

Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"
"Silencing Your Critics"
1 Peter 2:11-12
Study-9

1 Peter 1:1-2:10 – God’s Grace and Salvation.

1 Peter 2:11-3:12 – God’s Grace and Submission: This is the section of application.

Every Epistle (Letter) of the NT starts with "Doctrine" – Who God Is, What He Has Done. Then follows "Duty" – What believers should do in response.

This new section hinges on our passage, **1 Peter 2:11-12**, that believers are **"aliens and strangers."** This earth is not our home, we belong to God, we need to be under submission to God.

1 Peter 2:11-12 – Call To Submission.

1 Peter 2:13-17 – Submission As A Citizen

1 Peter 2:18-25 – Submission In The Work Place.

1 Peter 3:1-7 – Submission In Marriage.

1 Peter 3:8-12 – Submission In The Fellowship.

Submission – Greek military Term; "to line up, to get in order, to arrange; to rank beneath or under." In non-military use, it is "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility; "to rank beneath or under."

Thought Of The Passage: The Believer That Loves And Submits To God Becomes God’s Witness In Bringing The Lost To The Savior.

1. Verse 11 – A Loving Approach

2. Verses 11-12 – A Negative/Positive Challenge

3. Verse 12 – A Godly Purpose

1. Verse 11 – A Loving Approach:

1 Peter 2:11 – "Beloved," – Peter left off with the believer being in "A Family With A Purpose," 1 Peter 2:9-10.

"Beloved," – 8X in 1, 2 Peter; Greek word "for divine love;" we are God’s dearly beloved children. Peter reminded his readers of God’s love for them, 1 Peter 2:11; 4:12; 2 Peter 1:7; 3:1, 8, 14-15, 17.

2 Peter 1:17; Ephesians 1:6

Our "love relationship" to Jesus Christ ought to be motivation enough for us to live godly lives in this godless world, John 14:15; John 14:23.

Mark 10:45

"I urge you" – means "to call near, to invite, invoke, to comfort, to exhort entreat, pray." Note Peter does not command them!

The apostle Paul in Romans 1-11 – The Doctrine of Salvation, man's need of salvation, God's provision of Salvation, how to receive salvation through faith.

Romans 12-16 – How The Just Should Live.

Romans 12:1-2 – "Therefore (Romans 1-11) I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God,"

"as aliens" – This word "Aliens" is the Greek word by which is derived the ecclesiastical (Catholic) term "Parish;" was "a community of Christian believers distinguished by the fact that their real home was not of earth but in heaven, their real citizenship was not within an empire, republic, or monarchy, but within the kingdom of God."

"as aliens" – "Alien resident, foreigner, sojourner, those deprived of legal status."

Christians are "resident aliens," rightfully, legally here on earth, but have their citizenship in another country – heaven, Philippians 3:20.

"and strangers" – or "pilgrims," sojourners, sojourning in a strange place: This word speaks of "the temporariness of their stay, whatever country that may be; no intentions of becoming a citizen or to stay permanently," Psalm 39:12.

Like the patriarchs of old, we are temporary in this life, Hebrews 11:8-10.

Leviticus 25:23

2. Verses 11-12 – A Negative/Positive Challenge:

1 Peter 2:11

We Must Choose To Live Clean Lives: "to abstain from" – "to hold oneself off, refrain, to eliminate completely." The word means "to distance" themselves from fleshly lusts. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 – Godly living always begins with forsaking sin!

“fleshly lusts” – a longing for what is forbidden, to desire, lust after pertaining to flesh, that which is temporal, fleshly,” 2 Timothy 2:22.

1 Peter 1:1 – “To those who reside as aliens, scattered;” – 1 Peter 2:9.

The World For The Believer Is A Battleground: “which wage war against the soul.” – We are also soldiers involved in a spiritual battle.

“For the non-believer the world is a playground, for the believer the world is a battleground.”

The word translated “war” carries the idea of “a long-term military campaign.”

“against the soul.” – The whole person, the mind, the heart; real you, spiritual part of us, 1 Peter 4:3-4.

Sins of The Flesh: Galatians 5:19.

Sins of The Spirit: Galatians 5:20-21.

How To Experience Victory Over Fleshly Passions: Galatians 5:16-18.

Galatians 5:22-26

1 Peter 2:12 – “Keep your behavior excellent;” 1 Peter 2:12 (KJV) – “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles:” – “conversation” is lifestyle, behavior; our word “excellent” or “honest” lives. This word implies much more than telling the truth and doing what is right. It carries with it the idea of “beauty, comeliness, that which is admirable and honorable.”

“among the Gentiles,” – The word “Gentiles” here has nothing to do with race, since it is a synonym for “Nations, the unsaved people of the world,” 1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 12:2.

For The Sake Of The Lost: “so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers,” – 1 Peter 3:16; 4:4.

3. Verse 12 – A Godly Purpose:

1 Peter 2:12 – “your good deeds,” – Our good words must be backed up by our good works. Jesus said this in Matthew 5:16.

Don't Forget That We Are Being Watched: “as they observe them,”

1 Peter 2:5

“glorify God in the day of visitation.” – Could mean that day when Christ returns and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

“the day of visitation” – in the OT spoke of God’s judgment. There were times that it meant mercy and blessings.

The “visitation” Peter mentioned here is the time when God visits lost sinners and saves them by His grace.

1 Peter 3:1-2, 7

Application:

1. God’s Appeal To The Believer Is Motivated By God’s Great Love For Us. God’s Love For Us, Should Motivate Us To Love Him And Submit To Him: 1 John 4:19 – “We love, because He first loved us.”
2. Motivation For Holy Living Comes From The Fact That The Believer’s Home Is Not Of This World. A Believer Is An Alien And Stranger In This World. Godly Living Always Begins With Forsaking Sin.
3. For The Non-Believer, The World Is A Playground, For The Believer The World Is A Battleground: 1 Peter 2:11 – “to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”
4. We Should Never Forget That We Are Being Watched. We Should Live Godly Lives Before Non-believers So That Our Lives Would Prove Their Slander To Be False; With The Goal That They Would Glorify God When Jesus Comes To Visit Them.