



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

1 PETER 2:11-12; 3:13-17; 4:7-11; 5:8-10

LESSON: BE VIGILANT—August 24, 2025

INTRODUCTION

1st Peter CHAPTER 2:1-3 begins with Peter speaking of a call to spiritual growth. But there are some things we will have to lay aside: All malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking. Then Peter tells us what we are to desire. Like newborn babes, we are to desire the sincere and pure spiritual milk that we may grow in salvation now that we have tasted that the Lord is graciousness (goodness).

1st Peter 2:4-10 4 Peter called Jesus 'the Stone that is living' and that the Christian believers are to keep coming unto the Living Stone, the one that was rejected, but chosen of God, and precious (valuable with great honor). **5** For we ourselves are living stones. ¹When the builders made the temple, they built the walls with stones. God now builds a spiritual house, a holy house; a holy priesthood built with people called the church making spiritual sacrifices that's acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. **6** It is already foretold in scripture that a precious chief cornerstone chosen and precious is laid in Zion who when believed in shall not disappoint or shame you for they know how wonderful He is. **7** Again to those who believe, He is precious, but to the nonbelievers, the stone that the builders rejected is still now the cornerstone, and **8** a stone that makes people trip; stumble, and a rock that makes people fall (offend) when disobedient. ²**9** In the Old Testament, God chose the Jews to be his special people. In Exodus 19:5-6, God says that all the Jews who obeyed his laws would be his 'royal priests'. And they would form a 'holy nation'. Most of them did not obey God. Now God has chosen everyone who trusts Jesus to form that special nation (1 Peter 1:2). We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people that we are to make known of him who called us out of darkness into the marvelous light **10** where in time past, we were not a people of God; had not accepted Jesus, but now we are a people of God. And once you had not even obtained mercy (didn't know of it), but now we've obtained mercy (enjoying His glorious mercy).

LESSON:

I. 1 PETER 2:11-12

1st Pt. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;— Peter calls the readers "**beloved**" meaning cherished; very much loved. He wants them to know that he loves them deeply. The word "**stranger**" means someone who dwells alongside or is exiled; but his home is elsewhere. It is the picture of a foreigner who is in a country for a while, long enough to rent or lease a house, but he is not a permanent resident. He has no legal rights or status. The word "**pilgrim**" has more of a temporary idea than stranger. Pilgrim has the idea of a visitor or sojourner, of a foreigner who may be visiting and staying for a while, but not long enough to lease a house. He wants them to know that he loves them deeply. The point is: the believer is only passing through the earth on his way home to heaven, so Peter in saying the believer is a

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1peter-lbw.htm>

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1peter-lbw.htm>

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stranger, a foreigner, an exile on earth. He is a resident, but he is not a citizen of this earth, and he has no legal status in the world. He belongs to God, and to heaven, and he is to follow the standards and ways of God. And therefore, the believer is to abstain from fleshly lusts (Gal.5:19-21) because such lusts are of the world, so don't partake in them. "**Fleshly lusts**" mean the evil desires, urges, passions, and lusts of the flesh, and they war against the soul. The flesh is strong and difficult to control, and it never lets up its assault against the Will.

- Fleshly lusts enslave and weaken the freedom of the soul.
- Fleshly lusts disturb and often destroy the peace and security, assurance and confidence of the soul.
- Fleshly lusts hamper the growth of the soul (destroying its fruit).
- Fleshly lusts doom the soul to defeat, sorrow, brokenness and eventually to eternal separation from God.

1st Pt. 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Peter told the believers that wherever Believers go, they are to keep their conversation; their conduct honorable and decent among the Gentiles, even when others speak against them as evildoers; or accuse them of doing wrong. Everyone is looking at the Believer, thereby, they may observe the believers' good works, and will glorify and honor God in the day of visitation. Follow God, and you won't have to second guess anything. God's final visit will be on the Day of Judgment. And on that day, even people who have not obeyed God will have to agree that He was right (Revelation 11:13).

II. 1 PETER 3:13-17

CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUFFERING.

1st Pt. 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?—Paul asked a similar question in Romans 8:34, "**Who can condemn you?**" Peter is saying since God's eyes are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers, who can harm you if you're following that which is good. Well, there is a stipulation placed in this verse, if you follow what is good. God is our protector and vindicator. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"* Rom.8:28. *"What shall we then say to these things? (So) If God be for us, who can be against us?"* Rom.8:31. Follow what is good!

1st Pt. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;—In this life Christians will suffer for what is right causing tribulations and persecutions but still be blessed through it all. As Joseph testified to his brothers, *"What you meant for evil, God meant it for his good..."* Tribulation makes you strong. It is a very strange thing to explain, but the church grows the most during the worst persecution. True Christianity will rise above the problems of life, and go on. Therefore, suffering for righteousness sake, Peter says they will be blessed and be not afraid of their terror neither will be troubled, that they would go through. When persecution comes, it is to make the Christian strong.

