



Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info



# 1 PETER

## Unshakable: Standing Firm in a Shifting World

### PART 3: LIVING AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

#### CENTRAL QUESTION

How are we as followers of Jesus Christ to live in a shifting world, and what does it mean to grow spiritually?

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#### INTRODUCTION

- In Chapter 2, Peter builds on the foundation of hope and holiness by urging believers to grow in their salvation, live as a holy priesthood, and conduct themselves honorably among unbelievers.
  - This chapter explores the themes of identity, submission, and spiritual growth.
  - Christians are described as living stones, part of a spiritual house, chosen and precious in God's sight.
  - Peter also addresses practical ways to live out faith through submission to authorities and by following Christ's example of suffering.
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#### 1 PETER CHAPTER 2 (NIV)

##### The Call to Grow (1–3)

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

##### Christ as the Living Stone (4–8)

4 As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him-- 5 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. 6 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." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

### **The Identity of Believers (9–10)**

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 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.

### **A Call to Holy Living (11–12)**

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 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.

### **Submission to Authority (13–17)**

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

### **Submission in Suffering (18–20)**

18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

### **Christ as the Example of Suffering (21–25)**

21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might

die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 25 For 'you were like sheep going astray,'<sup>1</sup> but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **Question:** Christians are called to grow up in their salvation (2:2). In what ways are Christians to do this. How does this chapter in 1 Peter give us some answers to this question?
2. **Question:** What does Peter mean by calling Jesus the "cornerstone" (verse 6)?
3. **Question:** How are believers described in verses 9-10, and what is the significance of these descriptions?
4. **Question:** What is the purpose of good conduct among unbelievers according to verse 12?
5. **Question:** Why does Peter call Christians to submit to human authorities (verses 13-17)? Should Christians always obey human authorities? Why or why not?

## APPLICATION

- **Let your \_\_\_\_\_ drive your \_\_\_\_\_:**  
Remember that you are chosen and called to declare God's praises. Let this truth shape your sense of purpose and mission.
  - **Honor and pray for those \_\_\_\_\_:** Show respect for leaders and systems, even when they are flawed, as an act of obedience to God, while standing firm in your faith.
  - **Respond to mistreatment by following \_\_\_\_\_:**  
When facing unjust treatment or challenges, follow Christ's example by responding with patience and trust in God's justice.
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