

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Peter Bible Study — I Peter 4:15-19 & 5:1 Lesson #17

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in First Peter before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.

15 But **let NONE of you SUFFER as a MURDERER, a THIEF, an EVILDOER, or as a BUSYBODY** in other people’s matters.

• **I Timothy 5:13-15** “And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also _____ and _____, saying things which they ought not. For some have already _____ aside after _____.”

• **Ephesians 4:28** “Let him who stole _____ no longer, but rather let him _____, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to _____ him who is in _____.”

Definition: “Let NONE of you SUFFER as a MURDERER, a THIEF, an EVILDOER, or as a BUSYBODY” – I think everybody knows what being a murderer or a thief is, and an “evildoer” just covers every other kind of criminal or sinful behavior. A busybody is perhaps not much different than a “control freak”, but is merely the Bible word for it. The Bible talks about those who have too much spare time on their hands, and exhorts them to get to work doing something productive, and not be **busybodies** (meddlers) in other peoples’ affairs. This is caused by idleness and too much time spent looking at other’s lives instead of working on your own issues and growing and maturing in Christ. Then pride comes in as you believe that you can help or organize someone else’s life better than they are doing themselves. Focusing on someone else’s life also means you don’t have to focus on your own character defects and shortcomings. If you are suffering for any of these sins or self-imposed problems, you are NOT suffering for Christ’s sake, but for your own poor choices and actions.

• **Matthew 7:4-5** “Or how can you say to your _____, ‘Let _____ take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the _____ is in your _____ eye? You hypocrite, first take the _____ out of your _____ eye (get rid of your own character defects); and then you will _____ enough to _____ the _____ out of your _____ eye.”

• **II Thessalonians 3:6-12** “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you _____ from every brother who walks disorderly (undisciplined, irresponsible) and not according to the tradition which you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge (without paying for it), but worked with _____ and _____ night and day, that we might _____ be a _____ to any of you; not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. For even when we were with you, we _____ you this: If anyone will _____ work, neither shall he _____. For we hear there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are _____. Now those who are such we _____ and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they _____ in quietness and _____ their _____ bread.”

16-18 Yet, **if ANYONE SUFFERS as a CHRISTIAN**, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come **for JUDGMENT to begin in the HOUSE of GOD**; and if it begins with us first, what will be **the END of THOSE who do NOT OBEY the GOSPEL of God?** Now, **“If the righteous one is SCARCELY SAVED**, where will the ungodly and the sinner

appear?"

• **Acts 5:41** "So they departed from the presence of the council, _____ that they were counted worthy to _____ shame for His _____."

• **Hebrews 10:21-22** "And having a High Priest [*Jesus*] over the _____ of _____, let _____ draw _____ with a true heart in full assurance of _____, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Definition: "If ANYONE SUFFERS as a CHRISTIAN" – The book of First Peter has a lot to say about Christians suffering for their faith. Peter wrote this epistle during the time when the Romans were persecuting Christians, even putting them to death in horrible ways in the Colosseum in Rome. Peter just wanted to make sure that those who were suffering were really suffering for their faith in Christ, and not because they disobeyed the law in some other way. Technically, Christians were disobeying the law of Rome, because all people were supposed to worship the Roman emperor and call him "god". When Christians refused to worship a man, and would only worship God and Jesus Christ, they were thrown into prison and killed. This is the only kind of disobeying the law we are allowed to do, and that is when the civil law is totally against God's law and commandments.

• **Acts 5:29** "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, 'We ought to _____ rather than _____.'"

• **I Peter 1:6-7** "In this you greatly _____, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved (distressed) by various _____, that the genuineness of your _____, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is _____ by _____, may be found to praise, honor and _____ at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

• **Matthew 5:10-12** "_____ are those who are _____ for righteousness _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (happy) are you when they revile and _____ you, and _____ all kinds of _____ against you falsely for My _____. _____ and be exceedingly _____, for great is your _____ in heaven, for so they _____ the prophets who were before you."

• **John 15:20-21** "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A _____ is not greater than his _____.' If they persecuted Me, they will also _____ you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's _____, because they do not know Him who sent Me."

• **Luke 6:22-23** "_____ are you when men _____ you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the _____ of Man's _____. _____ in that day and leap for _____!"

