

# Joy Unspeakable

An Exposition of First Peter



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# Joy Unspeakable

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*by*

Pastor Jeromy John Visser



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*Wisdom is the greatest wealth.*

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*Introduction:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, this book is an exposition into the first epistle of Peter and this particular letter has a strong end-time message. Of course, the author is the same apostle of Christ and one of the earliest disciples (John 1:40-42) being deeply acquainted with both James and John. He often served as a spokesman for the group (Matthew 16:15-16) and was even with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-2) even though he once attempted to rebuke Jesus for going to Jerusalem to be rejected and killed (Matthew 16:21-22) to offer salvation for the Israel people.

This same author Simon Peter (named after ‘the rock’) once stated that he would never reject Jesus under any circumstances but in time even denied knowing Him three times (Matthew 26:33-34) immediately repenting of this sinful denial (Matthew 26:74-75). Still, Peter was reinstated as a disciple and apostle after Christ rose from the dead (John 21:15-19) so one of his earliest duties afterward was to find a replacement for the deceased Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26).

The purpose for this letter from Peter is to exhort believers to stand true in all kinds of suffering and to set forth the true grace of Yahweh. There’s about ten verses of unfulfilled prophecy throughout the five chapters of 1st Peter but the topic of suffering is discussed over sixteen times. History does not substantiate Peter ever visiting Rome and Paul never mentions such a residency in his own lengthy epistle to the Romans. Instead, we do know from scripture that Peter went east into Babylon and authors two books of our Bible, apparently 1st and 2nd Peter. There are admonitions for Christians to study the scripture for themselves and guidelines for the church (of whom Peter was head steward) yet the word “pope” (meaning father) is never once mentioned.

This epistle is written to the elect, discusses seedline and further proves the fact that Jesus Christ is Yahweh manifest in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16). It uses such terms as purchased tribes, selected offspring, separated races and ‘kingly fraternal orders’ when asking Christians to abstain from all manner of wickedness. Peter tells us to fear God because hypocrites will slander Truth, or the Word of God (John 17:17) later writing that such individuals should be destroyed “as beasts” for such iniquity (II Peter 2:12).

Let’s now see what wisdom we can glean from this great epistle.

*Scattered Strangers:*

**“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied (1 Peter 1:1-2).”**

When was the last time you heard such a warm greeting from a friend like this one from

Peter? A casual glance at the current state of the Christian ‘movement’ today shows continual bickering amongst the brethren over trivial matters when our targets should be focused on Satan’s wicked progeny. The ‘masses’ seemingly never grasp Biblical Truth (John 17:17) and in turn harass those who choose to live godly, similar common assemblies consented to the crucifixion of our Savior whose message was most targeted at the elect.

This epistle is similar to our exposition of James that begins by greeting; “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” in that it is specifically written to the elect remnant. This book specifically addresses the scattered Israelite people throughout the region of the time and essentially all Christian followers throughout history from amongst the chosen Covenant People. Like most of the Bible, we discover that this epistle from Peter has an exclusive message as opposed to ‘openly inclusive’ as many erroneously teach.

This ‘select theme’ continues throughout both epistles from Peter later becoming even more specific when he makes this statement about unbelievers; “It is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire (II Peter 2:22).” Christians should be continually thankful because those who cannot hear God’s Truth as preserved in His Word are simply not chosen to do so, rather they’re vessels of dishonor (Romans 9:22).

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Peter 1:3-5).”**

The blessings of Yahweh will never fade away while everything else in life does. Everything a Christian does should be for the advancement of God’s Kingdom because Jesus teaches; “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3).” The terminology ‘revealed in the last time’ makes the aspect of being ‘begotten again’ mandatory for salvation and once again proves that this specific epistle is addressed to those who are born again, especially in these later days as many fall aside during the apostasy.

No matter where we go in life there will always be those who cannot see the simplicity of Yahweh’s design, much less the complexity of His eternal mercy. This first epistle of Peter gives Christians specific lessons on how to deal with infidels while expressing the importance of the Word of God which should be loved and studied by all. Many Catholics still perpetuate the lie that denying Peter was somehow their first ‘pope’ while at the same time this book explains that the Word is to be studied by the people, not those in ‘authority.’

Possibly because of his own denial of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:61), Peter teaches

Christians that followers must be obedient to the commandments, including those found in this epistle. We must always be careful to never allow social trends to influence us from doing what's right and Peter has left us a perfect example of how not to be in times of persecution or adversity. The real prize is reserved for us in heaven and is not to be found in insignificant finances or momentary acquaintances that might be found littering our lives.

*Joy Unspeakable:*

**“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:6-9).”**

We should all take notice of Peter's statement 'the trial of your faith' and again contrast this with James who says a similar statement at the beginning of his epistle; "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2-4)." Overcoming temptations is how our Faith is increased yet most still make wrong decisions even allowing bitterness about sin to harden their own hearts.

In a similar sense, Jesus once told his friend 'doubting' Thomas; "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29)." It is the simple man who needs 'proof' of the spiritual realm when it surrounds him everywhere he goes, the Biblically wise person knows that we wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). Seeing is not believing because man can't explain the mysteries of Yahweh.

Those who receive the "end of their faith" (or reward) also obtain the salvation of their souls for their outright devotion to the King of kings, Jesus Christ. Of course this all requires the choosing of God and His perfect working in a particular person's life or no amount of persuasion will convince those whom Yahweh has not chosen. Our prize is greater than anything the world or the enemy has to offer and the greatest thing is that it's reserved for the elect. The glory of Salvation far outweighs the hollow inclinations of sin.

**“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow (1 Peter 1:10-11).”**



A Christian knowledgeable with God's Word knows that the entire Bible is about Jesus Christ from beginning to end as He is the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13). Numerous false prophets love to separate Jesus Christ from His oneness with Yahweh minimizing the importance of the Messiah in deliverance. There is salvation in no other name (Acts 4:12) and no other God beside Him (meaning the Shepherd) so as Christians we must always strive for a society as outlined in the very Word of God, or the Bible as we know it today.

This passage plainly states that the Bible testified of the sufferings of Christ beforehand meaning the entire scripture is about the Creator Jesus and we can serve no other god but Him (Exodus 20:3). While reading this book you might notice that Peter places a strong importance on both brotherly love and the Word of God because these are obviously most lacking during the end times (Matthew 24:12).

For example, contrast the Messianic 22nd Psalm that Jesus quoted from the cross with the sheer amount of false prophets who use His asking "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani (Matthew 27:46)?" against Him by saying Christ had doubt in Yahweh (or the divine plan laid out before mankind). A casual study into the Old Testament proves that it continually testifies of Jesus' coming and second coming, only those too lazy or evil would teach otherwise -- the scriptural fact that Jesus is the Christian God angers the enemy more than anything.

