

FIRST PETER The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 15

2:18-25— “*The Gospel That Sets Slaves Free*”—July 5, 2015

“...true Christians consider themselves not as satisfying some rigorous creditor, but as discharging a debt of gratitude.”
—William Wilberforce, *Real Christianity*

The Christian's Life in Relation to God—1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The Christian's Position in the People of God—1 Peter 2:4-10

The Christian's Obligations as the People of God—1 Peter 2:11-3:12

- Living Honorable and Missional Lives—1 Peter 2:11-12
- Submitting to Governing Authorities—1 Peter 2:13-17

The Duty of Slaves & The Example of Christ—1 Peter 2:18-25

“¹⁸ *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*”

The Bible and Slavery:

Slavery in the Roman World:

oike'tās— “servant” “slave”

“...be subject...”

Grace in Suffering

“¹⁹ *For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.* ²⁰ *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*”

“...a gracious thing...”

- Christians are to live with an _____ of all that God has done on their behalf as well as what He requires of His people in terms of their conduct.
- How Christians react to the _____ in their lives and the lives of others is just as important to God as the reforming or ending of the institutions and systems by which they are perpetuated.

The Example of Christ

“²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Christus Exemplar:

“...he did not revile in return...”

“...entrusting himself to Him who judges justly.”

- The _____ of Christ was the greatest ever example of injustice.

The Necessity of Atonement

“²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Substitutionary Atonement:

“...the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter wants to encourage Christians to live _____ even when treated unjustly.

Peter's proclamation of the _____ is subverting the institution of slavery.

Peter is showing that social justice, while an important concept in scripture, has no real meaning apart from the Gospel and an abiding sense of the _____ and _____ of God.