

A Study of 1 Peter 2

I. Outline.

1. Christians must lay aside certain things (1 Pet 2:1).
2. As babes, desire the sincere milk of the word (2-3).
3. Christ and our building (4-8).
4. Who is a Christian? (9-11).
5. Be aware of your influence among unbelievers (12).
6. Obey the laws of the land (13-16).
7. Honor, fear, love (17).
8. Instructions to servants/employees (18-19).
9. Further instruction about suffering (20).
10. Christ, our Example (21-24).
11. Christ, our Bishop (25).

II. Summary.

This chapter provides a great challenge to all who are interested in spiritual growth. One of the most important elements of a program for growing spiritually is given in the second verse, where we are told to desire the sincere milk of the word. If that characteristic is true of us, we will be moved to accomplish great things for the Lord. Peter urges us to think of our relationship to Jesus Christ in the building we are building. He reminds us that we are the people of God who have obtained mercy. We must realize we are only pilgrims on this earth and must abstain from fleshly lusts. Our influence, when proper, will be one that will cause outsiders to glorify God. We are to be obedient to the laws of the land. Honor and love is to be characteristic of our behavior among others. We are to endure whatever persecution comes, remembering our Savior also suffered for us, and to follow His example.

“In order to obey the injunctions, those to whom Peter writes are urged to put away all such things as are contrary to the spirit of love. In order to do this they will long for the sustenance of the Word. All this leads to the subject of the testing of their confidence. Describing the Church as a building, Peter declared the cornerstone is the living Christ, from whom the preciousness is derived, which is to manifest the excellencies of God to the world. The description of the Church is systematic and exhaustive. It is a race, and this suggests its life principle. It is a priesthood, and so has right of access to God. It is a nation, and so is under His government. It is a possession, and so is actually indwelt by Him. The application of these principles immediately follows. The first result will be abstention from fleshly lusts, and behaving themselves among outsiders in a seemly manner; they will silence slander, and vindicate God. Peter then showed what should be the relation of the separated nation to the world powers. It was to be submission to authority. In short, crisp sentences he charged them, ‘Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.’ Then he showed how these things would apply. Servants will yield obedience to their masters as unto Christ. The service rendered will be the opportunity of manifesting the very Spirit of Christ.” [G. Campbell Morgan, *Exposition on Bible*, 2009, an e-Sword Module].

III. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here: <http://bit.ly/Rvd8gW>

IV. Words/Phrases to Study

- **2:1... MALICE**--“The word ‘malice’ we commonly apply now to a particular kind of evil, denoting extreme enmity of heart, ill-will, a disposition to injure others without cause, from mere personal

gratification, or from a spirit of revenge - Webster. The Greek word, however, includes evil of all kinds.” [Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible]. ||||| “Malice delights in another’s hurt; envy pines at another’s good; guile imparts duplicity to the heart; hypocrisy (flattery), duplicity to the tongue; evil speakings wound another’s character—Augustine” [in *The Minister’s Monthly*, Vol 63, #10, October 1963, p. 90].

