

# 1 Peter 2 - Jesus Christ our example

## 2:1-3 DESIRE THE MILK OF THE WORD

**v1 Wherefore:** Close link with preceding verses in **1 Pet 1:22-25**.

**Laying aside malice:** Those born again are compelled to live a changed life freed from slavery to sin. Contrast with the old man.

**Guile:** Trickery, deceit, serpent thinking: **Mk 14:1**. Following the example of Christ: **1 Pet 2:22; 3:10**, cp. **Rev 14:5**. **Hypocrisies:** Play-acting: **Mt 23:28; 1 Tim 4:2**. **Envious:** **Prov 14:30; Mt 27:18**. Even the disciples struggled with this: **Mt 20:24; Lk 22:24**. **Evil speakings:** Slander: **Ps 15:3**. The tongue: **Jas 3:2-16**.

**v2 Newborn:** Born again: **1 Pet 1:22-25**. Humble as a child: **Mt 18:3**. **Desire milk:** A young baby is desperate for mother's milk. So too we must develop a desire for God's Word: **2 Tim 3:14-17**. A thirst for understanding: **Psa 42:1; 63:1; Mt 5:6**. The prophets "enquired and searched diligently" God's Word: **1 Pet 1:10-11**. The need to make time for Bible reading and study. Those with this spirit will be blessed: **Ps 50:4-5; 119:103-105; Mt 5:6; 7:7-8; Jas 1:5; Rev 1:3**. **Grow:** First milk, then meat: **Heb 5:12-14**. Growth in Christ compels us to reach out in grace: **2 Pet 3:18**. Continuous growth in spiritual thinking is essential. **v3 Tasted:** From **Psa 34:6-8**, where angels surround those that love God, a consolation for those suffering trials. **Gracious:** Kindness.

## 2:4-8 JESUS CHRIST THE LIVING STONE

**v4 To whom coming:** Literally *drawing near to him*. **Living stone:** Same word tr. as *stone* in **Mt 21:42,44; Acts 4:11**. A paradox!

Another principle from the book of **Daniel**. See notes on RHS. Also a direct quote from **Ps 118:22-23**.

**Disallowed:** Lit. *to be rejected*.

**Chosen:** *Elect*, also in **1:2; 2:6,9**.

Here are 2 specific aspects of Christ's mission: his **suffering** and **glory**. These are emphasised by using key words from **Messianic** prophecies in **Ps 118: 22-23; Isa 28:16** (rejected/chosen/precious). Repeated in **2:7**.

**v5 Ye also:** We too are chosen, precious. **Lively stones:** Living! **Spiritual house:** Used of the tabernacle and temple. **Holy priesthood:** **Rev 1:6; 5:10**.

**Spiritual sacrifices:** The personal sacrifice of self-interest. Giving of our whole lives in service to God: **Rom 12:1; Phil 2:17; 4:18; Heb 13:15,16**. **v6 Chief corner stone:** Whole building is based on Christ as the head of the spiritual family: **Ps 118:22; Mt 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet 2:7**. Further detail is in **Eph 2:20**. **Not be confounded:** Lit. *Put to shame*. Quoted from **Isa 28:16**, also cited in **Rom 10:11**.



that ye should shew forth the <sup>a</sup>praises of him who hath called you <sup>a</sup>out of darkness into his marvellous light:

<sup>10</sup> <sup>b</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.

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

<sup>12</sup> <sup>d</sup>Having your <sup>e</sup>conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, <sup>e</sup>whereas they speak against you as <sup>f</sup>evildoers, they may <sup>g</sup>by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of <sup>h</sup>visitation.

<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 <sup>i</sup>for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

<sup>15</sup> For so is <sup>j</sup>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 <sup>k</sup>using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as <sup>l</sup>the servants of God.

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

<sup>18</sup> Servants, <sup>n</sup>be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

<sup>19</sup> For this <sup>o</sup>is <sup>o</sup>thankworthy, <sup>b</sup>if a man <sup>o</sup>for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

<sup>20</sup> For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, <sup>p</sup>this <sup>o</sup>is <sup>o</sup>acceptable with God.

<sup>21</sup> For even <sup>o</sup>hereunto were

In **1 Pet 2:1-8** he cites 4 key **Messianic** Scriptures: **Psa 34:8; 118:22; Isa 8:14; 28:16**. Jesus also suffered persecution and can sympathise with them.

**v7 Believe:** Conviction developed out of knowledge: **Heb 11:1-6**. This gives believers assurance of certain hope.

**Disobedient:** Literally *the disbelieving*.

**v8 Stone of stumbling:** "An obstacle against which one may dash his foot" (Vine). A loose stone. They thought they could kick him out of the way but found he was an immovable rock.

**Rock of offence:** Cited from **Isa 8:14-15**. Peter was at one point an *offence* to Christ by his words in **Mt 16:23**. **Stumble:** Gentiles also: **2 Thess 2:11**.

## 2:9-10 A LIVING PRIESTHOOD

**v9 Chosen generation:** The house of David: **2 Sam 7:11**. Christ was encouraged by this in his final hours: **Psa 22:30**. Many are called but few chosen: **Mt 20:16**. Yahweh's special treasure: **Mal 3:17**. **Royal priesthood:** Chosen to be kings and priests: **Rev 1:6; 5:10**.

