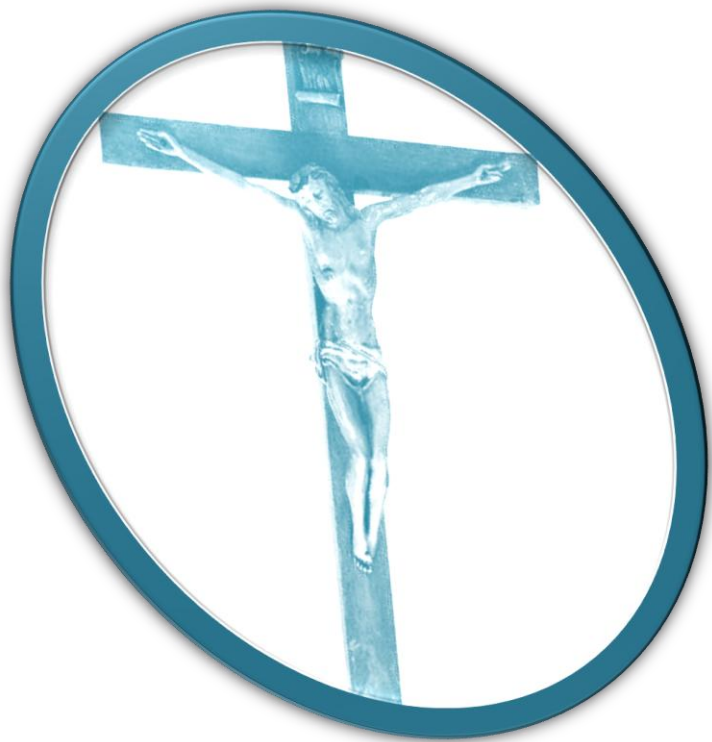


*Great  
Commission*  
Baptist Church



*Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher*



**Encouragement  
to  
Stand in the Faith  
February/March  
2016**



**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Lesson I**

**Date:** February 7, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 1: 10 - 12

**Lesson**

**The Glory of Salvation**

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**A.** The Searching

(1 Peter 1 vs. 10-11a-b)

**B.** The Suffering

(1 Peter 1 vs. 11c)

**C.** The Spirit

(1 Peter 1 vs. 12)

**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 1: 13-16

**Lesson**

**Called to Be Holy**

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**A.** Calls for Responsibility

(1 Peter 1 vs. 13)

**B.** Calls for a Relationship

(1 Peter 1 vs. 14a)

**C.** Calls for a Resemblance

(1 Peter 1 vs. 14b-16)



**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Lesson III**

**Date:** February 21, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 1: 17-21

**Lesson**

**The Savior of the World**

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**A. His Reception**

(1 Peter 1 vs. 17)

**B. His Redemption**

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**C. His Revelation**

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(1 Peter 1 vs. 21)

**Lesson IV**

**Date:** February 28, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 1: 22-25

**Lesson**

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**Lesson V**

**Date:** March 6, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 2: 1-5

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**Date:** March 13, 2016

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**Lesson I**

**Date:** February 7, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:10-12

**Lesson Outline**

**A. The Searching**

(1 Peter 1 vs. 10- 11a-b)

**B. The Suffering**

(1 Peter 1 vs. 11c)

**C. The Spirit**

(1 Peter 1 vs. 12)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**The Glory of Salvation**

A Christian worker has to learn how to be God's man or woman of great worth and excellence in the midst of a multitude of meager and worthless things. Never protest by saying, "If only I were somewhere else!" All of God's people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose He has given them. Unless we have the right purpose intellectually in our minds and lovingly in our hearts, we will very quickly be diverted from being useful to God. We are not workers for God by choice. Many people deliberately choose to be workers, but they have no purpose of God's almighty grace or His mighty Word in them. Paul's whole heart, mind, and soul were consumed with the great purpose of what Jesus Christ came to do, and he never lost sight of that one thing. We must continually confront ourselves with one central fact— "...Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

"I chose you..." (John 15:16). Keep these words as a wonderful reminder in your theology. It is not that you have gotten God, but that He has gotten you. God is at work bending, breaking, molding, and doing exactly as He chooses. And why is He doing it? He is doing it for only one purpose— that He may be able to say, "This is My man, and this is My woman." We have to be in God's hand so that He can place others on the Rock, Jesus Christ, just as He has placed us.

Never choose to be a worker, but once God has placed His call upon you, woe be to you if you "turn aside...to the right or the left..." (Deuteronomy 28:14). He will do with you what He never did before His call came to you, and He will do with you what He is not doing with other people. Let Him have His way.<sup>1</sup>

1. Do you live unreserved and surrender to God?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson I**  
**Date:** February 7, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 10-12

**Lesson Aim:** To feel more gratitude and wonder that the good news of salvation have been revealed through the Holy Spirit in the lives of each believer. To be amazed at the greatness of our salvation and to share the good news of salvation with others.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:10-11 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

<sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

**1 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

**The Glory of Salvation**

**A. The Searching**

**(Verse 10)** This word “searching” means probing, pointed or thorough. It suggests diligent study and a painstaking effort to find the answer to a riddle. This salvation was the theme of many OT prophets. The OT prophets were pointing us to the coming of the Jesus Christ, who would come and save us from condemnation. God's ancient spokesmen prophesied the undeserved favor which we would receive. But they did not fully understand what they were writing (Dan. 12:8). This did not keep them from investigating and exploring the prophesies that God gave them. The strengthened form of the word Peter used describes the Prophets doing their utmost to hunt down the meaning of what they had written. This salvation, now so clear to us who believe, had been a mystery to the Old Testament prophets who wrote about it through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but wanted to know more about it. The prophets were amazed by the prophecies God gave them.<sup>1</sup>

**(Verse 11a)** This verse says, “Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify”. The expression “the Spirit of Christ” is important. This expression bears witness to the deity of Christ and the pre-existence of the Lord Jesus as the Son of God (Gal. 4:6). The Father sent the son and the son sent forth the “spirit” of Christ (John 15:26). The Old Testament writers were entrusted by the Holy Spirit with truth concerning Christ.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson I**  
**Date:** February 7, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 10-12

**Glory:** God’s “glory is the correlative of his holiness . . . is that in which holiness comes to expression. Glory is the expression of holiness, as beauty is the expression of health.” In *respect to man*, His glory is found in the things that reveal His honorable state and character, such as wisdom, righteousness, superiority to passion.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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**1 Peter 1:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

**1 Peter 1:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

**The Glory of Salvation**

**A. The Searching**

*(Verse 11a-b)* The prophets prayed and asked God time and again, and they diligently sought to understand the age when the Messiah would be sent to save man. They wanted to know what the age would be like, the characteristics and signs of the time. They wanted to know the very same thing that the Lord's disciples wanted to know when they asked about the Lord's return: "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). They hungered and thirsted to understand all they could about God's promised Messiah and salvation.<sup>1</sup>

**B. The Sufferings**

*(Verse 11c)* Part b of this verse says, “when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ,” The word “testified” means to be a witness in advanced, i.e. predict. The “word “suffering” mean something undergone, hardship, pain or affliction. Salvation was to be wrought by the sufferings and glory of the Messiah. The Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, told the prophets that God was going to save man by doing two things. First, God would send the Messiah into the world to die for man's transgressions; the Messiah would take the guilt of man's transgressions upon Himself and bear the judgment and punishment of man's guilt. Jesus would first of all suffer and only then would glory follow. The pattern seen in the life of Christ is, in fact, the pattern of our lives. Our suffering is not a sign that Christ has betrayed us, that he is no longer concerned about us, or that he has abdicated his throne. Our suffering is a sign of our fellowship with the resurrected Lord, who first suffered for us (Psalm 22:1- 21).<sup>2</sup>





**Lesson I**  
**Date:** February 7, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 10-12

**Prophecy:** The divine power, which comes over a human being and compels him to see or to hear things which otherwise would be hidden from him, is called by various terms expressive of inspiration. It is said that the Spirit of God has come over someone (Numbers 24:2); or has fallen upon him (Ezekiel 11:5).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

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**1 Peter 1:12 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

**1 Peter 1:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

**The Glory of Salvation**

**B. The Sufferings**

*(Verse 11c)* Suffering, in some respects, becomes a sign of the glory that is to follow in our lives when we enter the presence of Christ in heaven. The word “glory” mean dignity, glory, honour, praise and worship. Christ would suffer and because of what he will go through, the result of His obedience would be the honour, praise and worship that he requires and deserve. Even when we go through our sufferings in this world, this is nothing compared to what is waiting for us after this life (Ps. 69: 30-36).<sup>1</sup>

**C. The Spirit**

*(Verse 12)* In this verse Peter returns to the majestic sweep and scope of scripture. Old Testament prophets did not understand the timing or calendar of dates surrounding the incarnation of Jesus Christ. They did understand that their words would have a dramatic impact on future generations. The prophets realized that what they wrote was not for themselves, but for those who would live later and who would hear the gospel and follow Christ (see also Heb. 11:32, 36-39). For generations, the prophets faithfully recorded their prophecies about the coming Messiah, but they did not know who this Messiah would be, or when he would come to earth. Even the angels were looking intently to see if they could get a glimpse of the grace of God at work. New Testament believers had already received the grace that the prophets would have liked to seen and the (nxt pg).<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson I**  
**Date:** February 7, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 10-12

**Questions:**

1. How do you show your gratitude for the Good News of Salvation?
2. What time of suffering in your life has been followed by glory or hope?

