

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 2:11-17

March 30, 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 2:18

Some versions of the NT start verse 18 with the word “Servants” and some with the word “Slaves.” The word is *oiketes* in Greek which, according to the Blue Letter Bible, means, “one who lives in the same house as another, spoken of all who are under the authority of one and the same households; a servant, a domestic.” In our modern era, the words “slave” can be triggering. I think there are two very important things to consider while thinking about this verse.

1. The audience. Who is Peter talking to in verse 18? What is the point of Peter’s letter? Is Peter making a political manifesto? Is Peter even talking about slavery in general? Is it fair to condemn Peter because he did not address an issue in the way we wish he would have addressed it?

2. The reality of the situation. Scot McKnight goes into some detail about the era Peter was writing in. McKnight says that slavery in Peter’s day was, “not usually a permanent condition ... many people voluntarily chose to be slaves ... so that they could become full Roman citizens.”

McKnight adds that he does, “not want to suggest that I would defend any form of slavery,” And, “African-Americans read this text in a radically different way than American whites.”

Also, in case we are thinking that this issue is one buried in the annals of history, Christopher Wright, in his book, *Here are Your Gods*, says, “human slavery blights the lives of men, women, and children on a far greater scale today than in the days of William Wilberforce. Statistics from the Global Slavery index estimate that there were some 40.3 million victims of modern slavery on any given day in 2016 ... most of us in Western countries are the beneficiaries of some six or more slaves somewhere in the world, in the clothes we like to buy cheaply, the minerals in our cell phones, and even some of the food we enjoy.” Seek the Lord’s wisdom about how we can individually and as a community respond righteously and justly to this issue.

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 2:18-20

One question that naturally arises from this text for the modern age is about whether what Peter says about slaves (or servants) can be applied to the modern-day employee. Should these statements guide us in our workplace, even when we have a jerk for a boss? What about when we disagree with a policy that the company has that we disagree with—like masking, or social distancing, or vaccinating? Should we comply or should we resist these mandates? Peter asks if the servant disobeys and is punished, is it commendable? But if we endure suffering while we are doing good, we are pleasing God.

If we can simply reassure ourselves and say that what Peter says here is aimed at a specific audience at a specific time, we can rationalize a lot of behavior. But if we say that there is a more general application to all people in all times and circumstances it becomes much more difficult. Ask the Lord for His leading on these issues.

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 2:21-23

Here Peter gives his reasons for what he says in verses 18-20. How are people supposed to act when they are treated harshly? Why should they act this way? Again, do these instructions only apply to slaves, or, more generally, do they apply to everyone? How could you explain your position about this to someone who was interested, or who disagreed with 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; Isaiah 53.

Consider this – 1 Peter 2:23-25

Peter says that “we, who have died to sins, might live for righteousness.” What do you think this idea of living “for righteousness” means in today’s world? Is Peter still talking about “enduring grief and suffering”? Is he still talking about being patient even when we suffer when we do good? If Peter is speaking to all of us and not just slaves, how does our willingness to suffer patiently even though we have done no wrong fulfill our calling (verse 21)? If you think he is just talking to slaves, what should we do with these verses?

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: 1-25

Warren Wiersbe says, “Here, then, is the wonderful truth Peter wanted to share: As we live godly lives and submit in times of suffering. We are following Christ’s example and becoming more like Him. We submit and obey, not only for the sake of lost souls and for the Lord’s sake, but also for our own sake that we might grow spiritually and become more like Christ. The unsaved world is watching us, but the Shepherd in heaven is also watching over us; so we have nothing to fear. We can submit to Him and know that He will work everything for our good and His glory.”

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.