

Covenant People's Ministry

BE YE HOLY: EXPOSITION OF I PETER #2



by Pastor Jeromy John Visser

(Introduction:)

Brethren, this morning's study will be the continuation (and conclusion) of the exposition we began last weekend called [Be Ye Holy: Exposition of I Peter #1](#) and it will be a tad more lengthy. This great letter was written by the apostle Simon Peter (in Babylon about 60 a.d.) and its purpose 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.

While studying along this morning keep in mind that 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.

As covered last Sunday -- 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).

(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)."

Offhand, 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)."

We've covered this blessed inception in great detail in [Sodomites: Haters of God](#) and 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 feminism 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 (I 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 might have noticed that was yet another New Testament commandment proving that husbands are forbidden from engaging in polygamy so if you still cling to this false doctrine be sure to examine [Monogamy and the Bride of Christ](#).

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)." For those familiar with the recent 'siege' of [Church of the Sons of YHVH](#) by the uncreative Mr. Joe Johnson this past week I'd like to bring this forth as an example this morning -- we're commanded as Christians to be courteous and loving towards the brethren. This imposter's actions are equivalent to a killing spree with a suicidal "resignation" towards the end.

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. 'Fruits' are all that's needed in Johnson's case.

"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. Frequent visitors to the [Covenant People's Forums](#) have certainly seen other brethren leave because they felt intimidated by so-called "sinners."

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, this is why I continually stress the fact that a person 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)." I'd like to get this fact firmly planted in your minds -- 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).”

[Noah's Flood: Flesh or Beast?](#) is a deeper investigation into the "eight souls" that were saved during the flood upon the world of the ungodly Nephalim, be sure to re-familiarize yourself with the two-part study if you need further clarity. 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 (I 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 I've certainly preached on the importance of essential baptism in [Spirit Like A Dove](#). 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 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. There are several movies slated for release this summer all promising to 'prove' Jesus never existed, such propaganda 'fools' the weak.

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. In my own life I have known countless people all professing to be Christians but in reality they deny Christ through their lifestyles and own actions. 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 slandering 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 that I want to focus on because I feel 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") and I've preached on the subject in numerous sermons including the previous part to this exposition. 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 feely 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 stedfast 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 nēphō (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)."

In the last two weeks we've covered numerous verses specifically spoken to the elect and chosen so I want to draw 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 -- just try kissing another man's Christian wife and see what I mean. 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 two-part exegesis 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 we covered this morning.

Let's never allow ourselves to be side-tracked by the enemy in meaningless debate nor buy into their devices by supporting the 'images' that come from their many television perversions. 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, not what man says.

Most importantly, pray for this ministry and one another because these are perilous times. Many hard-hearted ministers and cults will claim to have 'all truth' yet are in ignorance that

the Biblical definition of Truth is in itself and Jesus "fully preached (fulfilled)" the Law. There is no such thing as a "New Testament only" belief within Christianity so those who allow others to steal over two-thirds of God's Word are already defenseless. Let's all work hard to bring others who feel called to Yahweh's perfect and undying Word. War for Christ! Amen.

[[Be Ye Holy: Exposition of 1st Peter #1](#)]

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Box 256, Brooks, GA 30205