- **2:2... DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD**—“I am sure every preacher has had someone to say to him, ‘I wish I knew the Bible as well as you do.’ Do you know how diligent Bible students know the Bible? By being diligent in their study of the Bible. There are no shortcuts to knowing the word of God. It is a matter of spending hours and hours with your Bible and asking God for the wisdom which comes from above (Js 1:5-6). Just as we studied our English and math and history in our public schools, we must study the Bible to be proficient students of the Bible” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 82].
- **2:3... IF SO BE YE HAVE TASTED**—“The metaphor of tasting that the Lord is good continues the figure suggested by reference to the milk beginning in verse 2. As an infant, once directed to the breast, continues to desire it, so their first experience in partaking of the delectable delights of the Lord should prompt them to return again and again to that feast” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 56].
- **2:4... TO WHOM COMING**—“...does not refer to the primary steps of salvation when the alien sinner first comes to Christ, but to the constant approaching of the Lord characteristic of all who find strength and support from the ‘living stone.’ It is only through continually reaching forth to Christ—the standard and ideal of Christianity—that the means and method of constructing the Christian structure may be found” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 56].
- **2:9... A PECULIAR PEOPLE**—“The margin here is purchased. The word ‘peculiar,’ in its common acceptation now, would mean that they were distinguished from others, or were singular. The reading in the margin would mean that they had been bought or redeemed. Both these things are so, but neither of them expresses the exact sense of the original. The Greek *λαὸς εἰς περιποίησιν* *laos eis peripoiēsin*) means, ‘a people for a possession;’ that is, as pertaining to God. They are a people which he has secured as a possession, or as his own; a people, therefore, which belong to him, and to no other. In this sense they are special as being His; and, being such, it may be inferred that they should be special in the sense of being unlike others (unique) in their manner of life. But that idea is not necessarily in the text” [Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible].
- **2:11... STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS**—“Here and in Eph 2:11, the meaning is metaphorical and describes the Christian who, though resident on the earth, has his real and permanent home in heaven. Though sojourning on the earth, he dwells there as a temporary tenant only, his citizenship being in heaven (Ph 3:20), whence he derives his rights, privileges, laws, etc.” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 65-66].
- **2:13... SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO EVERY ORDINANCE OF MAN FOR THE LORD’S SAKE**—“We are to observe our speed laws, our game laws, and others—not only for our safety and well-being of others—but because that is what our Lord demands of His children. God knew and we ought to know that an orderly society could not exist without some laws governing human conduct” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 112].
- **2:16... AS FREE, AND NOT USING YOUR LIBERTY FOR A CLOAK OF MALICIOUSNESS**—“Though they were free, the freedom which Peter’s readers enjoyed was not license to ungodly indulgence. ... They were to remember that, though free, they were under definite obligation and with responsibilities not to be disregarded. ... Liberty without restraint is license; and unrestrained license is abject bondage. The alcoholic, the dope addict, because they recognize no restraint, are in the most helpless slavery” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 73-74].
- **2:21... LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE**—“...occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It means properly “a writing copy,” such as is set for children; or an outline or sketch for a painter to fill up; and then, in general, an example, a pattern for imitation” [Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible].

- **2:24... BARE OUR SINS**—“The Lord not only died in our behalf; He also died in our stead. The vicarious aspect of the death of Christ is clearly taught here, as often elsewhere in the sacred writings (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45; 1 Tm 2:6). ... The Lord, in bearing the sins of the world, simply allowed the penalty of the law to fall upon him, the execution of which he suffered in our stead” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 82-83].
- **2:25... SHEPHERD AND BISHOP OF YOUR SOULS**—“The Lord is presented here under two aspects (1) he is a shepherd, in that he feeds, guides, and protects his sheep; (2) he is a bishop (overseer) because he superintends, supervises, and directs their activity. Those whose duty it is to direct the affairs of the churches are under-shepherds in feeding, guiding, and directing the work of the church; and they are bishops in overseeing, under Christ, the work committed into their hands (Eph 4:11; Acts 20:28)” [Guy N. Woods, *Commentary on 1 Peter*, p. 85].

V. Lessons & Applications.

- **WHEREFORE LAYING ASIDE...** (1 Pet 2:1). Living the Christian life involves laying aside certain things. Paul refers to it as MORTIFYING (Col 3:5)--or putting to death-- certain aspects of one's life as it was before, while living in the world. Being CALLED OUT of the world will mean that the life a Christian lives is different than the life lived by those who are still lost in the world.

lllll “The growth and development of a Christian, is not merely an academic question. Jehovah, in whom we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17.28), is a living entity; and if we are to serve him acceptably, we must show a great deal of vitality in our own lives. As long as there is life, there must be growth; and since it is the purpose and will of the Lord that his people have life (John 10.10), their growth must be continuous. Someone has said that the Lord does not estimate us by the level of our spiritual attainments; but rather by the amount of real moral movement our lives manifest. We must never be content to stop in our progress toward a higher life with God (cf., Luke 18.9-14) The spiritual growth and development which is possible for, and which God expects of his people, is expressed in many parts of the New Testament, as, for example, Colossians 1.9-12; Ephesians 4.11-16” [Leslie G. Thomas, *Teacher's Annual Lesson Commentary*, p. 283].
- **AS NEWBORN BABES, DESIRE THE SINCERE MILK OF THE WORD...** (1 Pet 2:2). We have to wonder how many Christians pay heed to this exhortation from the inspired apostle. It seems if we truly did want the unadulterated word to the same degree that the little baby wants milk that we would have much more knowledge than is evident among us. The only way we can follow the example of our Lord, as is urged upon us in verse 21, is to study the Bible!

