)

THE GOD OF _____ (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

THE GOD OF _____ (2 Corinthians 13:11)

THE GOD OF _____ (Romans 15:5-6)

THE GOD OF _____ (Romans 15:33)

THE GOD OF _____ (Romans 15:13)

THE GOD OF _____ (Acts 7:2)

THE GOD OF _____ (Deuteronomy 32:4)

Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you...
1 Pet 5:12

1 PETER CHAPTER 5
Verse 12
Lesson 55
True Christian Friends...

3 May, 2013

The end of every epistle contains a listing of those Christians who have been a help and a true friend to the writer of the epistle. We should not suppose that this is merely practical material. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 3rd John 14 says, "Greet the friends by name." Let's see what we can learn from these little known friends who are named by the Apostles; those who were a great help to them in their ministry.

THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF PEOPLE IN EVERY CHURCH:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Givers	Takers
Contributors/servants	Moochers/sponges/selfish
Helpers	Hinderers
Encouragers	Complainers
Praisers (openly speaking well of others)	Gossipers (secretly speaking against others)
Friends/Allies	Opponents/Rivals
Paul (2 Corinthians 12:15)	Alexandar (2 Timothy 4:14)

SILVANUS	1 Peter 5:12	A faithful brother
PHEBE	Romans 16:1-2	"She hath been a succourer of many." (One who <u>runs</u> to meet the needs of others).
MARY	Romans 16:6	Laboring for the Lord's servants.
STEPHANAS		
FORTUNATUS	1 Corinthians 16:17, 18	Men who filled the gap, picked up the slack, did their own work and the work of those who were "lacking."
ACHAICUS		
TYCHICUS	Ephesians 6:20, 21	Willing to make sacrifices for a brother in Christ to make sure the Lord's work was not hindered.
EPAPHRODITUS	Philippians 4:18	A man willing to deliver the Philippian's generous gift to Paul.

EPAPHRAS Colossians 4:12

A prayer warrior. Always laboring fervently for others in prayer.
Note: when you're praying for others, you won't be gossiping
About them or criticizing them. When you pray for others, you
Will grow to love them.

LUKE 2 Timothy 4:11

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves. 1 Pet 4:8

Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. 1 Pet 5:14

1 PETER CHAPTER 5

Verse 12

Lesson 56

Christian Charity...

10 May, 2013

<p>1 Peter 4:8</p>	<p>Notice the word "charity" is used here and not "love." The Bible uses both words; therefore, there must be a distinction between the two. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world..." Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19, "Love thy neighbour as thyself." But "charity" is reserved for the love relationship between believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity is reciprocal; it is giving in both directions; from both parties. • Since all believers are sinners, it is necessary to allow the grace of God to enable us to show charity towards one another. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There's no such thing as a church void of sinners. ○ Charity shall cover a multitude of sins.
<p>Proverbs 28:13</p> <p>How to deal with my own sins.</p>	<p>Don't cover your sins. Confess them to God. Bring your sins out in the open before God. Seek His help in dealing with them.</p>
<p>Genesis 9:18-23</p> <p>How to deal with the sins of others.</p>	<p>Ham reported his father's sins to his brethren. That was not a help to Noah. That was not a help to his brothers.</p> <p>Shem and Japheth sought to protect the reputation of their father. They attempted to cover his sin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They didn't want to look at his sin lest they also be drawn to it. • They didn't want to look at it, lest it cause them to look down on or despise their father. • They were interested in restoring their father in the spirit of meekness (Gal 6:1)
<p>The Contrast of Charity.</p> <p>1 Peter 4:15</p> <p>1 Timothy 5:11-15</p> <p>Proverbs 26:17</p> <p>2 Thess. 3:7-15</p>	<p>Busybodies! People who are always sticking their nose in other people's business and reporting it to others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are busy doing NOTHING. They are idle so they begin to wander and tattle. • Stay busy doing important things and you can avoid becoming a busybody. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go give the gospel to somebody. ○ Young women; get married, bear children, guide the house. ○ Work. Earn some money. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don't expect a free handout. Earn your own bread. ▪ Work with your own hands (1 Thess. 4:11) • Meddling in other people's affairs can be dangerous. • Don't spend time with busybodies. It's contagious.

<p>The church at Babylon</p> <p>1 Peter 5:13</p>	<p>Many Bibles contain a note stating that Babylon is Rome.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roman Catholic Church supports this because they want to establish the primacy of Peter as the first pope at Rome. • Protestants support this because they misinterpret Revelation 17 and 18 to say that Babylon is Rome so they can attack the Roman Catholic Church. • If God meant Rome, He'd have said "The church at Rome." • There is no record that Peter was ever in Rome. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peter is still in Jerusalem in 40 A.D. (Galatians 1:13-18) ○ In 45 A.D., Peter is still in Israel (Acts 12:18-19). ○ Paul visited Peter (Cephas) in 54 A.D. in Jerusalem. (Gal. 2:1, 9). ○ Peter went to Antioch (Gal. 2:11). ○ In 58 A.D., Paul wrote to the Romans and saluted 27 individuals. Peter was not one of them. ○ Paul wanted to go to Rome (Rom. 1:11). He did not want to go where another man had already started a work (Rom. 15:20). Therefore, Peter could not have started a work there. ○ When Paul was in prison in Rome in 60-64 A.D, he mentions many Christian workers in Rome. He never mentioned Peter. ○ In 67 A.D., Paul writes to Timothy from Rome and says, "Only Luke is with me." (2 Timothy 4:11). Peter was still alive in 67 A.D. <p>There was a church at Babylon! That is a wonderful truth!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nimrod founded Babel in Genesis 10:10. • Babylon has always been a name associated with something that God hates. (Psalm 137:8-9, Isaiah 14:22, 23, Jeremiah 50:14, 51:7-9, etc.) • Eventually, the religious system that comes from Babylon will be responsible for every abomination on the face of the earth. (Revelation 17:5). • God used Peter to build a church in Babylon! (First Peter 5:13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If Peter can do it there, we can do it here!
<p>CONCLUSION:</p> <p>First Peter 5:14</p> <p>Every chapter in First Peter includes a statement about love or charity toward the brethren.</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:22 "Unfeigned love of the brethren." "Love one another with a pure heart fervently."</p> <p>1 Peter 2:17 "Love the brotherhood."</p> <p>1 Peter 3:8 "Love as brethren."</p> <p>1 Peter 4:8 "Have fervent charity among yourselves."</p> <p>1 Peter 5:14 "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity."</p> <p>First Peter is a book about trials, tribulations, troubles, and heartaches. Christians can handle all of these things if they have love for God and love for the brethren.</p> <p>When Peter got his love relationship right with the Lord (John 21:15-17), God's love was shed abroad in his heart and he passed that love along to the brethren.</p>