

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Peter 2:18-25

Lesson 7

At first glance, one may assume this section of 1 Peter relates only to slaves. Although slavery has been abolished, relationships with authority have not. How do you react when you have been wronged or mistreated by someone who has authority over you? The verses in this lesson provide not only the answer, but the example. May you be challenged to follow the example of Jesus, who *committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Peter 2:18-25 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling this section, record a title for Chapter 2.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Words** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

From previous lessons: *God* and *Jesus (Christ)*

New to this lesson: *servants* and *suffer(ed/ing)*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 2:18-25. Remember, as you mark the words *God*, *Jesus*, and *servants* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* four times in this section (verses 18, 20, 23, and 25). Each verse reveals a behavior expected of a Christian servant. Define each contrast by filling in the blanks.

1 Peter 2:18 *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, _____ to the _____, but also to the _____.*

1 Peter 2:20 *For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you _____, if you _____, this is _____ before God.*

1 Peter 2:23 *...when He suffered, He _____, but _____ Himself to _____;*

1 Peter 2:25 *For you were like sheep going _____, but have now _____ to the _____ of your souls.*

DAY TWO: Read 1 Peter 2:18-20

1. Practical instruction concerning Christian conduct is given in 1 Peter 2:18-20. In the previous verses from Chapter Two we learned about our conduct in relationship to civil authorities. What relationship does Peter address in 1 Peter 2:18?
 - a. In this verse the word *servants* refers to household or domestic slaves. The instructions given to *servants* can be applied in our culture to employer/employee relationships. With this in mind, write Peter's instruction from verse 18.

2. The phrase *with all fear* in 1 Peter 2:18 means "with respect". The Christian slave was to *submit* and respect his master whether he was *good and gentle* or *harsh* (overbearing, unjust, unreasonable). What do the following verses reveal about God's perspective on this?
 - a. 1 Peter 2:19
 - 1.) Notice the phrase *conscience toward God*. How would awareness of God enable or encourage a person to *endure* under these circumstances?
 - a.) What effect would this have on a believer's witness?

 - b. 1 Peter 2:20
 - 1.) Think about the behavior that *is commendable before God*. With this in mind, how does the phrase *take it patiently* speak to you?

3. Read Colossians 3:22-24 to expand your understanding of servant/master relationships. Summarize what these verses teach us about this.

DAY THREE: Read 1 Peter 2:21

1. 1 Peter 2:21 reminds us that the prior verses are not merely suggestions, but the behavior to which God *calls* the Christian. What three truths does this verse teach us?

2. The Christian is not only *called* to obedience, the Christian is also *called to suffer*. What does 2 Timothy 3:12 say about this?
 - a. Most believers living in the United States do not *suffer* as those of the early church or those living in some countries today. What are some ways we, as believers, *suffer* for the sake of the gospel?

3. Define the word *example*.

4. *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us*. Read John 6:51, 10:11, 10:15, and 15:13 and describe what Jesus viewed as *suffering*.
 - a. What are some examples of *laying down your life* for another?

5. Using Philippians 2:(5)7,8 describe the mind of Christ.
 - a. In your own words, define the act of *humbling* yourself.

6. How are *submission*, *laying down your life*, and *humbling* yourself related to one another?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 2:22-24

1. *Follow His steps* (1 Peter 2:21) by observing Christ's actions and attitudes from 1 Peter 2:22,23. In the following chart, list on the left side what these verses record about Christ and on the opposite side what it means for us to *follow* His example.

verse	Christ's Example	What this means for us
22a		
22b		
23a		
23b		
23c		

- a. What help has God provided that will enable us to *follow* Christ's example?
2. How does the example Jesus left us motivate you to want to *follow His steps*?
 3. 1 Peter 2:24 has the potential to stir within us a depth of gratitude and commitment that will transform our lives. Concentrate on what Christ did for you as you print verse 24a here.
 4. Notice what should result in a believer's life because of what Jesus has done. According to verse 24, record why Jesus *bore our sins in His own body on the tree*?
 - a. According to Romans 6:11, what two things are we to *reckon* (consider to be true)?
 - 1.) How does believing and acting like you are *dead to sin* help you to *live for righteousness*?
 5. Keep 1 Peter 2:21-24 in mind as you read Isaiah 53:4-7. What parallels do you see?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Peter 2:25

1. Describe the way believers and the Lord are portrayed in 1 Peter 2:25
 - a. The Word often associates believers with *sheep*. List a few similarities between them.

 - b. What was the cost of our *going astray* and turning to our *own way*? See Isaiah 53:6b

2. 1 Peter 2:25b concludes with good news. Print the encouraging declaration recorded in this verse.
 - a. What is revealed about our *Shepherd* in John 10:11-15?

 - b. What does it mean to you today that the Lord is your *Overseer*?

3. Take a few moments to read Psalm 23 with 1 Peter 2:25 in mind. What additional insights did you receive?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Peter 2:18-25

1. Record a way your study of 1 Peter 2:18-25 has:
 - a. blessed you

 - b. inspired you

 - c. challenged you

2. When you are unjustly treated (even though you *do good*), what principle from 1 Peter 2:20 are you to follow?
 - a. How would following the example of Jesus in 1 Peter 2:23c encourage and strengthen you?

3. What facet of Jesus' example in 1 Peter 2:21-23 particularly speaks to you?

4. With this week's lesson in mind, write what the following phrases mean to you:
 - a. *take it patiently*

 - b. *follow His steps*

 - c. *live for righteousness*

*Righteousness will go before Him,
And shall make His footsteps our pathway.
- Psalm 85:13*