lllll “Because God's Word nourishes life, we should have an appetite for the Scriptures just as hungry, newborn babes want food. We should want the pure Word, unadulterated, because that alone will make us grow. Sometimes people have no appetite because they have been eating the wrong kinds of food. Peter warns Christians to lay aside certain wrong attitudes that can hinder their appetite and desire to grow. The things he mentions are: wickedness, guile, hypocrisies, envies, and evil speakings. ... When Christians are growing in their knowledge of God's truth and feeding on His Word, they are peacemakers, not troublemakers, and they promote the unity of the church. So as a baby craves milk, so the child of God craves spiritual milk—the Word of God” [Bill R Swetmon, *Companion Annual Lesson Companion*, 1987-1988, p. 245].
- **IF SO BE YE HAVE TASTED...** (1 Pet 2:3). TASTE, what a powerful sense it is! We taste something that appeals to us and we immediately want more. This figure speaks of that which will cause us to grow. When we truly understand the greatness of God and of our Savior and of His plan for saving man, we will want to be totally committed to the work attached to it. That work is the saving of souls through the spreading of the message. As we allow our “spiritual taste buds” to operate, they will spur us on toward doing more and more that will bring glory to God (v. 12).
- **A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE...** “**The Function of a Corner Stone...** To give support and strength to the building. Without the proper support, the building would sink and settle. Structure only is as strong as its foundation. Example: Leaning Tower of Pisa. It requires material which will not

collapse under the weight. Sand is not suitable (Matthew 7.26-27). Needs to be proven as suitable material. Placed in the corner to bind together two walls which come together. This maintains the integrity of the structure. Usually it is squared and handled with care. This stone would be the basis or the benchmark by which the squareness and alignment of the walls are assured. If the corner stone is not placed correctly the walls would be built out of line. The corner stone stays inseparable with the building and supports it, unites it and adorns it. It is not just window dressing but the key element in the structure” [Rick Knoll, “He is the Chief Corner Stone,” in *Who is the Lord?*, Edited by Ken Burleson, 13th Labourers Together with God Lectureship, 2005, p. 64].

- **YE ALSO, AS LIVELY STONES...** (1 Pet 2:5). Here is another figure of speech which helps us to understand for what Christians are here. We are here to serve our Lord. We are building as we live our lives each day and we need to ask ourselves if the building we are building is properly centered on spiritual concerns. |||| “Being a *living stone* implies a relationship with every other living stone. Each has his place in God’s spiritual building. Being *living stones* we influence every stone in the building. We edify one another. The result is the temple of the Lord is made stronger. We build up one another by love, by godly example, by praying for one another, and by exercising our spiritual gifts. By being faithful to the Word of God, we are allies with God in building His spiritual temple” [Clarence DeLoach, in *The Behavior of Belief*, 2012 FHU Lectures, Editor, David L. Lipe, p. 21].
- **...YE SHOULD SHOW FOR THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT** (1 Pet 2:9). It is SO MUCH better to be in the light than to be lost in the darkness. Christians should be so thankful and happy for the blessing of walking in the light. Out of this thankfulness and appreciation will flow a life which truly leads others out of their darkness and into the light of truth. If we are happy with the life we live, surely we will see the need to challenge others with the life of praise we have. |||| **“The True Mission of the Lord’s People** (1 Peter 2.9-10)... Both Christ, who is the head of the body, and each child of God, are declared to be *living stones*; and that means that the church of the New Testament is a living organism. Any thoughtful person cannot help but see that the Lord expects for his people to be active in his service. The term ‘but,’ with which this section of the lesson text begins, introduces a contrast between the disobedient of the previous section, and the people of God who are described here” [Leslie G. Thomas, *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1972, p. 135].
- **...STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS...** (1 Peter 2:11). Peter will later explain very clearly why this figure is so appropriate for Christians. In 2 Peter 3:9-11 he shows what will eventually happen to this world and all that is in it—they will be burned up. His question to us is: Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness (v. 12).
- **SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO EVERY ORDINANCE OF MAN FOR THE LORD’S SAKE...** (1 Pet 2:13). A Christian is to be a good citizen. The higher powers are ordained of God (Rom 13:1ff). The only instance in which we must not yield to the law of the land is when such a law would cause us to violate God’s law (cf., Acts 4:18-20). |||| **“Topics for Discussion:** (1) Church and state are separate institutions, yet they may support each other. The state is lifted to a high and purer state of civilization wherever the gospel goes, and the church will benefit from the protecting and orderly influence of good government. (2) While government may be a help to the church, the church is not dependent upon the government for its existence. It has been known to live and thrive in spite of every effort the government could possibly devise and execute to destroy it. Rome failed to destroy the church by persecution. (3) Does submission to the powers that be include obedience to traffic rules? Should a Christian’s conscience be offended when he runs a traffic light? Are we bound to observe these rules for the Lord’s sake? If so, how many of us will have to revise our driving?” [Roy H. Lanier, *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1951, p. 185].
- **...CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE...** (1 Pet 2:21). Not only in the matter of suffering, but in EVERY THING, Jesus Christ is the proper example for you and me to follow.

