


Joyful Life Bible Studies

I PETER 2:18-25

Lesson 9

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I Peter 2:9-17. What thought, exhortation or instruction from last week's lesson or lecture particularly ministered to you?
2. Expect both blessing and inspiration in your study of I Peter 2:18-25 this week. These verses are a rich combination of practical instruction and powerful motivation for a Christian's conduct, especially when suffering unjustly. Preview these verses by reading I Peter 2:18-25 and writing verse 20 here phrase by phrase.
3. To receive the most from this key passage of Peter's letter, begin your study with prayer. Express to the Lord your deepest desire and greatest need concerning your lesson. Write your prayer here.

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You.
-selected *

SECOND DAY: Read I Peter 2:18-20

1. Practical instruction concerning Christian conduct is given in I Peter 2:18-20. In the previous verses from Chapter Two we learned about our conduct in relationship to civil authorities. What relationship does Peter address in I Peter 2:18?
 - a. In this verse the word *servants* refers to *household* or *domestic slaves*. The instructions given to *servants* can be applied in our culture to employer/employee relationships. With this in mind write Peter's instruction from verse 18.

2. The phrase *be subject* in I Peter 2:18 could be translated *be submissive*. The phrase *with all fear* means *with respect*. The Christian slave was to *submit* and *respect* his master whether he was *good and gentle* or *froward* (overbearing, unjust, unreasonable, harsh). Write what the following verses reveal about God's perspective on this:
 - a. I Peter 2:19
 - (1.) *Thankworthy* is the Greek word for *grace*. The phrase *conscience toward God* has been translated *conscious* or *mindful of God*. How would awareness of God enable or encourage a person to *endure* under these circumstances?
 - (a.) What effect would this have on a believer's witness?

 - b. I Peter 2:20
 - (1.) Think about the behavior that *is acceptable with God* or pleases Him. With this in mind how does the phrase *take it patiently* speak to you today?

3. Read Colossians 3:22-24 to expand your understanding of servant/master relationships. Summarize what these verses teach us about this.

THIRD DAY: Read I Peter 2:21-24

1. The content of I Peter 2:21-24 is so powerful and inspiring we have chosen to devote two days of our lesson to focus on these verses. Center your mind and heart on verse 21 as you write it here phrase by phrase.
 - a. This verse speaks to us concerning our suffering, whether it comes through persecution because of our Christian witness or an unjust situation where we are called to patiently endure. Reflect on the verse above as you personalize it by writing your name over the words *ye* and *us*.
 - b. For whom did Christ suffer? Print your answer in block letters from verse 21. Selah.
 - c. Christ left us an *example*. Define the word *example*. Use synonyms, if you desire.
2. *Follow His steps* (I Peter 2:21) by observing Christ's actions and attitudes from I Peter 2:22,23. In the following chart list on the left side what these verses record about Christ and on the opposite side what it means for us to follow His example:

Christ's Example	What this means for us
a. verse 22a	
b. verse 22b	
c. verse 23a	
d. verse 23b	
e. verse 23c	

(1.) What help has God provided that will enable us to follow Christ's example?

3. How does the example Jesus left us motivate you to want to *follow His steps*?

FOURTH DAY: Read I Peter 2:21-24

1. I Peter 2:24 has the potential to stir within us a depth of gratitude and commitment that will transform our lives. Concentrate on what Christ did for you as you print verse 24a here. Selah.

a. Our Saviour's suffering and agony was not a result of His sins – He had no sin! Jesus *bare our sins* on the cross. In response write a prayer expressing your gratitude to Him for this.

2. Complete the following phrases from I Peter 2:24b and think about what should result in a believer's life because of what Jesus Christ has done:

that we, _____ to _____, should _____:


a. How should the following affect our Christian conduct:

(1.) *being dead to sins*

(2.) *live unto righteousness*

Advanced Students: Use scriptures to explain your understanding of the phrase *by Whose stripes ye were healed*. I Peter 2:24c

3. Keep I Peter 2:21-24 in mind as you read Isaiah 53:4-7. What parallels do you see?

*Once again I look upon the cross where You died.
I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again, I thank You.
Once again, I pour out my life.
-selected *

FIFTH DAY: Read I Peter 2:25

1. Describe the way believers and the Lord are portrayed in I Peter 2:25.
 - a. The Word often associates believers with sheep. List a few similarities between them.
 - b. What was the cost of our *going astray* and turning to our own way? See Isaiah 53:6b.
2. I Peter 2:25b concludes with good news. Print the encouraging declaration recorded in this verse.
 - a. What is revealed about our *Shepherd* in John 10:11-15?
 - b. *Bishop* means *overseer* or *guardian*. Share what it means to you today that the Lord is your *Shepherd, Overseer* and *Guardian*.
3. Take a few moments to read Psalm 23 with I Peter 2:25 in mind. What additional insights do you receive?

*My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they follow Me:
And I give unto them eternal life.
John 10:27,28a*


SIXTH DAY: Review I Peter 2:18-25

1. Record a way your study of I Peter 2:18-25 has:
 - a. blessed you
 - b. inspired you
 - c. challenged you

2. When you are unjustly treated even though you *do well*, what principle from I Peter 2:20 are you to follow?
 - a. How would following the example of Jesus in I Peter 2:23c encourage and strengthen you?

3. What facet of Jesus' example in I Peter 2:21-23 particularly speaks to you?

4. With this week's lesson in mind, write what the following phrases mean to you:
 - a. *suffer patiently*
 - b. *follow His steps*
 - c. *live unto righteousness*

*Lord, I stand in wonder
at the sacrifice You made.
With mercy beyond measure
my debt You freely paid.
-selected *