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**1 Peter 1:12 (KJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

**1 Peter 1:12 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

**The Glory of Salvation**

**C. The Spirit**

(Verse 12) angels would have liked to understood.

We, too, in our day have received that same grace: it is Jesus Christ our Lord. New Testament believers had already received the grace that the prophets would have liked to seen and the angels would have liked to understood. We, too, in our day have received that same grace: it is Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** Believers today experience what was prophesied in the days of old. Prophets spoke of the sufferings of Christ as it was revealed to them by God and the glory that followed His suffering. The grace of God involved Christ's suffering to secure salvation. His grace involved the suffering of those who possess his salvation. Even the angels desired to know the mystery. If the prophets and angels wanted to understand the work of Christ in saving sinners like us, how much more should we, who are the benefactors (not just on lookers) be thankful for it. We should be shouting the good news of salvation as it has been revealed to us by the Holy Spirit to everyone we meet.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:13-16

**Lesson Outline**

**A. Calls For Responsibility**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 13)

**B. Calls For a Relationship**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 14a)

**C. Calls For a Resemblance**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 14b-16)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Called to Be Holy**

There is a difference between holding on to a principle and having a vision. A principle does not come from moral inspiration, but a vision does. People who are totally consumed with idealistic principles rarely do anything. A person's own idea of God and His attributes may actually be used to justify and rationalize his deliberate neglect of his duty. Jonah tried to excuse his disobedience by saying to God, "...I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm" (Jonah 4:2). I too may have the right idea of God and His attributes, but that may be the very reason why I do not do my duty. But wherever there is vision, there is also a life of honesty and integrity, because the vision gives me the moral incentive. Our own idealistic principles may actually lull us into ruin. Examine yourself spiritually to see if you have vision, or only principles. Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?

"Where there is no revelation [or prophetic vision]...." Once we lose sight of God, we begin to be reckless. We cast off certain restraints from activities we know are wrong. We set prayer aside as well and cease having God's vision in the little things of life. We simply begin to act on our own initiative. If we are eating only out of our own hand, and doing things solely on our own initiative without expecting God to come in, we are on a downward path. We have lost the vision. Is our attitude today an attitude that flows from our vision of God? Are we expecting God to do greater things than He has ever done before? Is there a freshness and a vitality in our spiritual outlook?

1. Explain how you live wholehearted to God.

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 13-16

**Lesson Aim:** To understand that salvation demands a once- for –all attitude of separation from sin and to allow the Word of God and Holy Spirit to guide believers in their spiritual growth.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:13-14 (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

**1 Peter 1:13-14 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

**Called to Be Holy**

**A. Calls for Responsibility**

*(Verse 13)* This word responsibility means the quality or state of being responsible; able to choose for oneself between right and wrong involving accountability or important duties. Our responsibility to be Holy is two-fold. First in this text, Peter says that we have a new focus. “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end”. We as the people of God, sons and daughters of our Father in heaven, joint-heirs with Christ, seated in heavenly places, we are called to be Holy. It is our responsibility to be Holy. The word, “gird up”, means to gird afresh. This word is reminiscent of their culture, they would gather their garment up into a girdle to leave the leg and knee free for motion, when going on a long journey or getting down to work. When the Israelites ate the Passover in Egypt before leaving the land of bondage forever, they were to gird up their loins (Ex. 12:11). This was a strong element of eagerness, because they were about to leave the old way of life forever. They were to live as people who had been free. They were to be a pilgrim people, living according to new laws, possessors of a new life and a new hope. We as believers have a responsibility to gird up the loins of our minds. There must be no slackness or looseness in our thoughts of righteous living. All of our mental powers must be tightened, so that we can focus on the view of Calvary and the Lord’s coming.<sup>1</sup>

Not only should our minds be girded, Peter tells us that we ought to be sober. This word “sober” means, not to be drunk, to be dispassionate or circumspect, and self-controlled. As believers we are to be able to see things in a better perspective. We are not to be looking through the lens of this world, but now our responsibility is to look at things the way God looks at them. The only way we will be able to do this is to read and study His word. We have to stay sober and alert, so that we will not be ambushed by the enemy.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 13-16

**Loins:** The loins were especially dressed with sackcloth symbolizing a mourning heart (1 Kings 20:31-32). The loose and flowing garments of the orientals required that they be gathered and belted at the waist before one engaged in any exertion or enterprise; hence, “to gird up the loins” (1 Kings 18:46; Job 38:3; Job 40:7) is used as a picture for vigorous effort.

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 1:14 (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

**1 Peter 1:13-14 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

**Called to Be Holy**

**A. Calls for Responsibility**

*(Verse 13)* Peter then says, “and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;” This phrase “hope to the end”, mean to hope completely. It suggests a full, unwavering hope. We ought to hope completely, until the coming of Christ. I am to hope in His word, that his word is true, and one day, he is coming back for the church (Titus 2: 11-13).<sup>1</sup>

**B. Calls for a Relationship**

*(Verse 14a)* The text says, “As obedient children”. This word “obedient” mean attentive hearkening, i.e. by compliance or submission. This let me know, that since I am a child of God, I am in a relationship. As a child, I ought to obey my parents and comply with their rules. God has given us a foundation of rules and we call them the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-12). The first five commandments are concerned with our duty and relationship with God. As children of God we should obey Him, just like his only begotten son, Jesus. Jesus was obedient until death.<sup>2</sup>

**C. Calls for a Resemblance**

*(Verse 14b)* The word “resemblance” mean to be like or similar too. The text says, “not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts”. This word “fashioning” mean to fashion alike or to conform. We are called not to resemble the world, but to resemble holiness. When we were in our ignorance, the world had control of us and we looked like or pattern our lives after the world. Now that we are in the family, we have to exchange our former lusts for the family likeness (Rom. 12:2).<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 13-16

**Life:** Once it may mean the totality of man's relationships and activities (Luke 12:15) which do not consist in abundance of material possessions. (4) Generally it means the real life, the vital connection with the world and God, the sum total of man's highest interests.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:15-16 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;  
<sup>16</sup> Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

**1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;  
<sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

**Called to Be Holy**

**C. Calls for a Resemblance**

(*Verse 15*) this verse Peter reminds the believers that the "Holy One", who had called them is "holy". This word Holy means sacred and set apart. Peter challenges them to be set apart because he tells them it is not an option, but a command from God. He tells them they are to be set apart in all, not some, but all manner of conversation. This word conversation means conduct and behavior. We are commanded to live a lifestyle that resembles our Father. Our Father is a loving Father, and then we ought to love. Our Father is a forgiving Father, and then we ought to be forgiving those who have hurt us and has broken our hearts. In everything we do, it ought to resemble and be a picture of a righteous lifestyle (Heb. 13:5).<sup>1</sup>

(*Verse 16*) This verse Peter quotes an old testament passage (Lev. 11:44). He says It is written, he reminds them that this is nothing that he is making up, but it had been written to their forefathers. So he is bringing back to their remembrance what God had already said. See these believers were in the midst of persecution and it would have been easy just to give up, but Peter reminds them of God's word. When Peter says be ye Holy. So to resemble my Father, to be like Him, I have to pursue, chase and seek after those things that are of my Father (God). When things are connected to God, they are said to be Holy (Ex. 3: 1-5). The ground Moses stood when God confronted him, was Holy. The temple was said to be Holy (Matt. 24:15). So if things are said to be Holy because of God's connection, If you and I are connected to God and now because of our connection we are born into the family of faith, then we ought to resemble holiness. John told us in John 15:5 that we are the branches, he is the vine. The only way we can be fruitful is to stay connected.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson II**

**Date:** February 14, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 13-16

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**1 Peter 1:16 (KJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

**1 Peter 1:16 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

**Called to Be Holy**

**C. Calls for a Resemblance**

*(Verse 16)* The implication is that believers who cultivate Christian hope must also cultivate personal holiness. The root meaning of the word *holiness* could be expressed as "different or distinct." It describes a qualitative difference. Holiness includes a specific moral sense of separation from evil and a dedication to a life of right living. The lives and attitudes of Christians should be qualitatively different because of their relationship to God through Jesus Christ. Holiness produces in our lives a loving conformity to God's commands which ultimately produces the character of God in us.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** Believers are exhorted to holy living. This holiness of living involves preparing the mind for action, seriousness about the Word of God, mature patience in light of future blessings, obedience, nonconformity to former behavior and actions (passions). Holy living is likeness in behavior to the holiness of God Himself. It is exhibiting conduct that is prompted by Godly fear. Holy living may require changing whom you associate with, which at times may be hard to determine. Most of all it is living in a manner that may cause others to seek God for themselves.<sup>2</sup>

**Questions:**

1. What is your once for all attitude about separation from sin?
2. Why should believers live a life that is separated from known sin?



