

BRIDGE  CHURCH

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

1 PETER 2:18-25



## Family Devotions – 1 Peter 2:18-25

*1 Peter 2:18-25 18 Servants be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. 19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.*

Peter continues to emphasize submission in the life of a believer. That word submission is one we tend to hear a lot in church but its not a popular one. We think of submission in the light of being “lorded over” or “taken advantage of” but that is not what Peter is telling us. In the Roman Empire there were three classes of people; Roman Citizens, who had full rights and protection under law; Freedman, were those with restricted protections but still enjoyed a great deal autonomy; Servant Class these men and women were largely employed as managers and helpers in the home, this was whom Peter was writing about. In our modern time this can be applied to the employer and employee relationship. As Christians we should never take advantage of our employers. Even if we are wronged, we take it because our relationship with God is more important than our relationship with man.

Peter then compares those who suffer willingly when they are being punished for a sin versus those who suffer unjustly. The outcome of suffering unjustly is “finding favor” with God! This phrase in the NASB is found two times in verse 19 through 20. This means that when we endure unjust hardships our goodness is displaying true graciousness to the world! The true grace of God is revealed in the world when Christians who are treated unjustly act honorably and good! What the world needs to see from every believer is submission and devotion to God in all areas.

### Question/Discussion Points:

1. Verse 18 *tells servants to be submissive to your master in all respects, not only those who are good and gentle...* This would apply today to our employers. Is this verse hard to take in or apply to your life? Why or why not? Do you work in a current environment that is unjust or unreasonable?
2. We see in verses 19-20 that favor is found when we endure hardships, more importantly we find favor with God. How can you better endure the situation you find yourself in? Does your current attitude and actions in the work place find favor with God?

3. Look up 1 Peter 5:12, what is Peter's command at the end?
4. The reason we endure is because we have an example to follow in verse 21. Peter also tell us that we were called for this purpose! How does that change your perspective in enduring hardships?
5. In verses 22-23 what are the four things Jesus didn't do? At the end of verse 23 what did Jesus do instead?

### **Closing**

Jesus proved that a person can be in the will of God, be greatly loved by God and still suffer unjustly. One thing Jesus shows is that his humility and submission were not signs of weakness but of strength. We need realize we are not saved by following Christ example because we would all stumble. We are all sinners in need of a Savior who was Jesus, but our salvation brings us the desire to follow closely in our saviors footsteps and imitate His example!