The Hebrews writer challenges us to run the race that is set before us and we must, in the running of that race, keep our eyes focused on Jesus (Heb 12:1-2). |||| “**CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE...** (1) Christ’s example was a perfect one—so perfect in fact that His example has the force of rule or law. (2) Christ is an example in such a way and manner that He stimulates the imitation of men. (3) Christ is an example of suffering, of forgiveness, of submission, of humility, and of courage. (4) Christ gave His life for man, and man can afford to do no less than give his life for Christ” [Rex Turner, *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1975, pp., 176-177]. |||| “**Topics for Discussion:** (1) Jesus showed us how to live and how to die. If we live like he lived, he will be with us in death to take out of that experience the dread and terror which it holds for all who have not Jesus as their Shepherd. (2) If one who was on equality with God could condescend to die the shameful and painful death of the cross, surely we should follow in His footsteps enough to stoop to serve, teach, and encourage the lowliest social outcast, regardless of race or color. (3) If all would follow the example of Jesus there would be no more war; there would be no race problem; there would be no labor-management problems. Men are seeking safety and security in laws passed by congress, in international pacts and covenants. They are overlooking the one unfailing source of world peace. If the money which is spent for arms and forming international covenants could be spent to teach the world of Jesus, we would have better grounds for hope that the world can yet enjoy peace and safety” [Roy H. Lanier, *Teacher’s Annual Lesson Commentary*, 1950, pp, 245-246]. |||| “**CONCLUSION:** The ‘call’ to follow Jesus is one of sacrifice; a sacrifice of one’s self, to the will of God (1 Peter 2.24; cf., Mark 12.30, plus Matthew 7.21-23). When we choose to answer the ‘call’ of Jesus, we will: (a) enjoy the salvation he has provided through his sacrifice (1 Peter 2.24; cf. 1 Peter 1.3, 9, 18-23), (b) personally submit to the authorities (i.e., civil, vocational relational and religious) God has placed in our lives, and (c) obtain the eternal inheritance God has prepared for us (1 Peter 1.3-5). Let each of us, without reservation, ‘follow in his steps.’” [Mike Winkler, in *The Behavior of Belief*, 2012 FHU Lectures, Editor, David L. Lipe, p. 21]. |||| “**Redemption’s Story (1 Peter 2.21-24) ...** (1) A Story of the ‘PERSON’ Who Redeems. (2) A Story of the ‘PRICE’ He Paid. (3) A Story of the ‘PROFIT’ that is Ours” [J. Winfred Clark, *Expositions of the Expositor*, Volume 2, Editor: Michael R. McDaniel, pp., 454-456].

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. ____ Servants should only respect and obey their masters when they are good and gentle.
02. ____ Fleshly lusts war against the soul.
03. ____ In this chapter, the word BISHOP refers to elders in a local congregation.
04. ____ There is such a thing as SINCERE milk.
05. ____ Christians are urged to do good deeds that God may be glorified.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. ____ To the disobedient, Christ is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, but to faithful Christians, He is: (a) practical; (b) precious; (c) predestined.
07. ____ Those things which Peter teaches that Christians are to lay aside number: (a) three; (b) four; (c) five.
08. ____ Peter teaches that Christians should live unto righteousness and be: (a) alive to faith; (b) dead to sins; (c) alive to works.
09. ____ Peter urges that we honor all men and: (a) the brotherhood; (b) the king; (c) ourselves.
10. ____ Christians have been called out of darkness into what kind of light: (a) glorious; (b) bright; (c) his marvelous.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Those who believe on the Chief Cornerstone will not be _____.
12. “For this is _____, if a man for conscience toward God _____, suffering wrongfully.”
13. Christians are to submit to every ordinance of man for the _____.