Definition: "For JUDGMENT to begin in the HOUSE of GOD" – Those of us who are Believers in Jesus Christ are collectively called the "church of God", and also the "household" or "**HOUSE of GOD.**" Peter is saying here that we as **Christians need to EXAMINE OURSELVES and JUDGE ourselves to make sure we are walking rightly with God and according to His commandments.** This does NOT mean that we will be judged by God for our sins, because that was already taken care of by Jesus on the CROSS. **We have no reason to FEAR His judgment on our sin**, because as believers under the New Covenant, our judgment (and thus the "fear") is taken away by Christ on the cross (II Cor. 5:21, I Peter 2:24). In I John 4:17 it says, "**that we may have boldness in the day of judgment**" - **NO FEAR!** because our sins were taken away at the cross. Again, the word of God tells us that **if we will JUDGE or EXAMINE ourselves, we will not be judged in the sense of being CORRECTED and DISCIPLINED by Him.** Many times we need a REALITY CHECK, because we don't think we have a

problem with pride, or anger, or envy, or any other “negative emotion” or sin. Pride can be thinking you are better than others, but it can also be just **holding onto your own will - YOUR right to make YOUR OWN decisions**, instead of turning your will over to God completely.

• **I Corinthians 11:28 & 31-32** “But let a man _____ himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.” (Verses 31-32) “For if we would _____ ourselves, we would not be _____. But when we are judged, we are chastened (disciplined) by the Lord, that we may _____ be _____ with the world.”

• **I John 4:17-18** “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of _____; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no _____ in _____; but perfect _____ casts out _____, because fear involves torment (judgment, punishment). But he who fears has _____ been made perfect in love.”

• **Colossians 2:13-14** “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made _____ together with Him, having _____ you all trespasses (sins); having _____ the handwriting of _____ which was contrary to (against) us. And He has taken it out of the way, having _____ it to the _____.”

• **II Corinthians 13:5** “_____ yourselves as to whether you are in the _____. _____ yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Definition: “The **END of THOSE who do NOT OBEY the GOSPEL of God**” – True faith and believing in Jesus Christ means we also OBEY Him and His commandments. However, this Scripture here is talking about those who **do NOT obey the gospel of Jesus Christ** (that means they are not believers at all, but are **UNSAVED**). When it asks, “what will be the **END of THOSE who do NOT OBEY the GOSPEL of God?**”, it is talking about **those who are UNSAVED**, and the answer to that question is that their **END** or final destination will be the Lake of Fire known as hell.

• **Romans 16:26** “But now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the _____ of the everlasting God, for _____ to the _____ – to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”

• **I Peter 1:22** “Since you have purified your _____ in _____ the _____ through the _____ in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.”

• **Romans 10:16** “But they have not all _____ the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has _____ our report?’”

• **Galatians 3:1** “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not _____ the _____, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?”

19` Therefore let **those who SUFFER according to the WILL of GOD** commit their SOULS to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

• **I Peter 4:16** “Yet, if anyone _____ as a _____, let him not be ashamed, but let him _____ God in this matter.”

• **Revelation 6:9-11** “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the _____ the _____ of those who had been _____ for the _____ of _____ and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You _____ and _____ our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And a white robe was given to each of them;

and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be _____ as _____ were, was completed.”

Definition: “Those who SUFFER according to the WILL of GOD” – This goes back to verse 16, where it says, “If ANYONE SUFFERS as a CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” If we are “SUFFERING according to the WILL of GOD,” it means we are truly suffering persecution for being a Christian, and not anything else. Jesus said it would happen, Peter says it will happen, and the word of God in general tells us that **many Believers in Jesus Christ will suffer persecution and even DEATH at the hands of the enemies of God.** Those who are suffering for their faith in Christ must put their trust in God, because He is faithful. He has a plan and purpose even for these terrible things, to work good out of them (Romans 8:28), and for us to receive rewards in heaven for what we’ve had to go through, and He will JUDGE those who have persecuted His saints when the time of JUDGMENT is come.

• **Revelation 14:12-13** “Here is the patience of the _____; here are those who _____ the _____ of God and the _____ of _____. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: “_____ are the _____ who _____ in the _____ from now on.”’ ‘Yes’, says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their _____ follow them.’”

5:1 **The ELDERS who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow ELDER** and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

• **Acts 15:4** “And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the _____ and the _____ and the _____; and they reported all things that God had done with them.”

• **James 5:14** “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the _____ of the _____, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

Definition: “CALL for the ELDERS of the CHURCH” – “Elder” in the New Testament usually means pastor, also called a “bishop”, but in this context, it means ANY of the older leaders in the church. Peter was not only one of the original apostles of Jesus, but also an elder in the church.

• **Acts 11 30** “This they also did, and sent it to the _____ by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”

• **Titus 1:5-9** “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint _____ in every city as I commanded you - if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a _____ must be _____, as a steward of God, _____ self-willed, _____ quick-tempered, _____ given to wine, _____ violent, _____ greedy for money, but hospitable, a _____ of what is _____, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful _____ as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to _____ and convict those who contradict.”

Definition: “A WITNESS of the SUFFERINGS of Christ” – Peter was one of the disciples who was close to Jesus, and he witnessed the sufferings that Jesus went through.

• **Matthew 26:36-37** “Then _____ came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the _____, ‘Sit here while I go and pray over there.’ And He took with Him _____ and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be _____

and deeply _____.”