

## I Peter 2:18-20

### *Servants Obedient To Masters So That You Only Suffer For Righteousness*

#### I. Introduction:

A. We are in a context about submitting to those in authority over us for our own good as well as the Lord's (**I Peter 2:11-17**).

1. This context will continue by showing the Lord of lords and King of kings didn't carnally fight against the wrong done to Him (**I Peter 2:21-24**).

2. The context then continues in talking about the submission of a wife to her husband, even if he is not a Christian (**I Peter 3:1ff.**).

B. Because of American history, the thought of slavery leaves a bad taste in most people's mouths. This lesson is about servants with masters. This lesson is not about American history. This lesson is in a context of submissiveness to any in authority over us. Christianity requires a willingness to be submissive even when those we submit to are not worthy of such submission. Many agree when it comes to submitting to God (**James 4:7**), but the submissiveness of saints goes beyond that. Notice a few examples beyond what we have covered and will cover in our current contextual study...

1. To laborers in the word (**I Corinthians 16:15-16**).

2. To each other (**Ephesians 5:21** and **I Peter 5:5**).

3. To those with oversight in the church (**Hebrews 13:17**).

4. The mindset (**Romans 15:1-3** and **Philippians 2:3-8**; cf. **John 5:30**).

5. Quench whatever feelings you have been taught in this world to have towards the idea of being a servant under a master. What we are about to read are God's instructions and your prejudices have to be set aside.

Think about how this chapter started (**I Peter 2:1-3**).

II. Body: *"Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 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, this is acceptable with God" (I Peter 2:18-20).*

A. Servants, be subject to your masters (**Colossians 3:22-25**).

1. With fear (**Ephesians 6:5-7**).

2. Even if your master is a Christian (**I Timothy 6:2-5**).

a. Don't use the fact that you are brethren as an excuse to get out of being a servant (cf. **I Peter 2:16**).

b. Consider Onesimus being returned to Philemon (**Philemon 1:8-22**).

3. Not answering again or purloining [keeping back; embezzlement] (**Titus 2:9-10**).

B. Not only to the good, but also to the froward [crooked; perverse; wicked] (**Genesis 16:1-9**).

1. Don't make God look bad by being disobedient to those in authority over you (**I Timothy 6:1**).
2. You do not repay evil for evil (**I Peter 3:9**).
3. Think about Jesus (**Matthew 20:20-28**).

C. If you are going to suffer, let it be an act of persecution rather than some deserved punishment (**I Peter 3:16-17**).

1. Again, we see the conscience at play as we discussed about obedience to civil government (**Romans 13:5**).
2. Let the charges be false (**Matthew 5:11**).
3. It is thankworthy to suffer for good (**Acts 5:40-42**).
4. Don't let your good be evil spoken of (**Romans 14:16**).

D. What good is enduring suffering if you deserve to suffer (**I Peter 4:12-16**)?

1. Jesus suffered such physical beating (**Matthew 26:67**), but He did not deserve it (**I Peter 3:18**).
2. The idea of a servant being beaten for wrongdoing is a teaching tool Jesus used to teach accountability (**Luke 12:42-48**).

E. If you are going to suffer, in a manner that is pleasing to God, let it be for doing good (**Luke 6:22** and **Revelation 2:8-11**).

1. Think about what Paul wrote to Timothy (**II Timothy 2:8-12**).
2. If you suffer according to the will of God, He's got you (**I Peter 4:19**).
3. Endurance has a reward IF, that is IF, you endure suffering for the RIGHT REASONS (**Mark 13:13**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study: *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously"* (**I Peter 2:21-23**).