*Angel's Desire:*

**"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into (1 Peter 1:12)."**

In Greek, the term "to look into" literally means "to bend over so as to look deeply into and see to the bottom of a thing" and this same word is also used in James 1:25; "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." In essence, to 'look into' something requires a direct action (on the part of the curious) and because of this deed Christians are plainly taught that "faith without works is dead (James 2:26)."

The angels of God are His messengers and such 'men' are always found alongside Yahweh, consider the two destroyers who traveled with God during the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Holy Spirit is in charge of all things, especially the Word of God as cherubim were placed over the very ark of the Covenant (I Kings 8:7) which represents Jesus. Again, it's best to avoid those who wish to debate over the sanctity of the scriptures because such brethren follow a weakened God unable to preserve His precious Word unlike ours.

In the next few passages, Peter expresses the importance of the written Word commanding us all to be obedient to its teachings. Like Jesus, he explains that we must separate from the world's influence and our past sins while clinging to the sacred Gospel for guidance in daily matters. The Bible is continually under attack by many professing Christians but a soldier without his sword is worthless to 'the cause' and Satan's biggest tactic is manipulation of scripture (Matthew 13:19).

**“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (1 Peter 1:13-16).”**

Consider this statement for a moment - be ye holy. That's a commandment telling us to be holy in all manner of conversation and deeds yet so few professing Christians actually do as commanded. An arrogant man might be quick to describe how pious he is but it's really his 'fruits' that we're to inspect (Matthew 7:20), not his own opinion. The word holy used here is taken from the Greek *hagios* (pronounced hag'-ee-os) and it means "sacred or set-apart (Strong's #G40)." Think about this.

To remain sober-minded means to abstain from wine or alcohol in excess and we must remain obedient children as commanded by both Jesus and the apostle Peter in this epistle. Christian conformity requires a particular set of guidelines to adhere to and we have the faithful Word of God to lead us in all things. Furthermore, Yahweh has provided for us.

When the Bible may not be able to be used to promote certain doctrine, one can be sure that if a certain teaching doesn't appear within its pages that it's a non-Biblical principle (this should be common sense to a Christian). Many people make the mistake of adapting God to their lifestyles rather than adapting their lives around God's commands, this is where so-called homosexual 'churches' spring into existence as they certainly cannot teach from the unadulterated Word of God nor "the mouth of the prophets" that all testify of Jesus.

### *Incorruptible Seed:*

**“If ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God**

**(1 Peter 1:17-21)."**

Jesus Christ being the "lamb without blemish foreordained before the foundation of the world" means that Salvation was offered since the beginning. For example, those foolish people who worship the beast in Revelation 13:8 are those "whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" so this aspect of Jesus' divinity are essential during today's apostasy. Many among the 'stony places' are falling aside today as Jesus has foretold in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:20-21).

Yet those who are also predestined in God's Will continue to stand in the Word because as the remnant they really have no other choice -- it's either Yahweh's unspoiled Truth or Babylon's nonstop confusion. Knowing that we're not redeemed by worthless silver or gold also assures us that God has chosen the poor and there's no such thing as a 'prosperity doctrine' promising financial riches during our Christian walk. In fact, Christ continually warned the monetarily "rich" and the love of money is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10).

Almost predictably, those who continually quest for money in life also 'esteem persons' unlike Yahweh. While God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), man can only judge according to outside appearance and most times they're influenced by the funds they so passionately desire. Sadly, this author has known too many false brethren in life who ultimately turn aside from doing what's right for a senseless crusade of finances when our focus should instead be on the source of all blessings and from who they flow -- Jesus Christ.

**"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever (1 Peter 1:22-23)."**

Once again we see that the key is truthful love and Jesus Christ explained that the Word of God is Truth (John 17:17). In order for one to obey the Word (or the Truth) they must do so under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so it stands to reason that those who war against Jesus and His precious Words are under the influence of "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2)." Considered as corruptible seed, they know nothing more than working their own wickedness.

Those born again are incorruptible seed by the Word of God and this same Word "liveth and abideth for ever" referring to both Jesus and the written script. Many loveless snakes today work overtime attacking the sacred scripture as they have throughout history, naturally they'll teach against being 'born again' or baptized in the Spirit so the elect Christian soldiers must always turn to their swords (or scripture) for guidance. There can really be no other rulebook or set of morals outside of what God has commanded, period.

The Bible continually focuses on seedlines yet in the next few verses Peter will bring forth a small lament to show the importance of Jesus' Grace over race, a problem many still have today. We must never neglect this important aspect of the Christian walk and be like so many who quickly attack one another -- Jesus judges everyone according to how they judge others (Matthew 7:2).

*Sincere Milk:*

**“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (1 Peter 1:24-25).”**

While everything dies and all mortal works eventually fall, the Word of God is eternal because it is everything to the Christian. In these precious scriptures the broken-hearted man can find comfort while the common snake finds his own damnation. So few in churchianity truly understand what the Word of Yahweh even is and often those who slander the perfection of our scriptures can also be found in violation of its moral teachings and they do so in a futile attempt to somehow feel superior to their own judge.

Revelation 19:13 teaches us that Jesus Christ is considered the living Word and the Gospel of John states; “The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.” This is very important because Colossians 1:16-17 says; “By him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Jesus Christ is the Ever-living God of Israel, this is why He's so hated.

What this accounts to is the fact that Jesus Christ is the living God ‘manifest in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16)’ or more specifically -- the Creator, none higher. One of the apostle John's epistles further clarifies by saying; “There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one (I John 5:7)” even further proving this awesome fact.

**“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious (1 Peter 2:1-3).”**

Newborns rely on upon their mother for all things as we should trust in the Creator Jesus to supply our essential needs. While mankind can always be trusted to slander or forsake one another in times of adversity, Jesus Christ has openly promised; “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee (Hebrews 13:5).” Among other places, these promises are found within His Word so this might explain why many judaized television evangelists never seem to get around to teaching the

Bible but beg for money instead. We reap what we sow.

Several pagans from within this author's own family ranks once stated that my sermons are 'too much scripture' and attempted to attack my abilities by implying that I somehow hide behind the Bible. Of course they are somewhat correct in their assumptions as a major part of the Gospel Armor is the Word of God, especially the double-edged Sword (Ephesians 6:13-20). Without the Word of God on all levels a Christian is defenseless so be weary of those who wish to side-track you in meaningless debate, chances are they hate Yahweh anyway.

