

1 Peter 2

1. As long as we Christians are in the world, will we suffer?

-Yes.

2. Do we choose God when we believe in Him?

-No.

-We do not choose God, but rather, God chooses us.

3. What is the huge gift that God the Father gives to His Son?

-God gives all true Christians to His Son as a gift.

4. What is our inheritance that God gives to every Christian?

-We inherit God Himself along with all of the glory of heaven for eternity.

5. Did the prophets and other Old Testament believers know that God would send a Savior to save us from our sin?

-Yes.

6. How are faith and hope similar?

-Faith is believing in God for what He has done for us in the past, and what He is now doing for us in the present.

-Hope is believing in God for what He has promised to do for us in the future.

-In 1 Peter Chapter Two, we continue with this truth:

-In suffering, we remember that God has saved us.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:1-3

1-Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

2-Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

3-now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

-For the Christian, what are two types of suffering?

-The suffering which others give to us.

-The suffering which we give to ourselves.

-When we keep malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander, and other sins in our hearts, we are bringing suffering on ourselves.

-The suffering that others give to us should be more than enough for us, but we also bring on ourselves suffering.

-We suffer because we do not ask our God to keep us from these sins.

-We bring suffering on ourselves when we keep hate.

-We bring suffering on ourselves when we lie.

-We bring suffering on ourselves when we envy others.

-We bring suffering on ourselves when we speak evil of others.

-This is why the Word of God encourages us to get rid of all of this because we are hurt and suffer with all of this.

-How do we get rid of the suffering which we bring on ourselves?

-We must simply ask God to take it away.

-Instead of keeping hate in us, we should ask God to help us to remember His great love for us.

-Instead of lying to others, we should ask God to help us to remember His great truths that He has given to us.

-Instead of envying others, we should ask God to help us to remember that He has given us every spiritual blessing.

-Instead of speaking evil of others, we should ask God to help us to encourage them or give them over to God.

-Do newborn babies crave or beg for milk?
-Very much so.

-What is pure spiritual milk?
-The Word of God.

-Our new heart in Christ begs for the Word of God.

-By not reading and studying the Word of God, we are not drinking spiritual milk which our new heart begs for.

-By not reading and studying the Word of God, it is easy to bring suffering on ourselves.

-True life is not the life of this world.

-True life is in God and His Word.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:4-5

4-As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—

5-you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

-Who is the living Stone?

-The Lord Jesus.

-And we Christians are like living stones.

-How are Christians like living stones?

-God is using us to build His Church.

-According to these verses, all true Christians are also holy priests.

-As God chose Aaron and his sons to be priests of Israel, God has also chosen true Christians to be holy priests.

-Why are true Christians holy priests?

-Because God has chosen us to be priests.

-Because God has cleansed us and washed us.

- Because God has clothed us with His priestly clothes.
- Because God has prepared us for service to Him.

-What are our sacrifices which are acceptable to God?

- We offer ourselves to God to thank Him and praise Him.
- We help others, pray for others, and share Christ with others.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:6

6-For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

-Our Christ is the precious cornerstone of the building of God of which all true Christians are a part.

-It is Christ and Christ alone who holds the building of God together so that it will never fall.

-Because of Christ, we Christians will never be put to shame.

-Isaiah 54:4 says this:

-"Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth."

Let's read 1 Peter 2:7-8

7-Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

8-and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

-Because Christ has saved us from death, we have a great love for Him.

-Belief in Christ and love for Christ cannot be separated.

-Many of the Jews have rejected and thrown away the true cornerstone, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Because the Jews have rejected the cornerstone, they have stumbled over it, and in the end will be crushed in judgment because of it.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:9-10

9-But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10-Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

-As in 1 Peter 1:2, the Word of God tells us once again

that God Himself has chosen all true Christians.

-There are some religions which say that only those who have been trained in their religion are priests, but the Word of God says that all true Christians are priests.

-How are all true Christians priests?

-We serve God by offering spiritual sacrifices.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of our lives.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of helping others.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of giving to others.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of bringing others to Him.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of loving the unlovable.

-We offer to God the sacrifice of prayer for others.

-True Christians are holy because God has given us His holiness.

-We are also God's special possession, the people of God.

-Before we belonged to Satan, but we now belong to God.

-We do not praise ourselves, but praise our God who by His mercy called us out of Satan's darkness to His light.

-Starting with 1 Peter 2:11 until 4:6, the theme is this:

-“In suffering, we are examples to the world.”

Let's read 1 Peter 2:11-12

11-Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

12-Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

-As Christians, we are foreigners and exiles on earth.

-And when we have sinful desires, they wage war against our souls.

-As the Word of God calls us to abstain from sinful desires, this teaches us that it is possible to do so.

-Yet, it is the power of Christ in us which is able to abstain from these sinful desires.

-Instead of living for sin, we can live for Christ and be an example to the world.

-In suffering, we are an example to the world so that others will see and believe in God.

-The greatest example, of course, is our Christ.

-The Jewish religious leaders accused Christ of having the power of Satan, yet Christ suffered and continued His good deeds to glorify the Father.

-Because of Christ's suffering, many have come to believe in God and have eternal life.

-What is the "day he visits us"?

-It is when we meet Christ to glorify Him for having brought us through this world and all of its suffering.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:13-17

13-Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority,

14-or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

15-For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

16-Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

17-Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

-Why are we to submit to government leaders?

-For the Lord's sake.

-How is submitting to government leaders for the Lord's sake?

-When we obey earthly authority, we are honoring God's sovereign authority.

-When we obey earthly authority, we are honoring Christ's obedience before the authorities of His time.

-What if the government leaders are evil?

-As long as we do nothing that is against our faith in Christ, we must obey.

-Even though Christ spoke against the sins of the Jewish leaders, He never tried to change their authority.

Let's read 1 Peter 2:18-21

18-Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

19-For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.

20-But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

21-To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

-As Christians, we are enemies to the world, and are attacked by those who are still under the power of Satan.

-We should, however, follow the example of Christ who suffered at the hands of evil men even though He did no wrong.

-When Saul tried to kill David, David said this to Saul: “May the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. (1 Samuel 24:12)

-Romans 12:19 tells us this: “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

-When we obey those over us who mistreat us, we show respect for God.

-When we obey those over us who mistreat us, we are serving Christ.

-As Ephesians 6:7-8 says:

-“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.”

-As Christians, we serve God, knowing that God will reward us in heaven.

Let’s read 1 Peter 2:22-25

22-“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

23-When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

24-“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

25-For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

-Our example for suffering is our Christ.

-Instead of threatening, He entrusted Himself to God.

-Instead of hurting others, He entrusted Himself to God.

-We should also entrust ourselves to God when we are threatened or hurt.

-How do we entrust ourselves to God?

-By asking God to respond through us to the suffering.

-The suffering of Christ bore much fruit, that is, eternal life to all who believe.

-This means that our suffering can also accomplish much.