

I PETER – GRACE, HOPE AND LIVING WHOLE PART II
I PETER CHAPTER 2
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INTRODUCTION

- There are five chapters in I Peter and each of them speak of suffering.
- Last week we talked about suffering and how we often lose faith in our suffering.
- Suffering is in a weird way very subjective.
- Suffering often turns people to God not away from Him.
- But many can't reconcile suffering with faith.

I. A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH CHAPTER 2

- Vs. 2:1-6 - Peter says that Jesus is "the living (zoe) stone," the precious stone, a choice stone.
- Vs. 5 - We are His "living stones"
- "A chosen race" all DNA.
- How can that be? It is in the genes.
- Jesus said "I will build my church" - Matthew 16:18
- Vs. 6 - Jesus for those who believe is a rock, a firm foundation to build your life on.
- Matthew 11:2-6 - "...Blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me."
- Vs. 9 - We are called "a chosen race" for His glory.
- John 15:16, "You didn't choose me I chose you."
- We are chosen, precious, royal, and holy for what?
- To reflect His glory.
- Vss. 9-10 - A people for God's own possession chosen to proclaim His excellencies.
- A holy nation = set apart to represent Him

II. THE BATTLE TO SUBMIT

- I Peter 2:13-15 NCV, "...yield to the people who have authority in this world...¹⁵It is God's desire that by doing good you should stop foolish people from saying stupid things about you."
- Hupotasso = to arrange under, to put under
- In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility."
- Submission is one of the hardest things in the Bible to come to grips with and one of the easiest to ignore.
- Without authority and submission we would live in chaos.
- The fulfillment of our lives is never accomplished by the insistence of our rights.
- Vss. 19-25 - Grace is released when we submit.
- It is an act of spiritual warfare.
- Key - Do you believe God is bigger than that or will the resolution be pounded out by your genius?
- Do you believe God is victor? Jesus did.
- Jesus' willingness to submit was not a sign of weakness, but of power. (John 19:11 to Pilate)

III. THE TRUTH ABOUT SUBMISSION

- Submission is the consummate test of faith and trust.
- Only with an attitude of submission is the Spirit's work allowed into your life.
- All the kingdom teaching in the world will not remove struggles and suffering from our lives.
- How we respond to hurt in our everyday issues will determine if we allow a kingdom dimension into our lives.
- Where He can rule He will reign.
- The ultimate challenge of this life is submitting to the kingdom rulership of the King of the universe.