Indeed, those who have never tasted the graciousness of Jesus Christ nor never genuinely feel His touch can only play church or condemn others for steadfastly doing as commanded. Many hide behind general lawlessness and worship "another Jesus (II Corinthians 11:4)" making it practically impossible to 'witness' to them because they worship themselves more than Yahweh. A person has to want worldly filth or fleshly desires in his life in order to follow that which is contrary to the easy-verifiable written Word preserved for us.

*Living Stone:*

**"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 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. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded (1 Peter 2:4-6)."**

When Moses finally met Yahweh he was told by God; "Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock (Exodus 33:21)" and in the New Testament the apostle Paul has this to say about the Israelites; "[They] were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ (I Corinthians 10:2-4)." The 'Rock' spoken of in these passages is obviously Jesus Christ.

Testifying beforehand about the sufferings of Christ, Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16; "Therefore thus saith the Lord Yahweh, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" because this same book promises Israel "your covenant with death shall be disannulled (Isaiah 28:18)." Jesus overcame death and those who believe upon Him and His Words are not 'confounded' (or confused) by Babylon's false illusions, they have the unmovable Rock.

Ephesians 2:18-20 teaches us; "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Je-

sus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” It’s through the Word of God that a Christian is able to avoid being confounded or ‘confusion’ in general so we should pay particular attention to what Peter is trying to express in quoting this verse.

**“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed (1 Peter 2:7-8).”**

Jesus is the same cornerstone “which the builders disallowed” and even today many churches still forbid His teaching behind their pulpits. The term “unto them which be disobedient” literally means “unwilling to be persuaded” meaning those who refuse to put faith into their own Savior. While He is the source of all Christian blessings to the obedient and those who love Him, Christ can also be considered both a stone of stumbling and rock of offence to those who err (in the Word) or who haven’t yet been given ‘eyes to see’ nor ‘ears to hear.’

Jesus teaches; “Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof (Matthew 21:42-43).” This special passage that foretells of the Messiah is found in Psalm 118:22; “The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.” All people and things are foreordained by God, period.

“Whereunto also they were appointed” directly suggests that these same disobedient followers who ‘stumble’ at the Word are chosen to be as such. This is very important as many mistakenly feel they must spend their Christian walk as if they were on a crusade needing to convert the entire world -- Yahweh is powerful enough. Not much happens within the majority or a ‘universal’ church and the next section of passages directly addresses who the elect are and the numerous New Testament racial aspects that make many ‘ministers’ squirm.

### *Holy Nation:*

**“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10).”**

Pay attention to what’s being said here and who’s addressed: #1) a chosen generation or “selected offspring” #2) a royal priesthood or “kingly fraternal order” #3) an holy nation or “separated race” and #4) a peculiar people or “purchased tribe.” These four ‘traits’ are used to identify the same group of people, the covenant Jacob people directly chosen of Yahweh. Any Christian

knowledgeable of his heritage should also be familiar with this passage as it gives four direct indications of the not-so-lost Northern tribes of Israel “scattered abroad.”

Of course, this mercy was offered by Jesus’ grace which is why the Israelites of old were not truly considered to be a ‘people’ of their own. Today followers proudly bear the name of Christian and as a collective whole comprise the ‘Body’ (or church) as long as Jesus is honestly the cornerstone. The Messiah says; “I am the light of the world (John 9:5)” and “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness (John 12:46).” There is no darkness or continued sin surrounding a repentant Christian.

This is a ‘calling out’ from sin that Peter is expressing in these passages and his request is very similar to that of Christ who also asks Christians to abstain from fleshly lusts. While those who choose to follow Truth do so at the risk of worldly attacks but those who choose to live godly are not only rewarded in ‘the world to come’ but also in this earth age. Children of the Light must be seen as doing work for their Father Yahweh, not out to make a ‘name’ for themselves at the expense of others.

**“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:11-12).”**

Indeed, ‘fleshly lusts’ do war against the soul but it is in overcoming them that we increase our faith in God as we discussed earlier this morning. This seemingly forces the Christian to decide between momentary pleasure with an eventual lost faith in Yahweh or outright abstinence with increased love from Him, there’s really no grey area with God. We must abstain from breaking the Law of Yahweh (choosing Faith) because; “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).”

When Peter beseeches us as “strangers and pilgrims” we must use the Bible as its own narrative in order to discover more about the addressed party. In Hebrews 11:13 we find this pearl of wisdom; “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Listed as ‘strangers’ are Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sara -- all directly hand-picked of Yahweh. Once again, the elect.

Sadly, man’s laws are not Yahweh’s Law and they’re becoming less so every day with the Ten Commandments continually under attack by those who can’t help but break them. Naturally, Peter understands this aspect of the Christian walk even dying a martyr’s death (which we’ll discuss near the conclusion of this exposition) so in the next set of passages we’re instructed on how to ‘have our conversation honest among the Gentiles’ and given identifying ‘marks’ of God’s own

rulers -- those who wish for a society under Jesus' teachings.

*Fear God:*

**“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well (1 Peter 2:13-14).”**

The condition for such a worthy submission is that they “are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well” not vise-versa. When man’s feeble government contradicts God’s supreme Law or authority the responsibility falls upon the Christian themselves so they must choose their god (Joshua 24:15) because we’re also told; “We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).” Next, we’re told by Peter to honor worthy men and kings but to straightforwardly love the brotherhood and Yahweh.

Still, sometimes one can’t help but wonder how many Christians might turn in their Bibles if ordered to by the governments of the world. In many places it is illegal to mention the name of Jesus Christ without facing public execution and in most places it’s ‘hate speech’ to speak out against homosexuals as commanded. The results of such antichrist ‘laws’ are whitewashed government-funded ‘churches’ that never speak out against Uncle Scam, these types of disgraces are usually lead by effeminized ‘PC types’ that make a good living at deceiving others.

Jesus commands us; “Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16)” and Paul tells us; “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18)” so we must always strive to do the correct thing in a merciless world. Common sense must be used in all situations and when a Christian is doing things in God’s favor he will even make his own enemies to be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). These are valuable traits as they help us to discern the lawless from the law-abiding, irregardless of “sides.”

**“For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king (1 Peter 2:15-17).”**

‘Fear God’ is a commandment that appears hundreds of times in the Bible yet so few actually do. This commandment has dual-meaning in that we should also reverence Yahweh but Christians should always remember that our God is omnipotent (Revelation 19:6) meaning all things. These verses are telling us to strive for perfection and to be honorable to all men, especially the brotherhood.