### **Lesson III**

**Date:** February 21, 2016

#### **Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:17-21

#### **Lesson Outline**

##### **A. His Reception**

(1 Peter 1 vs 17)

##### **B. His Redemption**

(1 Peter 1 vs 18-19)

##### **C. His Revelation**

(1 Peter 1 vs 20)

##### **D. His Resurrection**

(1 Peter 1 vs 21)

## **Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

### **The Savior of the World**

A person who has not been born again by the Spirit of God will tell you that the teachings of Jesus are simple. But when he is baptized by the Holy Spirit, he finds that “clouds and darkness surround Him....” When we come into close contact with the teachings of Jesus Christ we have our first realization of this. The only possible way to have full understanding of the teachings of Jesus is through the light of the Spirit of God shining inside us. If we have never had the experience of taking our casual, religious shoes off our casual, religious feet— getting rid of all the excessive informality with which we approach God— it is questionable whether we have ever stood in His presence. The people who are flippant and disrespectful in their approach to God are those who have never been introduced to Jesus Christ. Only after the amazing delight and liberty of realizing what Jesus Christ does, comes the impenetrable “darkness” of realizing who He is.

Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Once, the Bible was just so many words to us — “clouds and darkness”— then, suddenly, the words become spirit and life because Jesus through the Holy Spirit brings them to us when our circumstances make the words new. That is the way God speaks to us; not by visions and dreams, but by reminding us of His words. When a man gets to God, it is by the most simple way— words.<sup>1</sup>

1. Explain the last time a passage of scripture reminded you of how to conduct yourself in a situation.

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.





**Lesson III**

**Date:** February 21, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 17 - 21

**Lesson Aim:** Students will know that the objective work of God for his/her salvation, is redemption.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.  
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<sup>3</sup>Emma Stevens

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**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

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**1 Peter 1:17-18 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers:

**1 Peter 1:17-19 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

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**A. His Reception**

*(Verse 17)* This word reward means something given in return for good or evil done. This verse says, "who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work". In other words out of the bema seat, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, He will determine if our works should be rewarded with jewels in our crowns or will our works be rewarded by being burned up because of our motives behind our actions. In light of this judgment, whether present or future, believers will not be quite so anchored to earth and time. Instead, we focus on the hope of eternity and view our life in this perspective. We view ourselves as strangers on earth. The term means that we have "temporary residency." It describes a person who visits for a short time in a country where he does not take out citizenship. This is the perspective of the believer who lives with pain in the light of hope. This is our viewpoint since we desire to see God forge his own holy character into our lives, even when this involves pain. We desire to be obedient to the commands of God even when it is difficult to believe because of the extremities of life (Rom. 11:20).<sup>1</sup>

**B. His Redemption**

*(Verse 18)* **Redeemed** is the dominant word used to describe our salvation hope. The word means "to release by paying a price or a ransom." For the Jews, the picture of redemption would be God's deliverance from Egypt. For the Gentiles, it would be the picture of a slave whose freedom was purchased. The message for both audiences is the same: before we can enter a relationship of faith with Christ.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson III**

**Date:** February 21, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 17 - 21

**Corruption:** The rendering of several Heb. and Gk. words, signifying (1) the decay of the body (Job 17:14; Psalm 16:10, KJV; NASB renders “the pit,” NIV “decay”); (2) the blemishes that rendered an animal unfit for sacrifice (Leviticus 22:25); (3) the demoralization of heart and life through sin.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:18-19 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

**The Savior of the World**

**B. His Redemption**

*(Verse 18)* We must realize that we are slaves who need to be set free from our empty way of life. An empty way of life is a life that has no real direction or purpose and leads to no good results (Eph. 4:7). It is essentially a life of entrapment. Peter's readers were trapped in the lifestyle inherited from their pagan ancestors. Their unconverted days are described as your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers (Jer. 9:14). But they had been ransomed from that futile existence by a tremendous transaction. They had been rescued from the slavery of world-conformity by the payment of an infinite ransom. We are too often trapped in the pagan materialism inherited from our culture. It is a life that has no escape from the futile and sinful behavior that will end in condemnation from the Eternal Judge.<sup>1</sup>

*(Verse 19)* In this verse, Peter uses an expression to transition from talking about what did not redeem them to now explaining, how they were redeemed. He says, “the precious blood of Christ”. Christ was prophesied of as a Redeemer under the Old Testament, (Isa. 59:20) and the Jews frequently ascribe redemption to the word of the Lord God. The apostle here attributes to the blood of Christ; whose blood is the same with ours, only not tainted with sin. The blood of an innocent person, and of one who is God, as well as man, and was freely shed in the room and stead of his people, and so a sufficient price for their redemption. It may truly be said, to be "precious"; as it is to God, to whom it is a sweet smelling sacrifice, and with which he is well pleased. Not that he takes delight in the mere pouring out of his blood, but as this is the ransom price, and the atonement of his chosen ones; and so it is to all them that believe, through it they have the forgiveness of their sins.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson III**  
**Date:** February 21, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 17 - 21

**Predestination:** This word is properly used only with reference to God's plan or purpose of salvation. The Greek word rendered "predestinate" is found only in these six passages, Acts 4:28; Rom 8:29, 30; 1Co 2:7; Eph 1:5, 11; and in all of them it has the same meaning. They teach that the eternal, sovereign, immutable, and unconditional decree or "determinate purpose" of God governs all events.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:19-20 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup> Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

**1 Peter 1:19-20 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

**The Savior of the World**

**B. His Redemption**

*(Verse 19)* When we believe, we receive the peace and reconciliation with God only made through the blood of Christ. By the blood we are sanctified, and redeemed. Christ is comparable to any lamb, for the innocence of his nature, the meekness of his disposition and deportment and for his patience under sufferings and in death. To the lambs of the daily sacrifice, which were typical of the continual and constant virtue and efficacy of his sacrifice to take away sin. Particularly to the paschal lamb, he being the true Passover, sacrificed for us; and which, as also the lambs of the daily sacrifice, and all others, were to be without spot and blemish (Ex. 12:5).<sup>1</sup>

**C. His Revelation**

*(Verse 20)* This word Revelation mean information revealed, disclosure. The death of Christ was not simply a panicked, emergency, plan-B approach. Nor was it an accident or twist of fate. The death of Christ (the ransom price) was planned before the cosmos appeared. Redemption salvation through the death of Jesus Christ was a plan made in eternity past, but demonstrated actually through the incarnation when Christ died and shed his blood on the cross. The phrase "was revealed", focuses attention on the incarnation, but it also implies the preexistence of Christ. The death of Jesus Christ, planned prior to creation, was for your sake. We should not view Christ's death as an isolated, distant, impersonal event. Peter's words, he did this for you, provided an intensely personal note, encouraging his readers that Christ's coming and the entire plan of salvation are for individual believers, loved and chosen by God (Gal. 4:4).<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson III**

**Date:** February 21, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1: 18 - 21

**Questions:**

1. What could you possibly offer to God for your redemption?
  
2. Our Lord and Savior has done so much for you . . . What hast thou done for Him?

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<sup>2</sup>Emma Stevens

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**1 Peter 1:21 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