1st Pt. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:—Christ is to be preferred and consecrated, set-apart in our hearts; live in submissive communion with the Lord. We must be ready to give a reason, and be a witness to others who asks of our hope during times of suffering with an humbled heart, and with awe. Defend your hope.

1st Pt. 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. We should do good all the days





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of our lives, regardless of what the world around us is doing. When we continue to speak absolute truth in love, those who have been speaking evil of us will soon feel guilty and repent. We must set a very high standard of Christianity. When the world looks, we must not even give the appearance of evil.

1st Pt. 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. Jesus suffered for doing good, not evil. Christians should be followers of Christ. So, if there is any suffering, and if it is by the Will of God, suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. If we suffer for evil we have done, we have no reward; we deserve the punishment. But, if we suffer for Christ; great is our reward in heaven.

III. 1 PETER 4:7-11

1st Pt. 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. All things are soon to be consummated; the climax of history is at hand. Jesus Christ is returning, and He is returning soon. "Peter says *"the end of all times is at hand"*, so that they will not be fooled into thinking that judgment is a long way off, or even that it will never come. What are we to be manifesting? Peter mentions five things:

1. **Be sober**, clear-minded, serious, having a sound mind, in control of oneself, self-restrained. Get rid of the excess, the clutter that hinders you. Peter says that there's something vitally important coming, and so get rid of everything that so easily entangles you.
2. **Be watchful** in your prayers--keeping the mind alert, active, controlled thoughts while praying for all things. "**Watch**" means to stay sober and alert and awake at all times, so that you will be free to pray with a calm and collected spirit that is conducive to the act of praying.

1st Pt. 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

3. **Be fervent** in your love for one another. "**Fervent**" means to stretch and reach out; to strain and exert to the utmost degree, just as an athlete in a race; to be put before all else. By expressing a deep love for others, we can be an encouragement to them to "**carry on**" and continue in their pursuit of godliness and love for others.

1st Pt. 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

4. **Be hospitable**. Why? For love, care, ministry, close fellowship, and outreach can flow well without you being grudging of it. We must not be unwilling to show love in welcoming strangers.

1st Pt. 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another,— Be willing to use your spiritual gifts ministering as good stewards of God. "**Gift**" means the very special ability given to the believer by God. It is not a natural talent, but a spiritual gift.

- We minister our spiritual gifts when we serve by speaking the Word of God (teaching, preaching, exhortation, or prophecy etc.).
- We minister our spiritual gifts when we depend upon God to do the speaking, as we listen to the Holy Spirit.
- We minister our spiritual gifts when we serve, so that God may be glorified in all things (visit, counsel, give etc.). By living out our spiritual gifts, we are bringing praise and glory to God, not us.





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1st Pt. 4:10b ...as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. The steward was a slave who was given the responsibility of the master's estate; both his home and property. He was in full charge of all the affairs of the master. The believer is the steward of God; he is in full charge of the grace and gift which God has given him. God has made everyone able to do something. Often God gives people more than one gift. There are various gifts. No one else can look after or use your gift that you have; you have full charge over it. No one can exercise that gift except you the believer. It is not to be lying dormant, when the master returns. As each has been given a gift, use it to serve one another.

1st Pt. 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;— Believers are to serve by speaking the Word of God. This would include such gifts as teaching, preaching, exhortation, prophesy, and other gifts that involve proclaiming the Word of God. Speak as the oracles of God, meaning let God speak through us; depending upon God and God alone in accordance with the truth which God had revealed. All is to be done to benefit other believers in the body of Christ.

1st Pt. 4:11b ...if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth:— This would include such gifts as hospitality, visiting, mercy, giving, and the other gifts of ministering to people. The believer who ministers is to do it in the ability and strength of the Lord. We are also acknowledging that our strength and ability comes from God and God alone.

1st Pt. 4:11c ...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Believers are to serve so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. This is the sole aim of the believer. One does not preach or teach to draw attention, and gain a name for himself. He proclaims God's Word in order to glorify God through Jesus Christ. He does not minister, visit, or give to secure recognition, honor, and praise. He ministers to stir praise and thanksgiving to God in the name of Jesus Christ. God deserves the glory, to whom praise and dominion lives in forever.

IV. 1 PETER 5:8-10

1st Pt. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:— Peter says **First**, be of sober; vigilant (alert). Why? Because you have an Adversary, the devil, which means being alert and watchful is a great key, for he's **"like a roaring lion, walking about, roaming about, seeking whom he may devour."** The word **"devil"** (diabolos) comes from diabolos (*"brings charges falsely"*). He accuses us before God. He wants us to lose. He wants nothing less than the death penalty for us. And like a prosecuting attorney, he is prowling around, investigating us, and looking for weaknesses. Don't let your weakness be anger, bitterness, or unforgiveness etc.