For a moment reflect upon the actions of Daniel while in the king’s court or the lack of



speech on the part of Jesus during His own trial by man's court. There will always be those who wish to be lower-case 'gods' and are easily seduced by Satan because some of his first spoken words found in scripture prove that he uses this tactic (Genesis 3:5). By doing well we also preserve our reputation among men and more importantly with God who sees our secret works and rewards accordingly. Servants of God are commanded to love Christian brethren.

These passages are also teaching that we should never give our enemy opportunity to speak ill of us leaving them only the option to slander (as so many already do). Christianity can often-times be seen as 'a criminal religion' because so many of its founders and supporters throughout history have been persecuted and thrown in jail by the prevailing governments at the time, Jesus and Paul included. Be on guard because many regard antichrist groups like TBN or the United States president as 'Christian' just because they say so.

*Ye Called:*

**“Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God (1 Peter 2:18-20).”**

Again, the focus must always be on Jesus and His Will for us because He endured more grief and wrongful suffering than we could ever imagine. The Messiah reminds us; “Beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues (Matthew 10:17)” and furthermore; “He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me (Matthew 10:38).” True Christians will suffer for following common sense (in the scripture), a glance at the modern world and history proves this.

When a Christian does the right thing in the eyes of Yahweh but is considered to be demon-possessed or 'an anarchist' by the world at large, which opinion truly counts? Jesus says; “John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye [the enemy] say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children (Luke 7:33-35).” Beware of separatists as Jesus came for sinners (Mark 2:17).

Peter commands us to do endure in all these things because Jesus Christ did the same and He is our perfect pattern. A sure-fire sign of a false prophet is they will somehow teach against the perfection of the Savior as this appeals to their flesh-nature or more specifically -- the desire to be “gods.” If we serve only Jesus and have no King but Him than we're also subject to Him as Master and need to only fear Him. Don't allow the world's meaningless quests to sidetrack you from time that's better spent studying the Word of God prayerfully.

**“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:21-24).”**

It goes without saying that Jesus Christ is the Christian’s perfect example because He is the natural standard by which all Christians should strive. When we see ignorant people attacking the perfect Word it can also be seen as an attack on Jesus Christ Himself and such serpentine people can be found nit-picking so-called ‘Biblical inconsistencies’ just about anywhere you look, especially amongst judeo-Christians. Many false prophets who use this tactic will also claim our Savior was somehow imperfect but these verses prove otherwise.

Christ never sinned nor spoke unruly so we should also strive to do the same as He. In order to be a perfect sacrifice for Israel’s sin it was mandatory that the sacrificial Lamb be spotless and this is yet another place where antichrist will condemn. Such blasphemous teachings as Jesus sleeping with prostitutes or being born from a whore mother can only come from the most deranged and godless minds yet such doctrines do exist. Many false prophets might ask “What would Jesus Do?” but even less ever attempt to really do as He commands.

Our flawless example Jesus Christ “committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” not Herod nor Pilate and this is a factor that lead to His crucifixion. The usage of the word ‘tree’ in this passage of scripture would have been better translated as ‘timber (#G3586)’ as that is the original meaning for the Greek word xulon (pronounced xoo’-lon). No one person deserves the sacrifice Jesus made for His beloved creation as God does not respect persons, it is through grace that Christians are saved through His atoning blood (Ephesians 2:8).

### *Stray Sheep:*

**“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls (1 Peter 2:25).”**

Peter says the elect remnant were as sheep going astray but seeing as Jesus Christ was “Not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24)” His perfect blood has provided a Way. Shed once for Israel, Jesus’ blood is sufficient to cleanse our sins and grant us forgiveness through His unmerited grace. The use of the word sheep in this verse isn’t disrespectful as many might think due to media conditioning -- it’s another reference to the chosen people Israel who “lost their way” because they were without a Shepherd.

During the Last Supper, Jesus spoke; “All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad (Matthew 26:31)” referencing Zechariah 13:7; “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith Yahweh of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.” Right here the scripture “testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ” as Peter taught earlier in this same epistle.

Because we were also considered to be ‘lost sheep’ when we’re dead in sins, we must never neglect to reach out to others and avoid exiling ourselves away from the world and Jesus’ other children. Zechariah 10:2 reminds us; “For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.” Let’s work hard to never deny our Shepherd like Peter did (three times) while avoiding others who do.

*Subjected Wives:*

**“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear (1 Peter 3:1-2).”**

These passages begin the third chapter of Peter’s epistle and they deal with Christian relationships and the ‘ranks’ contained within marriages, both spiritual and physical. By choosing to say “if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives” proves that Christians can oftentimes be coupled with non-believers but they are more convinced by action, not speech. So it stands today, many people claim they’re Christian but live the most antichrist lifestyles imaginable turning others away.

In light of this passage, also consider this similar teaching by the apostle Paul; “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy (I Corinthians 7:14).” It’s certainly best to have a like-minded and virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:10-31), but this is oftentimes not the case for those who have been called to Yahweh’s service after marriage. Still, it’s by our very actions that non-believers should want to come to Jesus’ Word.

As Paul taught; “Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:33)” so Peter says here; “coupled with fear.” Respect and submission are required in relationships but both must work as one or problems arise so the conduct of the wife is to be pure in all respects (hopefully gaining conversion of her husband). Proverbs 6:26 says; “For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.”

**“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price (1 Peter 3:3-4).”**

One has to wonder if Jan Crouch or Tammy Faye Baker have ever read these simple verses commanding modesty in both spirit and apparel. While the topic of women ‘preachers’ is a source of debate in Christian circles, outright painted harlots can be spotted in seconds while even less consider these television ‘images’ to have an antichrist agenda attempting to undermine and profit on the scriptures. The Bible unmistakably teaches that woman are to have a meek and quiet spirit which is in itself rewarded greatly by Yahweh.

Naturally, Jan and Tammy must throw out Paul’s teachings on so-called “woman preachers.” Whorish attire is becoming a more rampant problem in these later days and it’s also becoming more ‘socially acceptable’ to see our youth wearing such garb, especially in public schools. Proverbs 11:22 directly teaches; “As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion” yet church pews can often be lined by females sporting the most outlandish fashions or occasionally a strange piercing “after the manner of Egypt.”

Both the apostles Peter and Paul spend an extensive amount of time devoted to teaching on the subject of ‘ranks’ within the family and Christian church and many more instructions follow these. Before doing as such Peter is going to initially analyze Abraham’s wife Sara as an example of a virtuous woman.