**1 Peter 1:21 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

**The Savior of the World**

**D. His Resurrection**

*(Verse 21)* The fact that God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory is the foundation for our faith and hope for two reasons: (1) through Christ's resurrection and glorification, God openly declares that he has accepted Christ as our righteous substitute, thereby giving us access to God; (2) through Christ's resurrection and glorification, believers can receive power from the Holy Spirit (John 16: 5-15). The power that resurrected and glorified Christ is the same power that enables us to believe. Because Christ ransomed us, we must no longer fear God and face his judgment; instead, we set our faith and hope confidently in God, trusting in the one who planned our salvation from eternity past. As God raised Christ from the dead, we believe and expect that he will also raise us.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** The heart and soul of Christianity is redemption - set free by a costly ransom paid for our sin. Life is vain; that is, it is empty without the redemption of Christ. Redemption is the very purpose for which our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ came into the world. It is wonderful to know that we have been created by God; but how much more to know we have been redeemed. Only when we understand this key doctrinal word, can we know what a Christian is, what Christ has done for us, and how He wants us to live. Our relationship with God is the most important thing there is. Therefore, since you have been redeemed, everything about you should seek to glorify God.<sup>2</sup>



#### **Lesson IV**

**Date:** February 28, 2016

#### **Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 1:22-25

#### **Lesson Outline**

**A. A New Pattern of Life**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 22)

**B. A New Principle of Life**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 23)

**C. The Power of God's Word**  
(1 Peter 1 vs 24-25)

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#### **Love One Another**

Martha believed in the power available to Jesus Christ; she believed that if He had been there He could have healed her brother; she also believed that Jesus had a special intimacy with God, and that whatever He asked of God, God would do. But— she needed a closer personal intimacy with Jesus. Martha's theology had its fulfillment in the future. But Jesus continued to attract and draw her in until her belief became an intimate possession. It then slowly emerged into a personal inheritance— "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ..." (John 11:27). Is the Lord dealing with you in the same way? Is Jesus teaching you to have a personal intimacy with Himself? Allow Him to drive His question home to you— "Do you believe this?" Are you facing an area of doubt in your life? Have you come, like Martha, to a crossroads of overwhelming circumstances where your theology is about to become a very personal belief?

This happens only when a personal problem brings the awareness of our personal need. To believe is to commit. In the area of intellectual learning I commit myself mentally, and reject anything not related to that belief. In the realm of personal belief I commit myself morally to my convictions and refuse to compromise. But in intimate personal belief I commit myself spiritually to Jesus Christ and make a determination to be dominated by Him alone.

Then, when I stand face to face with Jesus Christ and He says to me, "Do you believe this?" I find that faith is as natural as breathing. And I am staggered when I think how foolish I have been in not trusting Him earlier.<sup>1</sup>

1. How often do you consider if your committed enough?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson IV**  
**Date:** February 28, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 22 - 25

**Lesson Aim:** Students will understand how our relationship to the Word of God will lead to a right relationship with one another in God's family.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary originated by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.  
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**1 Peter 1:22 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

**1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

**Love One Another**

**A. A New Pattern of Life**

*(Verse 22)* This word pattern mean, an ideal model. We as believers ought to be the ideal model of love, because God is love and that is why our pattern of life needs to include love. Peter in this verse now directs our attention to the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of our sanctification, for it is He who imparts to us a new pattern of life. The new pattern of life is experienced by way of cleansing: “seeing ye have purified your souls”; and by way of commitment: “in obeying the truth through the Spirit”. The perfect tense suggests a state that began in the past at our conversion to Jesus Christ and is still the case as we live out our salvation each day. When we placed our faith in Christ, God the Father cleansed us of our sin. He declared us pure in his eyes. Since that time we have begun to live out that purity or holiness in our daily behavior. We may not yet show all the characteristics of holy people, but the process has begun and will continue (Phil. 1:6). It continues as we obey the truth of the gospel and its demands. This is what we call practical sanctification in contrast to positional sanctification. Positional Sanctification has to do with our standing before God in Christ. Our standing is perfect because the blood of the lamb secures the standing for us. The newborn babe in Christ is as sure of heaven as the most gifted and successful Apostle, like Paul. Practical Sanctification mean that I have to live day to day and obey the word of God.<sup>1</sup>

Now Peter says in this verse that we should “love one another with a pure heart”. Peter insisted so firmly on this point that he doubled his instruction in this area. He repeated for emphasis one of the demands of the gospel: in our relationships we are to (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson IV**  
**Date:** February 28, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
**1 Peter 1: 22 - 25**

**Purification:** The process by which a person unclean, according to the Levitical law, and thereby cut off from the sanctuary and the festivals, was restored to the enjoyment of all these privileges. The great annual purification of the people was on the Day of Atonement (q.v.). But in the details of daily life there were special causes of ceremonial uncleanness which were severally provided for by ceremonial laws enacted for each separate case.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:22-23 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup> Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: <sup>23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**1 Peter 1:22-23 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. believe."

**Love One Another**

**A. A New Pattern of Life**

(*Verse 22*) demonstrate a sincere love for each other, a love that emerges from the depths of our heart. Two Greek words for love—phileo and agape—appear here. Whether a major distinction is intended is not clear. Peter may have been recalling the language that Jesus used with him years earlier (John 21:15-17). What is clear is that people of vertical faith know how to live with each other horizontally. God demands that we relate to one another with a self-sacrificing love. Our motive is not to get something out of the deal but to give to the other person. We are not attempting to manipulate others in order to benefit ourselves, but we are to extend ourselves for the sake of the other person. The adverb “fervently”, reinforces this point. It describes the intensity of our love for others. Drawn from the world of athletics, this word means "to exert oneself with all of one's energy." This kind of love is something that a person must work at, even when life is difficult. The love we extend to one another must be constant and enduring, unshaken by adversity or painful circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

**B. A New Principle of Life**

(*Verse 23*) Again Peter takes his readers back to their new birth, and this time to the seed of that birth the word of God. The new birth is not brought about by corruptible seed, that is, it is not produced in the same way as a physical birth. Human life is brought into being by means of seed that must obey physical laws of decay and death. The physical life that is produced has the same quality as the seed from which it sprang; it too is of a temporary character. The new birth is brought about through the word of God.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson IV**  
**Date:** February 28, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 1: 22 - 25

**Born Again:** The new birth is a creative life-giving operation of the Holy Spirit upon a lost human soul, whereby in response to faith in Christ crucified (John 3:14-16; Galatians 3:24), the believing one, “dead in . . . trespasses and sins” (Ephes. 2:1), is quickened into spiritual life and made a partaker of the divine nature and of the life of Christ Himself.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 1:23-24 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

<sup>24</sup> For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

**1 Peter 1:23-24 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

<sup>24</sup> For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

**Love One Another**

**B. A New Principle of Life**

(*Verse 23*) As men hear or read the Bible they are convicted of their sins, convinced that Christ is the sole and sufficient Savior, and converted to God. No one is ever saved apart from the instrumentality in some way of the incorruptible word of God (James 1:18).<sup>1</sup>

**C. The Power of God's Word**

(*Verse 24*) Peter in this verse quotes Isaiah (Isaiah 40:6-7). The verse say, “ For all flesh is as grass”. All men, as born of corruptible seed, are frail, mortal, and perishing; they spring up like grass, and look beautiful for a while, but are very weak and tender, and in a little time they are cut down by death, and wither away. He then turns to the flower, “the glory of man as the flower of grass”. The word rendered “grass,” properly denotes herbage; that which furnishes food for animals - pasture, hay. Probably the prophet Isaiah, from whom this passage is taken, referred rather to the appearance of a meadow or a field, with mingled grass and flowers, constituting a beautiful landscape, than to mere grass. In such a field, the grass soon withers with heat, and with the approach of winter; and the flowers soon fade and fall. This phrase take on the idea that all outward things which are in esteem with men, and render them glorious to one another, as riches, honour, wisdom, strength, external righteousness, holiness, and goodness; all which are fading and transitory, like the flower of the field. The Gospel continues, and reveals durable riches, and honour with Christ; and true wisdom and strength with him, and spiritual knowledge, in comparison of which, all things are dross and dung; and an everlasting righteousness; and true holiness in him.<sup>2</sup>





**Lesson IV**

**Date:** February 28, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

**1 Peter 1: 22 - 25**

**Questions:**

1. Are you loving your brother/sister in Christ with a pure heart fervently?
  
2. Are you growing by feeding on the Word of God?

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Questions by Emma Stevens

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**1 Peter 1:25 (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