THE LIFE LESSONS FROM A LION (1st Pt.5:8-9)

It has become common knowledge that if you encounter a lion in the wilderness, you must not turn your back on it or run away. You are to keep eye contact with it - face it down. The devil is as a lion who actively wants to devour you. So, how can you wage warfare against him?

Another illustration I want you to see: It starts with an unguarded moment. There are doors you should never open. If you feed the wrong appetite for a day, you may end up struggling with it for a lifetime. "Every morning in Africa a gazelle awakens and knows it has to run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion awakens and knows it must outrun the swiftest gazelle or it will





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starve to death. It matters not whether you're a lion or a gazelle, when the sun comes up, you'd better be ready to run!"

Run with the Word of God in your mouth. You fight the devil with the Word, just as Jesus did in the wilderness. It's either an Attack from the devil or an Assignment from God! Believers must trust God and be strong in either!

Proverbs 4 says 20My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

2Corinthians 10:3-5 says "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war in the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

And lest we forget: v.6 And having a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. We must be fully obedient!

1st Pt. 5:9 **Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Second**, we are to resist the devil standing firm in the faith. As we read Peter's writings, we found that he's learned from his mistakes. As a matter of fact, Jesus had warned Peter. Remember what it was like when he was "*unprepared*" when Satan was on his prowl? "**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat**" Luke 22:31. But Jesus was the One who "**prayed for him that his faith would not completely fall**" (v.32). Faith that is not Tested, can't be Trusted! Take a look in James 4:7 "**Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**" The word "resist" literally means "*refuse to give in to; to make a stand opposite to; stand firm against.*" How do you practically resist the devil? Well, James said "**Submit to God**" (v.7). James also says in verse 10 "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.**" It's all about the One you're focusing on! Putting God first, who has all power is your answer! Plus, this verse says "**steadfast in the faith**" meaning to remain firmly committed, built on a deep trust in God! You're not fighting the enemy in your own strength! Your warfare is mighty through God!

1st Pt. 5:10 **But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.** Two great resources are mentioned: **First, His grace**. As the saying goes: The "Will of God" will never lead you where the "Grace of God" cannot keep you." I know...

- We pray for lighter burdens when we ought to pray for stronger backs.
- We pray for an easier path when we ought to pray for tougher feet.
- We pray for fewer problems when we ought to pray for better solutions.

Everything that God does for the believer is because of His grace. "**Grace**" means favor. God Himself becomes actively involved in taking care of the believer; in keeping and preserving him. It all points to God who has all grace, no matter what burdens, paths, or problems we have, God's grace is able to cover, and keep us!

And Second, God calls us to eternal glory by Christ Jesus; taking the believer to heaven. Let's look at four things God does for us.

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1. God Himself will **“perfect”** (*make firm or join together; to restore*) the believer after he has suffered a little while.
2. God Himself will **“stablish”** (*make steadfast, firm, and solid*) the believer after he has suffered a little while.
3. God Himself will **“strengthen”** (*make strong that which is weak - the soul*) the believer after he has suffered a little while.
4. God Himself will **“settle”** (*secure as in a foundation; to ground with security*) the believer after he has suffered a little while.

God has called us to eternal glory. He wants us in heaven with Him, free from all the sin, dirt, filth, evil, corruption, disease, and death of this world. The glorious truth is: God’s grace and God’s call to eternal glory will keep us through all the sufferings of this life, no matter how much Satan attacks us; no matter how severe the suffering, because God is gracious to us, and He has favored us. And because He has called us to His eternal glory, HE WILL KEEP US!

SUMMARY:

Peter calls the readers “beloved” meaning cherished, begging them as strangers and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts, evil desires, urges, and passions, which war against their soul. These things will weaken the freedom, destroy the peace and security, and hamper their growth. They are to keep their conversation; their conduct honorable, and decent among the Gentiles, even when others speak against them as evildoers; or accuse them of doing wrong. Thereby, others may observe the believers’ good works, and will glorify and honor God in the day of visitation **(2:11-12)**.

Peter then turns to the theme of suffering for righteousness' sake. He tells them ³usually no one will hurt you for wanting to do good. But even if they should, you are to be envied, for God will reward you for it. Keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. But answer them in a gentle way with respect, keeping your conscience clear. Then people will see the good way you live as followers of Christ, and those who say bad things about you will be ashamed of what they have said. It’s better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong. Yes, it is better if that is what God wants **(3:13-17)**.

Living in the end times, Peter admonishes Christians to be serious and watchful in their prayers, fervent in their love for one another, and hospitable to one another without grumbling. They are to make use of their gifts as good stewards of God's manifold grace, whether it is in speaking or serving, using such abilities to glorify God through Christ who has all authority and power **(4:7-11)**.

Be sober and vigilant of your adversary because the devil walks about like a roaring lion, for he seeks whom he may devour. So, we are to resist our adversary by remaining steadfast in the faith. But the God of all grace, who called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after we’ve suffered a little while, will make us perfect, establish, strengthen, and settled us **(5:8-10)**.

³ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Peter%203&version=ERV>
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