#### *Honorable Husbands:*

**“For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement (1 Peter 3:5-6).”**

Peter states that this epistle is expressly addressed to the daughters of Abraham and Sarah (or Israelite women) by saying “whose daughters ye are.” Here’s how and why; “Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable (Hebrews 11:11-12).”

It’s through this same promised seed Isaac comes Jacob/Israel and the future covenant nations, or God’s chosen people whom Peter’s epistle is addressed to. These holy women of old times spoken about in this passage adorned themselves with ‘the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit’ as mentioned moments ago. This is certainly a much-needed lesson for Christians as femi-

nism is on the increase and its agenda can most times be insincere.

In light of this great passage consider this parallel quote from Paul who commands; “That women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence (1 Timothy 2:9-12).” Subjection isn’t really a bad thing because married Christians are one.

**“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered (1 Peter 3:7).”**

The theme of ‘oneness’ runs continually throughout the Bible starting with Adam and Eve who were “one flesh” bringing forth their own fruit (or offspring). Husbands must honor their wife (singular) knowing that they are the weaker ‘vessel’ and there’s simply no respect in having more than one spouse. You also might have noticed that was yet another New Testament commandment proving that husbands are forbidden from engaging in polygamy.

Both husband and wife must work together as instructed and if not there is an undeniable chance that their prayers could be “hindered (or ‘cut down’).” Paul teaches on this subject in 1st Thessalonians 4:3-4; “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.” Fornication is a major infraction and once again the Greek word porneia (pronounced por-ni’-ah) is used which means ‘porno’ in English.

Jesus once taught the Pharisees; “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Matthew 19:4-6).” We must live clean because the Messiah also used the same word porneia stating that divorce is forbidden “except it be for fornication (Matthew 19:9).”

### *One Mind:*

**“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing (1 Peter 3:8-9).”**

Considering Christian followers can oftentimes be objects of ‘suffering’ they also become

prime targets for bitterness or revenge. Yahweh commands in Exodus 21:24; “Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot” yet Jesus teaches; “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also (Mat 5:38-39).” When teaching others from the Bible don’t repel one outrage by another.

Christians are taught; “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits (Romans 12:16).” We’re commanded as Christians to be courteous and loving towards the brethren. Paul makes no apologies in imposing the same rule; “Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27).” Jesus teaches; “I and my Father are one (John 10:30)” and if we’re to have him as our bridegroom than as His bride we must be one also, not found whoring after strange ‘gods’ or customs.

**“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it (1 Peter 3:10-11).”**

However, this is a conditional promise -- in order for those who love life to “see good days” they must speak no guile (or ‘subtle deceit’) nor of evil things while doing good and seeking peace, not war. Peter is teaching an Old Testament concept; “Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of Yahweh. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it (Psalm 34:11-14).”

There can be no wickedness in a Christian’s life as there is no ‘grey area’ with God so when we see brothers who walk disorderly we are to withdraw ourselves promptly (II Thessalonians 3:6). Far too many “separatists” wish to lock themselves away from the world and never speak of Christ but they’ve forgotten that the battlefield is humanity and somebody once shared the Good News with them.

Before reading how Peter finishes this Old Testament psalm in the next few verses we should first read the original; “The eyes of Yahweh are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of Yahweh is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth (Psalm 34:15-16).” Political-correctness has poisoned numerous pulpits worldwide but this should be a straight-forward enough concept to most Christians -- God hates evil but His treasure is in those who seek righteousness on earth.

*Moral Suffering:*

**“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good (1 Peter 3:12-13)?”**

Actually; “The eyes of Yahweh are in every place, beholding the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3)” but as one can imagine they’re specifically targeted towards His elect because they help to bring forth His Will on earth. God’s ears are always open to the prayers of the righteous but; “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination (Proverbs 28:9).” Unlike those ‘churches’ who falsely claim “all are precious” the Bible plainly says here that the face of God is against those who do evil, period.

No man can harm a Christian who continually does the right thing because a person only fears the ‘god’ they serve. Obviously, people who live in continual fear of the government or current trends are also serving ‘another god’ and couldn’t be considered in Biblical accuracy because the Truth sets one free (John 8:32) and the Word of God is that same Truth (John 17:17). Knowing that Yahweh is in control is another form of freedom because we have the promise of a loving Father who protects us.

Another thing to notice from Peter’s God-inspired words is that there will arise situations where the righteous elect are harmed for following that which is good. Oftentimes, because wealthy Babylonian ‘play-churches’ teach new-age concepts that are foreign to the Bible, those who speak the Truth directly from the oracles of God appear as “fanatical” or “racist.” Jeremiah 5:26 warns; “Among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men.” The remnant have many enemies.

**“If ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ (1 Peter 3:14-16).”**

The subject of Christian ‘suffering’ is a strong theme throughout both of Peter’s epistles to the Israel people, this is because “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12).” Jesus remind us; “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me (John 15:20-21).”

Notice that this passage says “be not afraid of their terror?” This straightforwardly suggests that the enemies of Jesus Christ work by using fear. If we’re commanded to fear only God

because it's the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13) than it stands to reason that an adversary who desires to be in Yahweh's position would attempt to steal 'fear' for himself through various methods. Numerous mainstream sources are dedicated to making the world out to be much worse than it is, think on the term 'media scare' for a moment.

Again, Peter mentions the importance of reputation when dealing with the world in general and that there should be a noticeable difference between the Christian believer and the heathen masses. True Christians will 'suffer' to some degree or another, it's a promise made throughout scripture and spoken directly from Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:11). The trick is not allowing the enemy to make us bitter nor allow them to influence us against one another as they so often do, brotherly love is essential in overcoming severe situations.

### *Eight Souls:*

**“For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing (1 Peter 3:17).”**

First of all, a Christian will never suffer for doing the right thing unless it's the Will of God in the first place. Consider this, when Jesus was delivered up to Pilate He was asked; “Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?” to which Christ quickly answered; “Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin (John 19:10-11).” Get this fact firmly planted in your mind -- God is in control of all things.

Only the most high can 'judge' righteously while other governments and laws have often proven themselves inferior. If “suffering” is an aspect that Yahweh has prepared for an individual than it's better to be on the right side because at least there's still God's grace for the humble and His 'ears are open to their prayers.' Man's history has told numerous stories of martyrs who have suffered for Jesus' Kingdom on earth and during this so-called 'modern age' more faithful Christians have been murdered than folks would like to admit.