**1 Peter 1:25 (NIV)**

<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

**Love One Another**

**C. The Power of God's Word**

*(Verse 25)* Living suggests the power of the Word of God to awaken new life and to initiate change in our lives through the application of its teaching. Enduring reinforces the idea of the permanence of the new life that God's Word generates as well as the permanence of the Word itself. The Word of God stands forever because the God who speaks it is the eternal, faithful, powerful one who always keeps his promises. This Word stands as the foundation for Christian preaching. Through it, you may come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and receive the eternal, living hope.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** Sincere love for one another is one of the birthmarks of God's children (John 13:35). When we were born again we were given the ability to love by the power of the Holy Spirit. This love is a sincere brotherly love, and not hypocritical. It is love from the heart and fervently - *meaning to put your most into it*. Love is treating one another the way God treats you. Love has been called the 'circulatory system of the body of Christ'. It enables us to 'bear with one another'; to 'speak to one another honestly'; to 'serve one another sacrificially'. Mere human love leads to cliques, however sincere brotherly love leads to a new pattern of life, a new principle of life, unity, and builds up the church.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson V**

**Date:** March 6, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 2:1-5

**Lesson Outline**

**A. Change your Attire**

(1 Peter 2 vs 1)

**B. Change your Appetite**

(1 Peter 2 vs 2-3)

**C. Change your Appearance**

(1 Peter 2 vs 4-5)

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**Time to Grow Up**

When a person is born again, there is a period of time when he does not have the same vitality in his thinking or reasoning that he previously had. We must learn to express this new life within us, which comes by forming the mind of Christ (see Philippians 2:5). Luke 21:19 means that we take possession of our souls through patience. But many of us prefer to stay at the entrance to the Christian life, instead of going on to create and build our soul in accordance with the new life God has placed within us. We fail because we are ignorant of the way God has made us, and we blame things on the devil that are actually the result of our own undisciplined natures. Just think what we could be when we are awakened to the truth!

There are certain things in life that we need not pray about—moods, for instance. We will never get rid of moodiness by praying, but we will by kicking it out of our lives. Moods nearly always are rooted in some physical circumstance, not in our true inner self. It is a continual struggle not to listen to the moods which arise as a result of our physical condition, but we must never submit to them for a second. We have to pick ourselves up by the back of the neck and shake ourselves; then we will find that we can do what we believed we were unable to do. The problem that most of us are cursed with is simply that we won't. The Christian life is one of spiritual courage and determination lived out in our flesh.<sup>1</sup>

1. What do you think is the take a way of these emphasizes?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson V**  
**Date:** March 6, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 I Peter 2: 1-5

**Lesson Aim:** Believers will understand that they have a new nature and are to live in that new nature by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers must put aside the things of the past and learn to live in the newness of their salvation by exhibiting different behaviors and attitudes than they exhibited in the past.<sup>4</sup>

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Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 2:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

**I Peter 2:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

**Time to Grow Up**

**A. Change your Attire**

*(Verse 1)* In the process of growing, there are changes that happen to the physical body and also mentally. The physical body, just like the mind begins to go through a process toward maturation. This section logically flows out of the previous chapter and is connected to it with the word therefore which draws the reader back to the subject of the Word of God. The Word of God was the content of Peter's preaching. The life-changing power of the Word must affect our lives as Christians. Reborn children of God should exhibit their new life in their day-to-day conduct. Believers ought to exhibit a different quality of life, marked by continuous growth. This word "attire" means clothing, outfit, or garment. So Peter says, "laying aside". The Greek expresses as a garment *put off*. The exhortation applies to Christians alone, for in none else is the new nature existing which, as "the inward man" (Eph 3:16) can cast off the old as an outward thing. The Christian, through the continual renewal of his inward man, can also exhibit himself externally as a new man.<sup>1</sup>

Peter says, "ridding yourselves of all malice", the New Testament writers often utilize vice lists to denounce certain types of behavior and activities (Rom 1:29-31) "**putting aside**" This is an AORIST MIDDLE PARTICIPLE which literally refers to personally "stripping off." The removal of clothing is a common biblical metaphor describing the spiritual life (cf. Job 29:14; Ps. 109; 29). Notice the MIDDLE VOICE, which emphasizes the action of the subject. Believers are to once-and-for-all (AORIST TENSE as a completed act) strip off all evil. This is only possible because of the previous theological presentation of the work of the Triune God.<sup>2</sup>

Let us look at Malice. Malice is the harboring of evil thoughts against another person. Malice nourishes antagonism, builds up grudges, and secretly hopes that revenge, harm, or tragedy will overtake another. Deceit any form of dishonesty and trickery (and what a variety of forms it takes!). Deceit falsifies income (nxt pg)<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson V**  
**Date:** March 6, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 I Peter 2: 1-5

**Regeneration:** The spiritual change wrought in man by the Holy Spirit, by which he becomes the possessor of a new life. It is to be distinguished from justification, because justification is a change in our relation to God, whereas regeneration is a change in our moral and spiritual nature.<sup>3</sup>

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**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 2:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, <sup>2</sup> As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

**I Peter 2:1 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

**Time to Grow Up**

**A. Change your Attire**

*(Verse 1)* tax returns, cheats on exams, lies about age, bribes officials, and pulls shady deals in business. The word hypocrisy means insincerity, pretense, sham. The hypocrite is a play-actor, pretending to be someone he is not. He pretends to be happily married when his home is actually a battlefield. He pretends to be spiritual on Sundays but he is as carnal as a goat on weekdays. He pretends interest in others but his motives are selfish. The word envy means bare-faced jealousy. Vine defines it as the feeling of displeasure produced by observing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others. It was envy that caused the chief priests to deliver Jesus up to Pilate for death (Matt. 27:18). Envy is still a killer. Women can look daggers at others because of their better homes and gardens, smarter clothes, or superior cooking. A man can praise another fellow's new car or speedboat but what he is thinking is, "I'll show him. I'll get something better."<sup>1</sup>

The word evil speaking—backbiting, malicious gossip, recrimination. Slander is the attempt to make oneself look cleaner by slinging mud at someone else. It may take very subtle forms such as: "Yes, she is a lovely person but she has this one failing...." and then the knife is deftly thrust into her back. Or it may even have a religious pose: "I mention this only for your prayer fellowship, but did you know that he...." and then the character is assassinated. All of these sins are violations of the fundamental commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. No wonder Peter tells us to decisively rid ourselves of them.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson V**  
**Date:** March 6, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 I Peter 2: 1-5

**Sweet Milk** (Heb. *halab*, “fat”; Gk. *gala*). This was in extensive use among the Hebrews, as well as other nations. They used not only the milk of cows but also that of sheep (Deut. 32:14), of camels (Genesis 32:15), and of goats (Proverbs 27:27). It was not regarded as a mere adjunct in cooking but as substantial food adapted to all ages and classes.

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**I Peter 2:2-3 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: <sup>3</sup> If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

**I Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**Time to Grow Up**

**B. Change your Appetite**

*(Verse 2)* This word appetite means craving, desire, or passion. As newborn babies crave milk, so born-again believers should crave (long for) pure spiritual milk that will nourish them and help them grow to maturity. This points to the word of God, which provides spiritual life to those who partake of it. Like milk, the essential nourishment for babies, God’s word sustains life and gives growth. The purity of God’s word means that there is no imperfection, no flaws, no dilutions, and that it will not deceive or lead people astray. (Note that “milk” is used in a positive context. This verse should not be compared to 1 Corinthians 3:2 and Hebrews 5:12-13), where the writers employed a similar metaphor but used milk—in contrast to meat—as depicting the diet of immature believers.)<sup>1</sup>

By using the term baby, Peter was not implying that his readers were young believers; indeed, some of them had been Christians for as many as thirty years. Instead, he may have been picking up the reference to being “born again” in 1:23. Peter was saying that believers should always crave more and more of God’s word in the same way that a baby cries for milk.<sup>2</sup>

*(Verse 3)* Quoting Psalm 34:8, Peter continued the milk analogy used in 1 Peter 2:2 and likened their present knowledge of Christ to tasting. They had taken a sample, having experienced God’s grace in their new birth, and had found that indeed the Lord is good. [The Bible Knowledge Commentary]. One of the evidences of spiritual life is the hunger for spiritual food, the Word of God. As we grow up in the Lord, we move from milk to meat and bread. (Matt.4:4).<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson**

**Date:** March 06, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

**I Peter 2: 1-5**

**Questions:**

1. How much do you need still lay aside in your life?
2. Where do you need to grow up and what will or can you do about it?

