

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 2:11-17

March 16, 2025

Monday: Reading – 1 Peter chapters 1-2

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord. Put 1 Peter 5:7 into purposeful practice.

Tuesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 1-2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2:11-12

Scot McKnight says that 1 Peter 2:11-12 is, “THE pivotal passage in 1 Peter.” He says that the passage denotes the “social status of believers and infers from that the basis the nature of Christian life in society.”

In other words, Peter tells us what we are and how we should act because of what we are.

What are we? --

How should we act?

Abstain from--

Live lives that are--

The result of these actions will –

Prayer Focus – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapters 1-2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2:13-14

We live in a time where political factions are tearing apart our society, and, sadly, we see this inside the church. When is it the hardest for you to comply with the statements that Peter makes? Do you consider these statements as advice or as commands? What do you think Peter means by, “for the Lord’s sake” (NKJV)?

Whenever verses like these come up, the question arises about when is it OK for a Christian to break the law. Wiersbe makes the observation that these verses don’t, “refer to each individual law, but to the institutions that make and enforce the laws. It is possible to submit to the institutions and still disobey the laws.” How can this be done? Look at the following two examples and think about how they can inform our decisions.

Daniel 1; Acts 4-5.

Have you ever thought about the words to the song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"? What does it say about being good and why you should be good? What does Peter say about living good lives?

Prayer Focus – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: Reading – 1 Peter chapters 1-2

Consider this - 1 Peter 2:15

In verse 15, Peter tells us why we should be good and follow what he says in the previous verses. What does Peter say will be the result of our good actions? What does "doing good" entail, according to Peter? What does he say about our behavior and speech (verse 1)? What does he say about "evil pleasures" verse 11-TLB).

What does he say about our attitude and behavior toward the government? (verses 13-14)? Which of these things pose the biggest problem for you?

Prayer Focus – Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: Reading – 1 Peter chapters 1-2

Consider this – 1 Peter 2:16-17

In verse 13 Peter tells us to live lives of submission to authority, not because the authority is necessarily good, or that we find our leaders charismatic. Instead, he says to do it, "for the Lord's sake." In verse 16, what does Peter tell us about how we should see ourselves in relation to God? We are to live as "free people," but what danger does Peter imply? Verse 17 gives four specific examples of how we are to live. Read verse 17 in 3-4 different versions. Are you surprised by any of these four items? Do any of these pose more of a problem than others? Who was the emperor when Peter wrote this letter? Is his attitude surprising?

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Pray that while Christ's coming is still in the future, God will use you to expand His kingdom. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: Reading – 1 Peter chapters 1-2; Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6; Hosea 2:23.

Consider this – 1 Peter 2: 11-17

In this section, Peter hits us where we live. He tells us it is the "will of God" that we "abstain from passions of the flesh." Among the gentiles we are to act with honor. Also, we are to be in submission to "every human institution." We are to live as "free people" but not be hypocritical and use our freedom to cover up evil. We are "servants of God" and as such we must "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor" (quotes from the ESV). Reflect on these statements and ask the Lord where you should work to bring yourself in line with what Peter is telling us.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday - Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.