No man suffered like Jesus Christ did so Peter again uses Him as an example in the next few verses. Jesus did not suffer for doing wrong nor was his accusation of “King of the Jews” accurate as He was an innocent man (and the son of God, not Joseph). Jesus is a prime example of Christian suffering as He was unjustly beaten and eventually crucified by man to bring about Salvation for the Israel people and He promised that those who follow His teachings will suffer in like-manner. There is no new thing under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

**“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: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when**



**once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water (1 Peter 3:18-20)."**

The example Peter gives here is obviously Noah who candidly walked with Yahweh and was also considered "perfect in his generations (Genesis 6:9)" while the mixing majority saw him as an outcast. It was Noah's faith and fear that eventually led to the "the saving of his house (Hebrews 11:7)."

When discussing Jesus, the statement "suffered for sins" would have been better translated as "suffered concerning sins" as it was not His own transgressions that Christ endured, rather the sins of Israel. In the previous part of this sermon we already examined the fact that Peter described the Messiah as an example who was perfect and blameless (1 Peter 2:21-22) because necessity dictates as such. Many snakes found among the ranks of humanity (thus also in Christianity) use the so-called Da Vinci Code to attempt this sacrilege.

During the "long-suffering" of Yahweh (or days of Noah) many unbelievers alongside the mixed 'giants' (considered "men of renown" in Genesis 6:3) were sentenced to 'prison.' The Greek word *phulake* (pronounced foo-lak-ay) translated as 'prison' in this verse denotes a place of custody and not a place of punishment. This statement aligns with Enoch's teachings on the same matter (as found in the Secrets of Enoch 18:1-7) so consider that during the time of this epistle's creation Enoch was considered to be part of the Holy script.

*God's Will:*

**"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him (1 Peter 3:21-22)."**

Continuing on from the previous verse, the disciple Peter suggests that because Noah was saved by water there is a sense in which water is made helpful in our salvation. Jesus says in Luke 17:26; "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" making the Old Covenant a part of New Testament prophecy yet he also teaches adamantly; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16)." Beware of preachers who demean or speak against baptism.

Peter, the 'rock' and foundation of the Christian church, says that baptism does save the sinner as it represents the resurrection of Christ who is the Savior. As a word, baptize comes from the Greek *baptizo* which candidly means "make whelmed or fully wet (#G907)" and it should be the Will of God for Christians to do as commanded as Jesus says; "If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15)." Peter does not say to 'sprinkle' as do Roman Catholics.

Jesus controls all matters as He is the Creator (Colossians 1:16) so faith is vital. If the elect; “Know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)” than it stands to reason that Christians should cast all their care upon Yahweh because he obviously cares for us (I Peter 5:7). We must always do as commanded in the scriptures (especially regarding teachings on baptism) yet many false prophets exist who continually whitewash these demands (II Peter 2:1).

**“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God (1 Peter 4:1-2).”**

In the fourth chapter, Peter begins to describe the resurrected Christ and states that because of this Christians must refrain from sin on all levels. The subject is now switched from purifying water to commands of self-restraint and charity, of course there are many more promises of ‘suffering’ for walking the narrow Christian path but the rewards for the blameless are much greater. Christian soldiers are commanded to ‘arm themselves’ with the same mind (again meaning oneness) which is essential -- there is only one Gospel.

Considering Christ died to destroy sin it's an insult for those who know the Truth to return to the muck of their previous flesh-serving lifestyle because while Jesus willingly submitted to the worst sufferings he never sinned. Proverbs 26:11 teaches; “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly” and this wisdom certainly rings true today as Christianity is under attack on various levels.

The enemy works through the lusts of the flesh and many teach against a literal Satan (or ‘tempter’) but Peter himself dismisses such folly towards the end of this letter -- always be on guard against “images” moving or not. The media in general provides a steady stream of filth to the masses through various sources (like television), over time the viewer becomes more desensitized to the antichrist perversions being promoted and more ‘tolerant’ of such abominations. Whatever Christians decide they should know it's the Will of God.

#### *Abominable Idolatries:*

**“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead (1 Peter 4:3-5).”**

While the mission field is obviously the world and Jesus came to call sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17), we must never neglect to witness to those who Yahweh might bring in our path if the opportunity arises (I Peter 3:15). John wrote; “If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (II John 1:10-11)” and Paul adds; “Abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22).” Where does this put Christians?

We can’t be taken out of the world (due to the wickedness of its current state) but we’re to always refrain from evil (John 17:15). The new-found Christian should not be found around people or places of ‘questionable integrity’ because such abominations are openly evil. Still, Jesus commands; “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15)” and Christians must always strive to do this while avoiding “the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy (Luke 12:1).” Pharisee means separatist (#G5330).

The statement ‘quick and the dead’ means those alive and departed. Peter warns there is a possibility that new Christians who restrain as commanded will lose so-called ‘friends’ along their Christian walk. He also mentions that the worldly will consider you to be ‘odd’ because you don’t find worldly perversions entertaining and that we should not walk with such whorish people so the unfaithful cannot ‘speak evil of you.’ Peter (once again) reiterates the fact that Yahweh is Judge and such grave decisions should always be left up to Him.

**“For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer (1 Peter 4:6-7).”**

Prayer builds faith so is essential for proper spiritual growth and for this same reason we’re commanded to; “Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).” Have you ever seen idiots who attempt to discredit the Word of God not knowing that it requires the direct leading of the Holy Spirit to even be understood? Even worse, how about those who see television shows about ‘lost books’ and will allow the enemy to dictate heathen belief systems to them? Only ignorance could make someone feel wiser than the Word which is God (John 1:1).

Peter says the end of all things is at hand so the godless will point out the age of this passage attempting to discredit it while the Christian is busy discerning the signs of the times. Whores can find comfort in so-called “eastern religions” or new-age doctrines because within them they find flesh-justification as opposed to condemnation for their inability to repent for such acts. Some simply point fingers at those who choose to live godly by saying the Old Testament Law is obsolete and it’s okay to steal, murder, rape or eat the filthy swine.

Peter commands us to be sober and prayerful, not the enemy. Keep this in mind as we’re not able to blame others for being led astray in Judgment, we’re commanded to study the Word

ourselves (II Timothy 2:15) so each man is responsible for their own actions. Frankly speaking, I'd rather align my life around the eternal promises of the Bible than man's ever-changing orgy or "higher-educated" ignorance or current pagan trends. Naturally, the hypocrites will say that by following what's plainly commanded that we're not doing as such.

*Good Stewards:*

**“Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:8-10).”**

The most obvious way to spot false brethren is in their dealings with others. Christ commands others to love and clothe even their own enemies yet so many can be found begrudging one another over trivial doctrine or petty monetary interests. Such creatures only work to draw others away from Truth -- how many professing Christians have you known in life that are absolute hypocrites?