14. Christians once were not, but now are the _____ of God.
15. We have an Example, whose steps we should _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

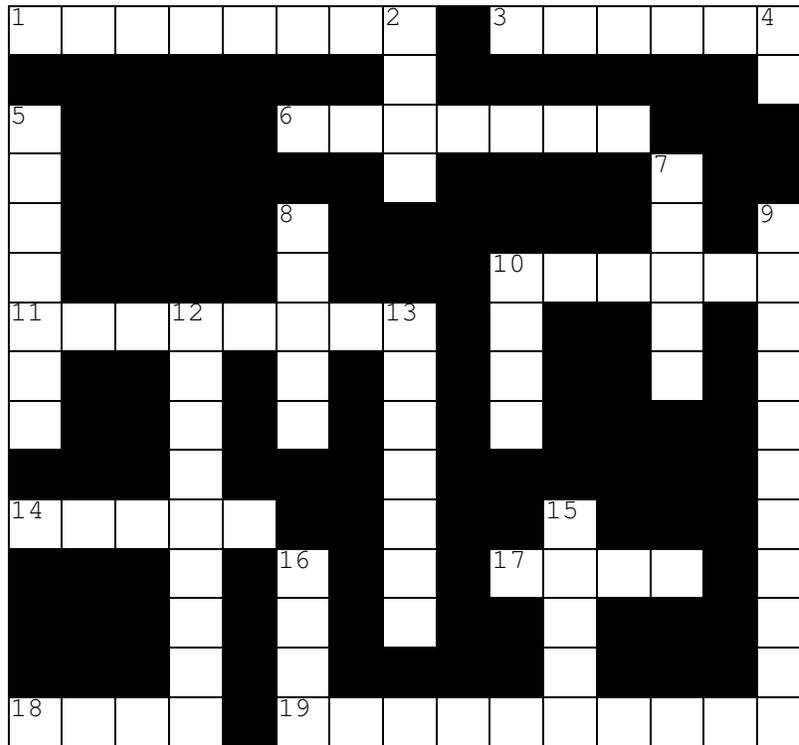
ANSWERS to 1 Peter 1 Questions... **01**—True (4); **02**—False (2); **03**—True (9); **04**—True (25); **05**—True (17); **06**—b (24-25); **07**—c (8); **08**—b (6); **09**—d (10); **10**—a (18); **11**—obeying (22); **12**—every, work (17); **13**—Jesus Christ (19-20); **14**—inheritance, fadeth, heaven (4); **15**—word, gospel (25).

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle. The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. –DRL

T I L W O C A L L E D I Y I
 P K L P E O P L E L I V E P
 C D R I G H T E O U S L Y T
 Y I P R I E S T H O O D M K
 S S P I R I T U A L B S I B
 H A C C E P T A B L E B L W
 R L E Y V Y P B N M D E D W
 U L S P E A K E C K I I L O
 H O C R N T C H O S E N G R
 O W H E R E F O R E N G U D
 L E R C W E L L N W T R I S
 Y D I I L O R D E D G N L T
 A L S O U L Y P R A I S E O
 S S T U M B L E R E W H E N
 P V C S U F F E R A O Y N E

ACCEPTABLE	ALSO	BEHOLD	BEING	CALLED
CHOSEN	CHRIST	CORNER	DISALLOWED	DISOBEDIENT
EVEN	GUILF	HOLY	LIVE	LORD
PEOPLE	PRAISE	PRECIOUS	PRIESTHOOD	RIGHTEOUSLY
SOUL	SPEAK	SPIRITUAL	STONE	STUMBLE
SUFFER	WELL	WHEN	WHEREFORE	WORD

VIII. Crossword Puzzle.



1 Peter 2 (KJV)			
ACROSS		DOWN	
01	To those who believe, Christ is this.	02	Location of the chief corner stone (sometimes a Z-word).
03	We must lay aside all of this.	04	Abbreviation for the Book of Exodus.
06	These men have a problem with ignorance.	05	For the Christian, Christ is ours.
10	Christians must ____ the king (British spelling).	07	It is none of this to be patient in taking punishment for our faults.
11	Those who journey in foreign lands.	08	Something to lay aside.
14	Christians must submit to this many ordinances of man (exceptions, Acts 4:18-20).	09	Christians are taught to love the ____.
17	Is gracious.	10	Christians are a ____ nation.
18	Christians are dead to this.	12	Faithful Christians will submit to them.
19	____ indeed of men.	13	By these Christians are/were healed.
		15	A kind of priesthood.
		16	Jesus is made the ____ of the corner.

IX. EXTRA CREDIT FOR “SUPER” Bible Students...

Will you please consider answering these three SIMPLE questions based on the Bible text of this chapter? I will try to make use of your answers. Bring them with you next week. Tear out this last sheet from the Study Guide and be prepared to put it in a basket. I think it will be a great help to all of those in the class if you will do so. Thank you in advance for your marvelous cooperation!

W O R D: What word would you like to know more about in this chapter?

W O N D E R: I wonder what this phrase, verse, or series of verses means...

W I S H: I wish myself—or others whom I know or even don’t know—would understand this fact, principle, or concept from this chapter...