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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**I Peter 2: 4-5 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> To whom coming, *as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,* <sup>5</sup> Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**I Peter 2: 4-5 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**Time to Grow Up**

**C. Change your Appearance**

**(Verse 4) 2:4 “And coming to Him”** Note the continual coming and personal element, “to Him.” This term may have the connotation of approaching God, as a priest or worshiper (cf. Heb. 4:16; 7:25; 10:1, 22; 11:6). Peter changes his metaphor from milk in vv. 2–3, to construction metaphors in vv. 4–8 (believers as living stones and Jesus as the cornerstone). [**The Gospel of Mark I & II Peter Utley, Bob**].<sup>1</sup>

**(Verse 5)** Peter portrays the church as a living, spiritual temple, with Christ as the foundation and cornerstone and each believer as a stone. One stone is not a temple or even a wall; one body part is useless without the others. In our individualistic society, it is easy to forget our interdependence with other Christians. When God calls you to a task, remember that he is also calling others to work with you.<sup>2</sup>

**Summary:** God has given the believer a new nature that the Holy Spirit works in and produces different character and attitudes. The old way of thinking should not continue. They are now being called to separate from the evil things of the past. They are now to lay aside doing things with malice, deceit, envy, slander and other things which violate the principle of love. The believer should have an intense appetite for the Word of God so it can nourish the soul which makes growth and development possible. Believers must know that they are identified with Christ in a personal way. Christ is the chosen, precious living stone and the believer who possess His life are living stones.



## Lesson VI

Date: March 13, 2016

### Lesson Scriptures:

1 Peter 2:6-10

### Lesson Outline

A. A Chief Corner Stone  
(1 Peter 2 vs 6-8)

B. A Chosen People  
(1 Peter 2 vs 9a)

C. A Continued Praise  
(1 Peter 2 vs 9b-10)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

### Building Your House

The inescapable spiritual need each of us has is the need to sign the death certificate of our sin nature. I must take my emotional opinions and intellectual beliefs and be willing to turn them into a moral verdict against the nature of sin; that is, against any claim I have to my right to myself. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ....” He did not say, “I have made a determination to imitate Jesus Christ,” or, “I will really make an effort to follow Him” —but— “I have been identified with Him in His death.” Once I reach this moral decision and act on it, all that Christ accomplished for me on the Cross is accomplished in me. My unrestrained commitment of myself to God gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to grant to me the holiness of Jesus Christ.

“...it is no longer I who live....” My individuality remains, but my primary motivation for living and the nature that rules me are radically changed. I have the same human body, but the old satanic right to myself has been destroyed.

“...and the life which I now live in the flesh,” not the life which I long to live or even pray that I live, but the life I now live in my mortal flesh— the life which others can see, “I live by faith in the Son of God....” This faith was not Paul’s own faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith the Son God had given to him (see Ephesians 2:8). It is no longer a faith in faith, but a faith that transcends all imaginable limits— a faith that comes only from the Son of God.<sup>1</sup>

1. Why do you struggle with this or why do people struggle with this?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson VI**  
**Date: March 13, 2016**  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1Peter 2: 6-10

**Lesson Aim:** To be aware that you possess Christ's life and are now a living stone. Along with other believers, you constitute a spiritual house that should declare the gracious goodness of God in calling lost men out of spiritual darkness into His wonderful light. To allow the light of God to shine in your life as he reveals Himself to you in a personal way.<sup>3</sup>

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**1Peter 2: 6-7 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

<sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

**1Peter 2: 6-7(NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,

**Building Your House**

**A. A Chief Corner Stone**

**(Verse 6)** To support his words in 2:4-5, Peter quoted from the Scriptures, citing several Old Testament passages. First, in Isaiah 28:16, God promised to establish a cornerstone, the first stone laid in a building, making the foundation stable and the walls plumb and square. That this stone would be laid in Jerusalem meant not only that Christ had lived in and around Jerusalem, but also that this new building (the Christian church and the new covenant) with Christ as the cornerstone would actually replace the old building (the Jerusalem Temple and the old covenant). This cornerstone is a person, and anyone who believes in him will never be disappointed (Rom. 9:33; 10:11). Christians will sometimes face disappointment in this life, but their trust in God is never misplaced. God will not let them down. These words greatly comforted believers facing persecution. As a building rests on its cornerstone, so believers rest on Christ. We can safely put our confidence in Christ because he will certainly give to us the eternal life he promises.<sup>1</sup>

**(Verse 7)** This cornerstone is a person, and anyone who believes in him will never be disappointed (see also Romans 9:33; 10:11). Christians will sometimes face disappointment in this life, but their trust in God is never misplaced. God will not let them down. These words greatly comforted believers facing persecution. As a building rests on its cornerstone, so believers rest on Christ.<sup>2</sup>





**Lesson VI**  
**Date:** March 13, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2: 6-10

**Stumbling Block:** is used as any object over which a person may trip, and hence the cause of ruin or disgust (Jeremiah 6:21; Ezekiel 7:19; etc.), or an *idol* (Zeph. 1:3, see marg.), i.e., an incitement to apostasy.<sup>4</sup>

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**1 Peter 2: 8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

**1 Peter 2: 8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

**Building Your House**

**A. A Chief Corner Stone**

(*Verse 7*) We can safely put our confidence in Christ because he will certainly give to us the eternal life he promises (Zec. 4:7).<sup>1</sup>

(*Verse 8*) Quoting once again from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 8:14), Peter further explained that not only were the builders who rejected the stone humiliated that it later became the cornerstone, they also had stumbled and fallen over this stone. The word "stumbled" can mean tripping and falling, or it can mean taking offense at or rejecting something or someone. Peter explained that they stumble because they do not listen to God's word or obey it—this disobedience refers not to slipups by one who tries to obey; rather it means outright rejection of the Word and the Messiah that the Word promised, and a rebellious stance toward God. Some stumble over Christ because they reject him or refuse to believe that he is who he claims to be. They have stumbled over the one person who could save them, and they have fallen into God's hands for judgment.<sup>2</sup>

Peter's point is that God has predestined punishment for those who disbelieve, so that only the consequence of disbelief is ordained. The fact of predestination does not imply that all our choices are predetermined. Because God is not limited by time as we are, he "sees" past, present, and future at the same time. Parents sometimes "know" how their children will behave before the fact. We don't conclude from these parents' foreknowledge that they made their children act that way. God's foreknowledge, insofar as we can understand it, means that God knows who will accept the offer of salvation and who will reject it (Jude 1:4).<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson VI**  
**Date:** March 13, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2: 6-10

**Priesthood:** In the precise terminology of the law it is used of one who may “draw near” to the divine presence (Exodus 19:22; Exodus 30:20), whereas others remain afar off, and it is usually applied to the sons of Aaron.<sup>3</sup>

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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 2:9a (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**1 Peter 2:9a (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Building Your House**

**B. A Chosen People**

**(Verse 9a)** This word “chosen” means selected, preferred, elected or special. This verse contrasts the privilege and destiny of believers with that of unbelievers (described in 2:8). Believers are a chosen people, a distinct group from the rest of the world, unified by the Holy Spirit. Just as the nation of Israel had been God’s chosen people, Christians have become God’s people, not by physical birth into a certain race but by spiritual rebirth into God’s family through Jesus Christ. Believers also are a kingdom of priests, God’s holy nation (Exodus 19:6). Being part of a “priesthood” is a high honor for believers. Christians speak of “the priesthood of all believers.” In Old Testament times, people did not approach God directly. Instead, a priest would act as an intermediary between God and sinful human beings. With Christ’s victory on the cross, that pattern changed. Now believers can come directly into God’s presence without fear (Hebrews 4:16).<sup>1</sup>

Believers have been given the responsibility of bringing others to him (2 Cor. 5: 18-21). United with Christ as members of his body, believers join in his priestly work of reconciling God and people. “Holy nation” refers to Christians as a people who are distinct from all the others because of their devotion to God. God’s special people are to show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Christians were redeemed with a special purpose—to glorify and praise the one who has called them out of the darkness of sin and of their hostile surroundings into the light of eternal life.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VI**  
**Date:** March 13, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1Peter 2: 6-10

**Questions:**

1. What are you doing for your spiritual growth?
  
2. As a living stone, how are God’s attributes demonstrated in your life?
  
3. What are you doing to declare God’s goodness in calling the lost from darkness to light?

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**1 Peter 2:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

**1 Peter 2:10 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Building Your House**

**C. A Continued Praise**

*(Verse 9b)* Just as Israel had been, at one time, rejected by God without any hope of forgiveness for their sins.<sup>1</sup>

*(Verse 10)* Believers are now the people of God because they have been chosen by him (2:9) and have received his mercy. The word “Mercy” means God’s compassionate treatment of us even though we deserve the full measure of his justice. God had no obligation to gather a people together to whom he would show mercy; not one of us deserves his slightest concern. God drawing a people unto himself and lavishing mercy on them gives overwhelming evidence of his great love. The names that Peter calls believers (1 Pet. 2:9–10) are important because they reveal our identity. Peter draws on the Exodus account for his language here: “I ... brought you [out of Egypt] to Myself ... You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests” (Ex. 19:4–6). God first identified with and redeemed the people of Israel, then He made covenant agreements with them (see “The New Covenant” at Rom. 10:1, and “The New Covenant” at 1 Cor. 11:25). Likewise for us, first God’s grace secures our identity, then our commitment to His service.<sup>2</sup>