Pay close attention to the term 'charity' in these verses because they tie in towards the end of this epistle when dealing with the so-called "kiss of charity" or the holy kiss. Notice that Christians are told "above all things" to have fervent charity amongst ourselves? This means Christian love and charity must be continual, not conditional. If a follower of Christ sees others who profess to know the same God yet at the same time cannot seem to love others they would do best to mark that person as antichrist as Jesus' burden is light (Matthew 11:3).

As faith without works is dead (James 2:20), so charity covers a multitude of our own sins. The danger of holding a grudge is that we're judged according to the same measure (Matthew 6:15 & 7:2) meaning that the hard-hearted aren't forgiven being condemned by their own devices. Only those who have never received the gift could have such a twisted outlook or conditional view on love which is God (I John 4:8). John teaches; "When we love God, and keep his commandments (I John 5:2)" condemning those who deny God's Law.

**“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:11).”**

That's a commandment -- "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." This statement makes it easier to identify the snakes within our own midst as they rarely will speak from the Word of God but instead draw others aside on meaningless debate about genealogies (Titus 3:9) or so-called Biblical 'contradictions.' Oftentimes, such sad creatures can be found hiding behind religious titles but will always show their lack of fruits because they'll devote more time to slan-

dering their own brethren than feeding the flock.

The ‘struggle’ for Christians is for the Kingdom with Jesus as King not against each other. Paul once wrote; “For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved (I Corinthians 10:30-33).” All things should be about Jesus.

Strangely, many false prophets attempt use the Bible against itself by teaching that man is more powerful than God’s Word and somehow has the ability to manipulate away from under Yahweh’s own nose. For example, while professing that the Creator is strong enough to create all things and preserve them the way He desires they will also deny His abilities by condemning the last four hundred years of Christianity by attacking the King James Version of the Bible or “adding to or taking away” from what’s plainly written for all to see.

### *Christian Suffering:*

**“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:12-13).”**

In light of what this passage says about ‘fiery trials’ consider these vital verses (about Israel) found in Zechariah 13:7-9; “I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith Yahweh, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, Yahweh is my God.”

Here’s a Christian teaching to focus on because it will further clarify; “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him (I John 3:16-17).” By this statement we can identify true Christians who have the love of God (or Holy Spirit) within them, if they are able to help those in need they will.

The idea is that Christians should never complain about ‘suffering’ that comes their way because it’s by these methods that faith is increased (James 1:3) and “whom Yahweh loveth he correcteth (Proverbs 3:12).” Jesus teaches; “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)” so our so-called affliction could on no account compare

to the sacrifice that Christ made for His precious bride. Everything should be centered on the kinsmen Redeemer because all things are bound within God's Will.

**“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters (1 Peter 4:14-15).”**

Christians who choose to follow the whole Gospel and not fall aside to “political correctness” or current trends will be reproached for the name of Jesus because that's the name the enemy hates most. Even more, if such persecution does arise believers can be assured that the spirit of glory and of God will rest (literally ‘tranquil’) upon them giving them strength. The term “evil spoken of” literally means “blaspheme (#G987)” and this is an important fact to notice -- the adversaries of Christ do vilify and work to defame His eternal Word.

Moses is a great example; “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward (Hebrews 11:24-26).” Moses had all of the characteristics we've been discussing throughout this series -- faith through reproach and chosen affliction rather than carnal pleasures.

While Moses did kill an Egyptian and hide his body in the sand for attacking another Hebrew (Exodus 2:11-12), this could hardly be considered premeditated murder which would violate the eternal Law of Yahweh. Peter commands the faithful to endure persecution from the enemy without dropping to their level and resorting to murder, stealing, wicked acts or gossip. Many do slander others so remember; “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips (Proverbs 20:19).”

### *Faithful Creator:*

**“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 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 (1 Peter 4:16-17)?”**

Think about this statement for a moment to consider the point that Peter is making here. Christian believers are commanded to “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)” and the prophet Isaiah wrote; “We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away (Isaiah 64:6).” These statements are written to (and regarding) Israelite Christians

who are elected of Yahweh, do the disobedient have a chance?

In short, Yahweh's Judgment begins with His elect and progresses downwardly through humanity becoming more terrible as do the sinners. Christians are promised; "When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it (Psalm 37:34)" because they have a part in God's divine Will when Jesus "divideth his sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32 & Jude 1:14)." This is why we must never be ashamed of the Gospel (Mark 8:38 & I John 2:28) nor deny Jesus in the process (Matthew 10:33), faith in God means knowing that the moral always win.

Be on guard against preachers who teach "prosperity doctrines" as (in the Bible) the rewards of the righteous are rarely monetary. Peter's teachings on Christian 'suffering' should also make it easy to recognize counterfeit pulpits who continually spout false doctrine contrary to the Word of God that promises; "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (II Timothy 3:13)." Peter says in his second epistle; "There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies (II Peter 2:1)."

**"If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:18-19)."**

This passage says those who will suffer in God's Will should commit their souls to Him as to a faithful Creator. The Holy Bible provides hundreds of proofs verifying the fact that Jesus is God (or Emmanuel "God With Us"). This is a fundamental aspect of the Christian walk yet many false prophets attack these easily-substantiated Bible facts making themselves antichrist in the process. There is only one God for Israel -- Jesus Christ.

Peter is directly quoting Proverbs 11:31 from the Septuagint; "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" and this same verse in the Masoretic Text says; "Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner." These two renderings have entirely different meanings (and should both be studied in-depth) but it's obvious that the wicked don't have a chance in God's final Judgment because even the righteous elect escape [pollutions] with the utmost difficulty.

In the next and final chapter of this magnificent epistle we discover numerous commandments and admonitions specifically targeted towards the church and the two sexes who line the pews. Peter speaks of the devil and there's several more statements proving the divinity of Jesus so future ministers should pay closest attention to what's being taught because 'churches' who don't align to these instructed qualities are obviously not preaching the Truth (John 17:17). While studying this section let's all try to readapt our lives if needed.

*Glorious Crown:*

**“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3).”**

Here’s a New Testament commandment that’s obviously overlooked in a lot of false ‘churches’ in the land - “Feed the flock of God which is among you.” Although when once considers that very few from the actual “flock” attend such night clubs, it becomes apparent that a God in control can raise up honest-hearted teachers who will feed His precious flock. Jeremiah 23:1 plainly says; “Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith Yahweh” and to do so is a grievous sin against both God and His chosen people.

Peter’s reason for requesting churches ‘feed the sheep’ was because he was instructed to do this himself (three times) by the resurrected Messiah (John 21:14-17) who previously told him; “I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:18-19).”

