

# Sermon Notes

“Doing Good to the Glory of God”

1 Peter 2:11-25

October 18, 2015

When will they do so? (In Scripture a “day of visitation” is a day when God intervenes in human history. It is the coming of divine power, either for benefit or for judgment. Consider Isa. 10:3; Lk 19:44. Some see it here as a day of grace, when God visits each individual sinner on the day of his conversion. However, with all the other references to the return of Christ (1:7 13, 4:13; 5:1, 4) and final judgment (1:17; 4:5, 17-18; 5:4) in this letter, this seems the more likely referent. If this refers to the return of Christ, how will the unbeliever “glorify God” on that day? Perhaps consider Phil 2:10-11.

## Introduction:

6. Identify the human authority figures in your life. How would you evaluate yourself in the area of submission (whether to government, an employer, etc.)? What are some specific behaviors you need to begin, or cease, in order to bring your life into line with Peter’s words? When is it most challenging to be submissive to these authority figures?

How do you think the phrase “for the Lord’s sake” (2:13) should affect the way we submit to authorities? Think of some motives for submission that would not be “for the Lord’s sake.”

7. In 2:13-25, do you think Peter leaves room for Christians to evaluate and comment on the ideas and decisions of people in authority? Why or why not?
8. What does Peter cite as the model to follow—and what does this model teach? (2:21-23)

## 1. Peter’s Prescribed Response (2:11-25).

Our Situation	Step 1		2:12, 19-21
Our Response	Step 2		2:19, 23
	Step 3		2:1, 9, 23
	Step 4		2:11-12, 16-17
The Results	Step 5		2:15
	Step 6		2:12
	Step 7		2:12, 14, 19-20

## 2. Submit to and Honor Those in Authority Over You (2:13-20).

## 3. Look to Jesus (2:21-25).

## Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-18-15

Questions adapted from 1 Peter: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1986, pp. 59-71; Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Hopeful*, Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1982, p. 148; John MacArthur, *1 & 2 Peter: Courage in Times of Trouble*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, 2007, pp. 21-28; James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 313.

## Getting Started:

1. What is your general attitude toward people in authority over you (bosses, parents, police, etc.)?

## Digging Deeper:

2. READ: 1 Peter 2:11. Consider what living like “sojourners and exiles” should look like as believers in our society (review 1 Peter 1:1, 17; 2:9; Phil 3:20-21). What’s the balance between being a “stranger” in your world, and just being “strange”?

What behaviors should believers abstain from in order to model Christ? (Consider 1 Pet. 4:2-3; Gal 5:19-21).

The “passions of the flesh” are said to wage war against the soul. Can you think of examples of how such passions wage war against the soul?

3. I have found John Piper’s definition of the term “glory of God” very helpful: “God’s glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections. It can refer to the bright and awesome radiance that sometimes breaks forth in visible manifestations. Or it can refer to the infinite moral excellence of His character. In either case it signifies a reality of infinite greatness and worth” (*Desiring God*, p. 42). Therefore, God’s glory is something resident within him, and for us “to glorify God” does not mean that we add or contribute to his perfections, but rather that we acknowledge them, display them, announce them to others, or reveal them to those for whom they are hidden. The word translated “blessed be” in 1 Peter 1:3 is from a Greek word from which we get our English word for *eulogize*, “to speak high praise of someone.” This idea of speaking well of God recurs in 2:9 (“proclaim the excellencies of him who called you”). How is our “speaking well of God” related to glorifying Him? In what venues and in which relationships do you find yourself comfortably speaking well of God? Are there other venues or relationships where you are inhibited in proclaiming his excellencies? Why or why not?
4. We can glorify God in deed as well as word. 1 Peter 4:11 says that God is glorified when we serve (referring to acts of service in addition to speaking) in the strength which God supplies. According to 1 Peter 2:11-12, what must Christians do in order to not detract from God’s glory?
5. Who is said to give glory to God in this reference (2:12)? What prompted them to do so? (Perhaps consider Matt 5:16.)