**Summary:** Jesus is the living stone and chief cornerstone. He is also the rejected stone and the stone of stumbling to nonbelievers. Peter taught believers that they are living stones which constitute a spiritual house. They are chosen by God and united into one people and are valuable to God. But like God they will be rejected by men. But rejection should not prevent them from proclaiming the praises of the one God who called them. Believers are to continue to be nourished by the Word of God which makes for growth and development. You are responsible to declare the goodness of God in calling lost men out of spiritual darkness into His wonderful light.<sup>3</sup>



**Lesson VII**

**Date:** March 20, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:**

1 Peter 2:11-12

**Lesson Outline**

**A. Temporary Residents**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 11a-b)

**B. Resist My Own Desires**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 11c)

**C. Do What is Right**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 12)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**Give Your Life to God**

The inescapable spiritual need each of us has is the need to sign the death certificate of our sin nature. I must take my emotional opinions and intellectual beliefs and be willing to turn them into a moral verdict against the nature of sin; that is, against any claim I have to my right to myself. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ....” He did not say, “I have made a determination to imitate Jesus Christ,” or, “I will really make an effort to follow Him” —but— “I have been identified with Him in His death.” Once I reach this moral decision and act on it, all that Christ accomplished for me on the Cross is accomplished in me. My unrestrained commitment of myself to God gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to grant to me the holiness of Jesus Christ.

“...it is no longer I who live....” My individuality remains, but my primary motivation for living and the nature that rules me are radically changed. I have the same human body, but the old satanic right to myself has been destroyed.

“...and the life which I now live in the flesh,” not the life which I long to live or even pray that I live, but the life I now live in my mortal flesh— the life which others can see, “I live by faith in the Son of God....” This faith was not Paul’s own faith in Jesus Christ, but the faith the Son God had given to him (see Ephesians 2:8). It is no longer a faith in faith, but a faith that transcends all imaginable limits— a faith that comes only from the Son of God.<sup>1</sup>

1. Why do you struggle with this or why do people struggle with this?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson VII**  
**Date:** March 20, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Lesson Aim:** Students will realize, our behavior as a child of God is to maintain a conduct that is honorable.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 2:11-12 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; <sup>12</sup> 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.

**1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Give Your Life to God**

**A. Temporary Residents**

*(Verse 11a-b)* This word temporary mean, one serving for a limited time. Peter encourages the readers to abstain from fleshly lusts because you are strangers and pilgrims while you are on this earth. The word stranger in our text mean, 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 awhile, long enough to rent or lease a house, but is not a permanent resident. He has no legal rights or status in that country. He is a stranger, who dwells in a strange land (Psalm 39:12). Peter is letting us know that he is a resident, but he is not a citizen of this earth. He has no legal status in the world. He is not to follow the standards and the ways of this world. He belongs to God and heaven; therefore, his legal status is in heaven. He is to follow the standards and the ways of God (Rom. 12:1).<sup>1</sup>

Our laws are the laws of God, the highest, most moral and just laws in the entire universe. We have no right to live by the standards and laws of the world, because they are far lower than the standards that God has for us. The believer is to live as a stranger on earth, as one whose heart and mind are upon a far greater home and world. This does not mean that we do not obey the legal laws of the land. All foreigners are to obey the laws of a land when they visit that land. We go beyond obeying just human laws, we as citizens of heaven obey the laws of God (Rom. 13:1).<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VII**  
**Date:** March 20, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Lust:** In the ethical sense *lust* is used to express sinful desire—sinful either in being directed toward forbidden objects or in being so violent as to overcome self-control and to engross the mind with earthly, carnal, and perishable things.<sup>3</sup>

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**1 Peter 2:11-12 (KJV)**

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**Give Your Life to Christ**

**A. Temporary Residents**

*(Verse 11a-b)* The word pilgrim has more of a temporary idea than stranger. Pilgrim has the idea of a visitor or sojourner, who may be visiting and staying for a while, but long enough to lease a house. The point is that we as believers are only passing through this earth on our way to heaven. We know that heaven is our home and that is where our heart and minds are focused. That is why we do not get entangled with the world and its affairs.<sup>1</sup>

**B. Resist My Own Desires**

*(Verse 11c)* Peter then says, “abstain from fleshly lusts because they war against the soul”. The term “fleshly lusts” mean those evil desires, urges, passions and lusts of the flesh. It takes on the idea of having a yearning or craving passion for the things of the flesh. we ought to remain as untouched as possible by this world’s rampant sin, keeping away from evil desires. Because we will not escape our sinful surroundings until Christ returns, and because we still have a sinful nature that wants us to act on its desires. We will not be able to remain completely free of sin and its effects, but we can keep away by controlling the desires right from the start. Those desires fight against our very souls. Once we become believers, a battle has begun, for Satan is the enemy of Christ and his followers. The word “souls” refers to the inner, spiritual part of a person. Desires come from deep within us; often our sinful desires never actually become (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VII**  
**Date:** March 20, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Abstinence:** It may be defined as a self-discipline which consists in the habitual renunciation, in whole or in part, of the enjoyments of the flesh, with a view to the cultivation of the life of the spirit. In its most extreme forms, it bids men to stifle and suppress their physical wants.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-2</sup>Commentary compiled by Rev. Terrence Howard, TH.M.  
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<sup>3</sup>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

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**Great Commission Baptist Church**

Adult Sunday School Lesson

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 2:11-12 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; <sup>12</sup> 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.

**1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

**Give Your Life to God**

**B. Resist My Own Desires**

*(Verse 11c)* sinful actions. Peter wrote that while believers know that their lives and actions must be changed by Christ, they also must have their inner lives transformed. Sinful desires may seem much less evil than sinful actions, but Peter explained that they too can hurt us as they war against our souls. Entertaining evil desires, even if those desires are never acted upon, takes our focus off of Christ and turns our hearts from heavenly to earthly desires. All evil actions begin with a single thought; therefore, Peter advised believers to kill sin right at its root.<sup>1</sup>

**C. Do What is Right**

*(Verse 12)* This thought follows from 2:11 without a break in the Greek text—the believers were to have their inner selves under control so that their outer lives would be honoring to God. Believers are called to honor God by living honorably and morally upright in and in spite of an unholy world so that unbelieving neighbors will glorify God. Peter’s advice sounds like Jesus’ advice recorded in Matthew 5:16. If believers’ actions are honorable, even hostile people might end up praising God. Peter’s readers were scattered among unbelieving Gentiles who were inclined to believe and spread vicious lies about Christians, accusing them of wrongdoing, blaming them without cause. Attractive, gracious, and upright behavior on the part of Christians could show (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VII**  
**Date:** March 20, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Questions:**

1. Why should we live a blameless life?
2. What are the dangers when Christian live for this world and its lust and pleasures?

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<sup>2</sup>Emma Stevens

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**Give Your Life to God**

**C. Do What is Right**

*(Verse 12)* these rumors to be false and could even win some of the unsaved critics to the Lord's side. Peter urged the believers not to be surprised when persecution and false accusations arose, and to live above reproach so that the accusations would have to be dropped. Do the right thing.<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** In our lesson, Peter is writing to Christians who were going through a time of suffering and persecution. They are told how to behave in the midst of those who speak evil of them, who abuse them, who do not believe their message, simply because they are Christians. He pleads with them that the best way to answer the persecution is by living an honest and clean life! Their behavior (as well as ours today) must be to refrain from manifesting the works of the flesh - enjoying worldly, lustful, sinful things, and live honestly before an unsaved world. A nineteenth-century Scottish preacher named Alexander MacLaren commented, "*The world takes its notions of God, most of all, from the people who say that they belong to God's family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible. They see us; they only hear about Jesus Christ.*" The world is watching you. They may speak against you and persecute you, but if you are living an honest and clean life that bring glory to God, ultimately they can give their life to God by watching you.<sup>2</sup>





### **Lesson VIII**

**Date:** March 27, 2016

**Lesson Scriptures:** 1 Peter 2:13-17

#### **Lesson Outline**

**A. The Exhortation**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 13a)

**B. The Extent**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 13b-14)

**C. The Explanation**  
(1 Peter 2 vs 15-17)

**Great Commission Baptist Church**  
Adult Sunday School Lesson  
Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

### **The Principles of Submission**

Jesus did not say, “He who believes in Me will realize all the blessings of the fullness of God,” but, in essence, “He who believes in Me will have everything he receives escape out of him.” Our Lord’s teaching was always anti-self-realization. His purpose is not the development of a person— His purpose is to make a person exactly like Himself, and the Son of God is characterized by self-expenditure. If we believe in Jesus, it is not what we gain but what He pours through us that really counts. God’s purpose is not simply to make us beautiful, plump grapes, but to make us grapes so that He may squeeze the sweetness out of us. Our spiritual life cannot be measured by success as the world measures it, but only by what God pours through us— and we cannot measure that at all.