In like manner, Paul also teaches against those who beg for money (or greedy lucre); “There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake (Titus 1:10-11).” Deceptive brethren ‘of the circumcision’ have the ability to ‘subvert whole houses’ with their phony teachings, this is why Peter says; “There shall be false teachers among you” using “damnable heresies (II Peter 2:1).”

**“When the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (1 Peter 5:4-7).”**

Now that we’re nearing the final section of Peter’s first epistle he’s wrapping it up and getting to the point -- Jesus is the chief Shepherd. In this one statement all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Israelites who had ‘lost their shepherd’ should become much clearer not to mention this is another text again proving that Christ is God because; “Yahweh is my shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1).” We can only have one God (Exodus 20:3) because the Messiah of all Israel teaches; “I and my Father are one (John 10:30).”



It's because of this oneness between Jesus and Yahweh that both apostles Peter and Paul devote a large amount of time to teaching on ranks and submission between the sexes, especially within the church. Here, the younger followers are to submit to the elders yet all believers are subject to each other. However, this aspect of the Christian walk is not to be followed 'blindly' as age rarely equals wisdom if the older person refuses the Word of God as head of his life and using this same passage one can easily spot false prophets.

Pay close attention to what Peter commands -- Christians are to place all their faith or worries on God (here referencing both Jesus and Yahweh as one). While the unbelieving masses lack such blessed assurance, true followers of Jesus and His eternal Word know that God is in control of all things so therefore only a fool would deny Yahweh's guidance when it's so freely given to those who love Him. We're "exalted" in due time (not when we feel we deserve the glory) so be patient and rest with God (Psalm 37:7) in all matters.

### *Devouring Devil:*

**"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (1 Peter 5:8-9)."**

This passage says the Christian adversary known as the devil walks around seeking who he (not 'it') can devour. Those unfortunate souls that are falling aside to 'no-devil' doctrines should read that verse again or as many times as it takes to understand that Satan as a deity is always personified (in this case he). In Job 1:7 Yahweh asks the deity known as Satan "Whence comest thou?" to which he answers "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." It's amazing that so many have been blinded by the tempter.

This is the third and final time Peter uses the term 'be sober' in this epistle so we need to re-examine this saying. The Greek word transliterated here as sober is *ne-pho* (pronounced nay'-fo) and it literally means "to abstain from wine (#G3525)." Drunkenness is a major infraction against wisdom (Proverbs 20:1) and it's a problem found within the Christian ranks at times, regrettably it's also a way Satan influences people into doing wrong. True men of God abstain from excessive drinking while hypocrites can only attack the pro-natural.

The scriptures teach; "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it (I Corinthians 10:13)." Tying into the same statement that Peter is making, this power is granted to Christians because Jesus grants us power over our enemies (Luke 10:19) yet steadfast faith and 'fear' are still required to overcome "the snares of death (Proverbs 14:27)."

**“The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 5:10-11).”**

Pay attention to an important passage of scripture; “By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).” Those who are spared in Yahweh’s blameless Judgment are saved by grace so no amount of ‘good works’ (or pedigree) can gain one entrance to the Kingdom, especially if they deny Jesus and His eternal Word (I Peter 1:25).

We’re commanded to do all things for Yahweh because only God’s perfect Will can be done, this dismal aspect of scripture is further expanded in the second epistle of Peter that mostly deals with false prophets. Surely a wise man can evaluate the world around him and notice that Christianity is more under attack and less “politically correct” than a mere twenty years ago, it’s only a fool who allows the perverted media or the mistakes of others to convince him that there’s no God when so much evidence is clearly seen (Romans 1:20).

According to man’s own tradition, Peter was martyred in Rome on an inverted cross because he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as Jesus Christ and Paul was beheaded during the same time and place, although the Bible certainly does not teach as such. Still, we should take note that the biggest examples these men left for us was through their suffering and this same theme is found throughout all scripture making the unstudied seem completely ignorant to those with even a minimal knowledge of the unchanging Word of God.

### *Babylonian Church:*

**“By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen (1 Peter 5:12-14).”**

Greeting each other with a “kiss of charity” is not teaching us that believers are to go around kissing each other on their physical bodies. Many erroneous followers of Orthodox tradition love to point out that because the masses “wept sore, and fell on Paul’s neck, and kissed him (Acts 20:37)” that others should do so even though it’s not directly commanded to kiss anyone in a physical sense. Almost every manuscript renders this assertion as “an holy kiss” like Romans 16:16.

Kissing is a common form of greeting between close relatives as seen in the Biblical examples of Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 27:26), Moses and Jethro (Exodus 18:7) or the prodigal son

(Luke 15:20). Unlike the eternal Law, customs are known to change in time and it's obviously not customary for men to kiss one another, especially in the deep South. One would think that what I'm saying here is common sense yet many false churches exist where effeminate men can be seen kissing the hands of their 'reverend' like dogs licking up crumbs.

Silvanus was also known as Silas and was the close traveling companion of Paul so it's unknown how this dedicated Christian came to transcribe this great epistle for Peter in Babylon. In the Bible, Babylon always stems from the Hebrew word Babel and it straight-forwardly means "confusion by mixing (#H894)." In today's apostasy many are falling aside extra-Biblical nonsense or the traditions of men which make the real faith appear as evil (II Peter 2:2), this is a policy of the enemy only designed to slander the Truth (John 17:17).

*Intention:*

My intention with this book is to help other Christians to understand the commanded Word in a world that continually seeks to water down the clear-cut teachings of the Bible. The easy-believest masses usually handle the Bible carelessly (if not deceitfully) and because of their dealings the Truth often appears as wicked to those who seek it. I pray that none turn aside to the abominable 'new doctrines' that are circulating in today's apostasy -- contrast what every man teaches with the scriptures provided in this book.

I also pray that Christ gets any glory from this study and that it somehow aids others in their walk with Jesus, with so much bickering in the world it's good to be firmly standing on the Rock. As others are tossed about by so-called 'new and improved' doctrines there are still those who refuse to compromise having the ability to reach their own brethren when Yahweh brings them -- these days are perilous regardless of what "fact" the media chooses to distort so Christians must strive for order as Peter instructs us.

It's my earnest wish that we "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body (Hebrews 13:3)" because Christian soldiers and POWs can be found around the world. Peter says that Christians will suffer for following the true path and that the true church will be subject to persecution. If you're a believer new to the Faith than perhaps it's time to re-evaluate your own church to see if they're preaching the whole duty of man -- Fear God (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

We're called to live by every Word of Yahweh.

AMEN

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