

1 Peter 2:11-25

Slaves of God (11-17)

- ◆ I appeal to you, my friends, as strangers and refugees in this world! Do not give in to bodily passions, which are always at war against the soul. Your conduct among the heathen should be so good that when they accuse you of being evildoers, they will have to recognize your good deeds and so praise God on the Day of his coming. For the sake of the Lord submit yourselves to every human authority: to the Emperor, who is the supreme authority, and to the governors, who have been appointed by him to punish the evildoers and to praise those who do good. For God wants you to silence the ignorant talk of foolish people by the good things you do. Live as free people; do not, however, use your freedom to cover up any evil, but live as God's slaves. Respect everyone, love other believers, honor God, and respect the Emperor.
- ◆ This message is reminding us that the world is our temporary home and then goes to show us how we should conduct our lives here on earth. We should respect authority, we should do good to all at all times as this will silence the evil doers and make them praise God when he comes, we should not give in to bodily passion as they are against our soul, we should praise those who do good, we should live as free people and never abuse that freedom, we should live as God's slaves, we should respect everyone, love other believers, and honour God.

The Example of Christ's Suffering (18-25)

- ◆ You servants must submit yourselves to your masters and show them complete respect, not only to those who are kind and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. God will bless you for this, if you endure the pain of undeserved suffering because you are conscious of his will. For what credit is there if you endure the beatings you deserve for having done wrong? But if you endure suffering even when you have done right, God will bless you for it. It was to this that God called you, for Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no one ever heard a lie come from his lips. When he was insulted, he did not answer back with an insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but placed his hopes in God, the righteous Judge. Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed. You were like sheep that had lost their way, but now you have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of your souls.
- ◆ Jesus Christ suffered for the sins he did not commit, in these sufferings he kept his hope in the Lord and never took matters into his own hands (he never retaliated and cursed). Besides the mission of bringing salvation, Christ's actions should serve as an example for us. When we face undeserved suffering from authority and/or others, we should act as Christ did i.e. not retaliating but place our hope in God. God is watching and he will bless us for this just as Christ was rewarded for his suffering. Let's not seek revenge but rather let's seek to

follow the example set by Christ. It's hard but it's rewarding, we should always remind ourselves this example set by Christ when we face undeserved suffering.