Melchizedek was king and priest: **Gen 14:18; Heb 7:3**. **Holy nation:** Cited from **Ex 19:6**. Separated to God: **2 Cor 6:17-18**. **Peculiar:** A *purchased* people, now applied to believers, spiritual Israel: **Eph 1:14**. **Shew forth:** God's purpose is to fill the earth with His glory, His character: **Num 14:21; Ps 72:19; Acts 15:14**. **Darkness:** **1 Jn 1:5,6; 2,8,9,11**. **Light:** Jesus Christ: **Jn 8:12**. Believers: **Phil 2:15**. **v10 In time past:** Quoting **Hos 1:9; 2:23**, the context being Israel's restoration. Gentile believers are now God's people: **Rom 9:25-26**. **Mercy:** **Eph 2:12; Rom 8:31-34; 11:30-32**.

**2:11-17 SUBMISSION AS STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS**

He now emphasises the importance of consistent Christ-like behaviour.

**v11 Strangers:** *Sojourners*, tr. *foreigners* in **Eph 2:19**. **Pilgrims:** a *resident foreigner*. As Abraham: **Acts 7:6; Heb 11:13**. Believers take no part in politics, elections or war. We live for a future kingdom as citizens of Zion: **Eph 2:19; Phil 3:20**. Politics is contrary to the spirit of Christ: **Jn 6:15; 18:11; 3:14; 2 Cor 10:3**. Our **hope and perspective** is **future**, not of this present world.

**v12 Conversation honest:** Upright conduct, manner of life. **Good works:** Our way of life should be a witness to the world now.

**Glorify God:** Unbelievers who have seen us living Christ-like lives. Some of these may turn to Christ in the Day of Judgment because of our faithful witness now: **Rom 2:5-6; Rev 14:6-8**. **v13 Submit:** Despite the persecution. An important principle: **Mt 22:21; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:1-2; Tit 3:1**. **For the Lord's sake:** Our motivation is to do all things for Christ: **Lk 9:24; 21:12; 2 Cor 12:10; Phil 1:29**.

**v14 Governors sent:** God rules in the Kingdom of Men: **Dan 4:17, 25,32; 5:21**. Believers must comply with the law unless it is in conflict with God's principles: **Rom 13:1-4**. **v15 Put to silence:** As Christ did: **Mt 22:34**. **v16 Liberty:** Freedom in Christ is no excuse for disobeying the nation's law: **Gal 5:13; 2 Pet 2:19**. God's grace brings responsibility: **Rom 6:1; Tit 2:11-12**. **v17 Love:** As Jesus did: **Jn 13:34-35**. **Honour the king:** Daniel and his 3 friends!

**2:18-20 SUBMIT TO MASTERS**

**v18 Servants subject to masters:** Similar principles to **Eph 6:5-9**. **v19 Wrongfully:** Examples are Joseph, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul. **v20 Patiently:** Difficult to learn! Abraham: **Heb 6:13-15**; Job: **Jas 1:3,4; 5:11**. Also **Lk 8:15; Rom 2:7; 5:3-4; 8:25; Rev 13:10; 14:12**.

ye called: because Christ also suffered <sup>3</sup>for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

<sup>22</sup> <sup>e</sup>Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: <sup>23</sup> <sup>e</sup>Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but <sup>f</sup>committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

<sup>24</sup> <sup>f</sup>Who his own self bare our sins in his own body <sup>g</sup>on the tree, <sup>h</sup>that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: <sup>h</sup>by whose stripes ye were healed.

<sup>25</sup> For <sup>i</sup>ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned <sup>i</sup>unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

**2:21-25 THE SUFFERING SERVANT OUR EXAMPLE**

See more detail on the **Background and Overview**. Quotes directly from **Isaiah 53** to show that Christ is the ultimate example of enduring trials and grief.

**v21 Christ also:** Our personal relationship with Christ: **Gal 2:20**. **Example:** He is our representative not substitute. Our behaviour is to mirror Christ. **v22 Guile:** Deceit. From **Isa 53:9**. **v23 Reviled not:** **Isa 53:7**. **v24 Live:** Changed life: **Rom 6:3-13**. **Stripes:** **Isa 53:5**. **v25 Sheep astray:** **Isa 53:6**.

**JESUS CHRIST THE CHIEF CORNER STONE:** He is *the stone* cut out without hands: **Dan 2:34; 8:25; 11:45**. God is his Father: **Isa 11:1; 59:16; Lk 1:35**. In Hebrew, the word for *stone* means to *build* and is used of building families. In **Gen 16:2** it is translated "obtain children". Jesus Christ is the head of a family. God is often described as a *Rock*: **Deut 32:3-4,18; Psa 18:2,31,46; 94:22**. Also as a *Stone*: **Gen 49:24; Isa 8:14**. Men polish stones. Like a stone, Jesus was not specifically known for his outward beauty: **Isa 53:2**. But inside, he is full of character: **Heb 1:3**. In **Ex 20:25** the altar was made of unhewn stone. No iron tool was to strike these because it is the stone that will strike the iron: **Deut 27:5; Heb 13:8-10**, cp. **Mk 14:57-58** "without hands"; **2 Cor 5:1; Col 2:11; Heb 9:11,24** "not made with hands". Also **Isa 41:28; 63:5; Rev 22:16**. Jesus Christ is unique: **Isa 41:28; 63:5; Rev 22:16**.

**Colour code:** Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin / devil / the world / judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for **Study Week 2016** to the theme "I shall not be ashamed".

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