

Within the Word

A Study of 1 Peter 2

A Note from Kathy

I believe with all my heart, if we approach this chapter with a heart that longs to please our heavenly Father, we will walk away changed, and reflect Him in a way that can change the world. Ask God to open your heart to all He has for you here. Read the chapter, at least twice, before starting to answer the questions. I am praying for you, even as I type this.

Observation

1. According to 1 Peter 2:1, there are some things believers are to lay aside. Define the words below in order to gain a greater understanding of what we are to put away.

Malice –

Deceit –

Hypocrisy –

Envy –

Evil speaking –

2. What are believers to crave? What is the comparison Peter uses in verse 2?
3. Who is the “living Stone,” and who are the chosen people seen in verses 4-10?
4. What facts do you see in this section of scripture concerning “the living Stone?”
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5. Peter quotes the prophet Isaiah in verses 6-7. Christ is referred to as the _____.
6. Scripture says that some will stumble, why is this? What are they refusing to do?
7. Using verses 9-10, make a list of all you see concerning believers.

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8. As followers of Christ, we will never feel truly at home here. This world is not our home. This is not our final destination. In verse 11, how does Peter describe believers? What are some ways believers should differ from unbelievers?
9. In verses 13-25, Peter addresses submission to authority. How are we to treat those who rule and govern us? Our response to authority should not be based on whether they are good or bad masters but by our _____. Who was our example of this type of submission?
10. Peter tells believers to live as free men and women, but he also gives them a warning. How is he instructing them to live?

Verse 16
Verse 17
11. We are all servants to someone. Peter is very clear as to how we should respond to those in a position of authority. How are believers to respond?
12. Jesus lived a beautiful example of humility for all to see. Verse 23 holds the key to successfully following his example. What is crucial for our success?
13. Often in scripture believers are referred to as sheep. What is the comparison in verse 25? Read Luke 15:1-7 to see how God, our Good Shepherd, feels about his sheep.

Application

1. In the Old Testament a man named Jabez is mentioned very briefly. He's described as having more honor than his brothers. As Old Testament names express important meanings, Jabez, unfortunately, meant that he had caused great pain at his birth. Despite this negative reminder, Jabez was a man of honor, who acknowledged God in all things, placing himself under divine blessing and protection. Read 1 Chronicles 4:10 below, and underline the four things that Jabez asked God to do. What must we be willing to do in order to pray a prayer like Jabez and expect God to grant it?

1 Chronicles 4:10

Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked.

2. Psalms 34:8 extends an invitation to “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” In verses 2-3, Peter is speaking to those who have “tasted that the Lord is good,” and he encourages them to grow up in their walk of faith. What will that look like for you this year? If we are living the exact same way this year as we did last year, what does that tell us?
3. We understand the benefits of physical exercise and good nutrition in order to maintain a strong and healthy body. Getting rid of things that hinder our health, and investing in things that strengthen us, can make all the difference, over a period of time. Similarly, what can we do to be strong and healthy in our walk of faith? What “spiritual sacrifices” are you willing to make in order to be a healthy member of the body of Christ?
4. Submission is often a misunderstood concept. In the Greek, the word “subject” expresses a continuous or repeated action. It is a military term that means to line up under or to rank under. Read Romans 12:18 below, to go along with Peter’s teaching in verses 16-21. What are believers instructed to do? How are we to respond? Will this require a change of heart toward anyone?

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

5. Verse 23 tells us that Jesus committed himself to God, the righteous judge. The definition of the word committed is, delivered in trust, given in charge, to entrust to another’s care. You might want to ponder that definition for a few moments and then answer the following questions. Can you honestly say you have committed yourself to God? What would this look like if you firmly committed yourself to His care today? How would your actions and responses be different than yesterday or last week?
6. Peter tells us that Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross (v. 24). It says he did this so that we might die to sin. What does it mean to be dead to something?
7. In that same verse we are called to live for righteousness. On the back of this page, define righteousness. Using your definition, write a prayer expressing your desire to live this way. Please take a few minutes to write this prayer. (Trust me, this is not simply busy work.)
8. Have you truly grasped the fact that God loves you? Are you honestly aware that the Good Shepherd rejoices over you?