When Mary of Bethany “broke the flask...of very costly oil...and poured it on [Jesus’] head,” it was an act for which no one else saw any special occasion; in fact, “...there were some who...said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted?’ ” (Mark 14:3-4). But Jesus commended Mary for her extravagant act of devotion, and said, “...wherever this gospel is preached...what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her” (Mark 14:9). Our Lord is filled with overflowing joy whenever He sees any of us doing what Mary did— not being bound by a particular set of rules, but being totally surrendered to Him. God poured out the life of His Son “that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:17). Are we prepared to pour out our lives for Him?

“He who believes in Me...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”— and hundreds of other lives will be continually refreshed. Now is the time for us to break “the flask” of our lives, to stop seeking our own satisfaction, and to pour out our lives before Him. Our Lord is asking who of us will do it for Him?<sup>1</sup>

1. Does your life make it obvious that you are a Christian if so explain?

<sup>1</sup>Ferguson, David. *The Great Commandment Principle*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1998.



**Lesson VIII**  
**Date:** March 27, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:13-17

**Lesson Aim:** Students will recognize why submission is a principle, not a rigid law.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Emma Stevens

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Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

**1 Peter 2:13-14 (KJV)**

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; <sup>14</sup> Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

**1 Peter 2:13-14 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

**The Principles of Submission**

**A. The Exhortation**

*(Verse 13a)* The word exhort mean, to urge, advise, or warn earnestly. We are to submit to human laws. As Christians, we should submit to the authority vested in human government. The word "ordinance" mean, creation or institution. This does not refer to each individual law, but to the institutions that make and enforce the laws. It is possible to submit to the institutions and still disobey the laws. For example, when Daniel and his three friends refused to obey the king's dietary regulations, they disobeyed the law; but the way that they did it proved that they honored the king and respected the authorities (Dan. 1). They were not rebels; they were careful not to embarrass the official in charge or get him into trouble; and yet they stood their ground. They glorified God and, at the same time, honored the authority of the king. is important that we respect the office even though we cannot respect the man or woman in the office. As much as possible, we should seek to cooperate with the government and obey the law; but we must never allow the law to make us violate our conscience or disobey God's Word. The government has no right to control the pulpit or the business meeting, but it has every right to control matters that relate to safety and operation. If the law requires a certain number of exits, or fire extinguishers, or emergency lights, the church must comply (Eph. 5:21).<sup>1</sup>

**B. The Extent**

*(Verse 13b)* This word "extent" mean, the range or space over which something extends, stretch forth or out. Peter named the range of the offices we are to respect. "The king" meant "the emperor." In democratic nations, we have a president or premier. Peter did not criticize the Roman government or suggest that it be overthrown. God's church has been able to live and grow in all kinds of political systems.<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VIII**  
**Date:** March 27, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:13-17

**Punishment:** The primary ground for the infliction of punishment is not the reformation of offenders. In the divine administration a distinction is clearly made between chastisement and punishments properly so called. In the administration of human government the object of reformation often has a proper recognition, though the reason and warrant for the penal sanctions of law are still deeper than that.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> New Unger's Bible Dictionary

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**1 Peter 2:14-15 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

<sup>15</sup> For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

**1 Peter 2:14-15 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.

**The Principles of Submission**

**B. The Extent**

*(Verse 14)* The injunction of obedience applies to subordinate officials such as governors. They are authorized by God to punish offenders and to praise those who keep the law. Actually, government officials have little time or inclination to do the latter, but that does not alter the responsibility of the Christian to obey! Of course, there are exceptions. There is a time when obedience is not required. If a human government orders a believer to act contrary to the revealed will of God, then the believer must disobey the government. In that case he has a higher responsibility; he should obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). If punishment is meted out for his disobedience, he should endure it courageously. Under no circumstances should he rebel or seek to overthrow the government. The questions as to whether a Christian should vote or engage in politics are of a different order. The government does not demand these things, so it is not a question of obedience or disobedience. Each one must act in the light of the principles of conduct and citizenship found in the Bible. Here too we must allow liberty for differing viewpoints and not insist that others see eye to eye with us (Luke 18:3-5).<sup>1</sup>

**C. The Explanation**

*(Verse 15)* This word "explanation" mean to make clear. We have seen who to submit to, how far we should submit, and why we should submit. Now Peter launches into an inspired explanation of God's demand that we submit to those who are in authority over us. God's will is that His people should live so honorably and unblam ably that the unconverted will have no legitimate basis for accusation. By lives of exemplary conduct, Christians can and should expose the ignorance of the charges made against Christianity by foolish men. Christians and (nxt pg)<sup>2</sup>



**Lesson VIII**  
**Date:** March 27, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:13-17

**Malice:** now used in the sense of deliberate ill-will, by its derivation means badness, or wickedness generally, and was so used in Older English.<sup>5</sup>

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**1 Peter 2:15-16 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: <sup>16</sup> As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

**1 Peter 2:15-16 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. <sup>16</sup> Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.

**The Principles of Submission**

**C. The Explanation**

(*Verse 15*) the Christian faith are ceaselessly bombarded by the ignorance of foolish men. It may be in the university classroom; it may be in the science laboratory; it may be in the pulpit. Peter says that one of the best answers to such blasting is a holy life (Psalm 5:5).<sup>1</sup>

(*Verse 16*) Act as free men. We are not in bondage or slavery to civil authorities. Submission to authority does not eliminate freedom from the believer's life. Perhaps this concern prompted Peter to speak to the subject of freedom. The freedom of the New Testament is not political freedom but spiritual freedom. The great freedoms of the Christian life are: (1) freedom from the ruling power of sin in our lives; (2) freedom from guilt because our sins have been forgiven by God; and (3) freedom from the impossible obligation of attempting to earn favor with God through perfect obedience.<sup>2</sup>

The Bible emphasizes that in those areas where the Word of God gives no command or primary principle, we are free and responsible to choose our own course of action. This is a freedom to choose what is right. Christian freedom does not allow us to do wrong. It does not permit us to disobey human laws unless these are in direct conflict with God's ways. Nor does our freedom permit us to disobey God, because we are servants of God (Rom. 6:18).<sup>3</sup>

This word (*doulos*) literally means "a slave." We are free, yet paradoxically we are slaves who serve God with our lives. Christian freedom is always conditioned by Christian responsibility. Christian freedom does not mean being free to do only as we *like*; it means being free to do as we ought (Eph. 6:6).<sup>4</sup>



**Lesson VIII**  
**Date:** March 27, 2016  
**Lesson Scriptures:**  
 1 Peter 2:13-17

**Questions:**

1. What should be the believer's relationship to the law of the land?
  
2. How can we find the strength to live a life of submission?

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**1 Peter 2:17 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

**1 Peter 2:17 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

**The Principles of Submission**

**C. The Explanation**

*(Verse 17)* Before returning to the subject of slaves in verse 18, Peter offered a summary word of counsel. Respect for everyone indicates that we should approach relationships with others with a positive point of reference. We should see others as having value or honor. In the culture of that day, this could easily have been missed. The Roman Empire included sixty million slaves. Roman law considered slaves not as persons but as commodities with no rights. In effect, Peter calls us to "remember the rights of human personality and the dignity of every person. Don't treat people as objects." With this as an operating principle, we have a special obligation to each other as believers: to love each other (1 Peter 1:22).<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** When the Christian submits to government and to those who are in authority over his life, he is again revealing the praises of God through his life. We owe an honor to the office of the man who rules over us. We are to be obedient to the law of the land because we are giving a testimony. Every true born-again believer is obligated to be not only a faithful Christian, but a worthy citizen. Heavenly privileges do not relieve us from civil responsibilities. Believers are to respect and obey all the laws and ordinances established by the state. Whether we consider them to be right or wrong, lenient or stringent, essential or nonessential, God says, 'submit yourselves to every ordinance'. Why? Because God is the source of government. Therefore, let us exercise our freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone we meet with dignity. Love the family of believers. Revere God. Respect the government.<sup>2</sup>

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