

## 21S23 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-25 Follow Christ's Example

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our series on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter with 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-25.

The author of this letter is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is "Where does our Hope come from?" for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I'm reading from the International Children's Bible (ICB) again today, I like the plain English in this translation. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-25 (ICB) *<sup>18</sup>Slaves, accept the authority of your masters. Do this with all respect. You should obey masters who are good and kind, and you should obey masters who are bad. <sup>19</sup>A person might have to suffer even when he has done nothing wrong. But if he thinks of God and bears the pain, this pleases God. <sup>20</sup>If you are punished for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for bearing punishment. But if you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then that pleases God. <sup>21</sup>That is what you were called to do. Christ suffered for you. He gave you an example to follow. So you should do as he did.*

*<sup>22</sup>"He did no sin. He never lied." Isaiah 53:9*

*<sup>23</sup>People insulted Christ, but he did not insult them in return. Christ suffered, but he did not threaten. He let God take care of him. God is the One who judges rightly. <sup>24</sup>Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And we are healed because of his wounds. <sup>25</sup>You were like sheep that went the wrong way. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

This section in ICB Bible is titled, "Follow Christ's Example". Now let's take a closer look at these verses. Read verses 18-22 again, *<sup>18</sup>Slaves, accept the authority of your masters. Do this with all respect. You should obey masters who are good and kind, and you should obey masters who are bad. <sup>19</sup>A person might have to suffer even when he has done nothing wrong. But if he thinks of God and bears the pain, this pleases God. <sup>20</sup>If you are punished for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for bearing punishment. But if you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then that pleases God. <sup>21</sup>That is what you were called to do. Christ suffered for you. He gave you an example to follow. So, you should do as he did. <sup>22</sup>"He did no sin. He never lied." [Isaiah 53:9] (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:18-22 ICB)*

I know people get pretty emotional when the words slave and master are used. When you read the Bible, you have put your personal bias aside and realize this letter was written in a time in history where slaves and masters was common. This does not make it right or wrong. What it does is explain the terms used. Peter was writing to people

who were indeed slaves. Using them as both an example and speaking directly to those who were actually slaves.

Peter says a couple really thought provoking statements. First, "*you should obey masters who are bad.*" This does not seem correct does it. We are to obey bad people. Peter goes on to say, "*person might have to suffer even when he has done nothing wrong.*" And this please God. Well not exactly, Peter says if we think about the sacrifice Jesus made for us and we bear the pain because we love Jesus and want to show our "bad" master Jesus. I no we are not slaves, but this principle I think can equally apply to us. We can have a bad boss or if you are a student a bad teacher. We may well suffer even if we do nothing wrong. We still have to follow the example of Christ and be focused on what Jesus wants us to do. Now please hear this, we are not slaves, so we have options. If we have a bad boss, we can find another job or report their behavior to higher ups. If we have a bad teacher, we should report their bad behavior. This is not saying we can't do this. Remember a slave would not have had those options. What Peter is trying to tell us is, when we are facing a bad situation, focus on Jesus. Then if we suffer, God will be pleased with us for our focus on Him rather than our temporary inconvenient situation.

Peter also says, even if you have a bad boss or bad teacher, if you do something bad you should be punished, and God will not see your suffering as praiseworthy.

Peter ends this section with a simple statement, follow the example of Jesus and follows up with the reason. Because Jesus suffered for us and "*he did no sin and never lied from Isaiah 53:9.*"

Let's read on in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. Verses 23-25, *<sup>23</sup>People insulted Christ, but he did not insult them in return. Christ suffered, but he did not threaten. He let God take care of him. God is the One who judges rightly. <sup>24</sup>Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And we are healed because of his wounds. <sup>25</sup>You were like sheep that went the wrong way. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:23-25 ICB)

It's tough to know where to start with these verses. Peter reminds us how Jesus dealt with bad people. Jesus neither insulted them nor threaten them. What do you do when you feel someone has done something bad to you? Insult and threaten are probably the most common responses of most humans. Jesus says, let God take care of this for you. God will judge them. Stop living the way they do and start living the way God wants us to. We have been made right because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Review,

- 1) **Why should we obey bad people?** It's not about whether others are good or bad to us. It is about how we live. Our lives should point to Jesus. The world is watching. How we deal with tough situation is a great testimony. God is very pleased with us when we suffer but respond as Jesus would. I don't know about you, but I like the sound of God being pleased with me.

- 2) **When we face a bad situation, where should our focus be?** The simple answer is Jesus. God knows what you are going through. Trust He will judge the people hurting you for what they have done. Remember Jesus suffered for us. It is very doubtful any of us with ever suffer the way Jesus did. Even if we are martyred, we won't suffer the evil and pain like Jesus. Stay focused on Jesus and His sacrifice to help you endure the hardships that will happen in life.
- 3) **How should we respond?** As Jesus would. Jesus is our example. If we are Christian, then we must not respond to evil with evil. God knows how to handle your situation. Trust God, Stop living for sin and start living the right way. This does

Let me leave you with this. God is telling us this, If a law is good, do what is right. If a law is bad, do what is right and accept punishment so God will be pleased with you.

We have all gone astray, we are sheep that have lost our way. But as Christians we have returned to God. He is the keeper of our souls. I don't know about you, but I think I'm better off with God taking care of me. I'm confident God knows better than me.

**Let's Pray.**

**Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Peter. Help us to treat others how you want us to. Help to respond to others who hurt us with kindness and truth. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

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