

First Peter 2:18-25

This teaching would be difficult for a person to accept.

Peter calls on the passion of Christ as an example for the person who struggles with this teaching and its application.

“Called” is a word that is used five times in reference to the Christian in First Peter:

- 1:15 Believers are called by God
- 2:9 Believers are called to privilege and light
- 3:9 Believers are called to be blessed and to bless
- 5:10 Believers are called to the ultimate end of eternal glory
- Here, in 2:21, Believers are called to suffer. This one is not quite as exciting and received.

Slaves

Stoic and Jewish writes addressed slave matters, but never slaves.

Here Peter addresses slaves directly

The institution of the church does not address the institution of slavery in the NT.

The church addresses the slaves and the masters within the institution of slavery in the NT.

- Galatians 3:24
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Colossians 3:11
- Philemon 16 and the rest of the letter

2:18

The word slave here refers to household slaves

The Good masters are referred to with two words:

1. Good – which means to reflect a good inner character and personality. Good at heart.
2. Gentle – identifies a mild and reasonable disposition. This is a person who does not demand their legal rights but instead is considerate of others. “mild, yielding, indulgent.” Not overly focused on personal benefit and personal rights, but living life considerate of others.

“Harsh” - the “harsh” masters are identified by a Greek word that refers to an unfair and unreasonable person.

This is a reference to masters who were working against the slave. The Christian slaves were to serve their masters better than a pagan slave even though the pagan masters opposed them.

- Ephesians 6:5-8
- Colossians 3:22-25

2:19

“This” is neuter in the Greek and means “this thing” (“obedience”)

2:19 3778-1063 τούτο γαρ For this 5484 χάρις <i>is</i> favor, 1487 ει if
1223 διά through 4893 συνείδησιν conscience 2316 θεού of God
5297-5100 υποφέρει τις anyone endures 3077 λύπας distress,
3958 πάσχων suffering 95 αδίκως unjustly.

“commendable” is more than a thank you. It means recognized and honored

Stoic philosophers allowed injustice to be done to slaves.

Aristotle said that since slaves were property there was no such thing as injustice to a slave.

Peter calls slaves to rise above the normal behavior of mere men and slaves.

“Endure” not because you are indifferent or can put up with harsh treatment but because of God.

Trust God and continue to do right.

This is a hard teaching so Peter will call on the example of Christ

Jesus left glory to serve men as a slave/sacrifice in order to reveal God and salvation while saving some.

Slaves should also be willing to serve their masters unreasonable requests in hopes revealing God and leaving an example. Some masters might be saved.

2:20

“Kleos” means “fame, reputation because of a great deed.” This word translated “glory” is not “doxa.” A godly response to mistreatment is the act of a hero.

“Beating” means to strike with fist. It is in the present tense and refers to a progressive action. “Pummeled.” It is used of Jesus being struck in Matt. 26:67 and was a fulfillment of Isaiah’s use of the word from Is. 52:14. Peter knew the prophecy; Peter remembers the night of fulfillment; Peter is using it to encourage/teach slaves.

2:21

“Called” ... “to this” ... suffering ... To be called to salvation is also to be called to suffer for living like a saved person in this fallen world. Thus, slaves were called to be saved and to suffer just like, wise men were called to be saved and to suffer the same as pagan slave masters were called to be saved and suffer the consequences of that salvation manifesting in a fallen world.

2:21	<u>1519-3778-1063</u>	εις τούτο γαρ	For this	<u>2564</u>	εκλήθητε	you were called					
<u>3754</u>	ὅτι	for	<u>2532</u>	και	also	<u>5547</u>	χριστός	Christ	<u>3958</u>	έπαθεν	suffered
<u>5228</u>	υπέρ	for	<u>1473</u>	ημών	us	<u>1473-5277</u>	ημίν	υπολιμπάνων	leaving behind to us		
<u>5261</u>	υπογραμμόνα	pattern	<u>2443</u>	ίνα	that						
<u>1872</u>	επακολουθήσητε	you should follow after	<u>3588</u>	τοις							
<u>2487-1473</u>	ίχνεσιν	αυτού	his tracks								

Philippians 1:29

“Leaving” means “to leave behind”

“Example” means “writing under” and refers to young students learning the alphabet by copying or tracing letters made by the teacher.

Jesus left behind footprints of suffering to follow.

2:22

Jesus was Just and suffered for your sins.

Now, you be just and suffer in life as you follow Christ in doing Good.

“no sin” means never in a single instance did he ever sin.

“found” refers to finding nothing after careful scrutiny

2:23

“insults” refer to both:

1. rebukes
2. sharp, hurtful words

“but” is not a contrast. Instead, it removes the first option entirely in preference for the second.

“committed” means to hand something over. To deliver something to someone to keep and to manage.

2:24

2:24 [3739](#) ος who [3588](#) τας [266-1473](#) αμαρτίας ημών our sins [1473](#) αυτός himself
[399](#) ανήνεγκεν bore [1722](#) εν in [3588](#) τω [4983-1473](#) σώματι αυτού his body
[1909](#) επί upon [3588](#) το the [3586](#) ξύλον timber [2443](#) ίνα that [3588](#) ταις
[266](#) αμαρτίαις to sins [581](#) απογενόμενοι becoming dead [3588](#) τη to the
[1343](#) δικαιοσύνη righteousness [2198](#) ζήσωμεν we should live [3739](#) ου of which
[3588](#) τω by [3468-1473](#) μώλωπι αυτού his stripe [2390](#) ιάθητε you were healed

“bare” is from a Greek word used in the LXX to refer to a priest carrying the sacrifice to the altar. The High Priest Jesus carried our sins in his body as he moved to the cross.

“dead to sin” means to be separated from sin just like death results in separation of life from the body or separation of the soul from the body. We are no longer bound to sin nor enslaved to it.

“his stripe” is singular in the Greek and refers to the bloody bruise that results from the blow that would rip open the skin to expose the muscle, bone and even bowels.

“you were healed” refers to the judicial act of healing your sins.

This is not meant to refer to “healing” of the body. It means “to cure”, “to heal”, “to make whole.”

This same word is used to refer to “healing”:

- heartaches in Luke 4:18

[649-1473](#) απέσταλκέ με he has sent me [2390](#) ιάσασθαι to heal [3588](#) του the ones
[4937](#) συντετριμμένους being broken [3588](#) την [2588](#) καρδίαν in heart,

- Conduct in Hebrews 12:13
- Salvation in Matthew 13:15

2:25

2:25 [1510.7.5-1063](#) ήτε γαρ For you were [5613](#) ως as [4263](#) πρόβατα sheep
[4105](#) πλανώμενα wandering [235](#) αλλ' but [1994](#) επεστράφητε are returned
[3568](#) νυν now [1909](#) επί unto [3588](#) τον the [4166](#) ποιμένα shepherd
[2532](#) και and [1985](#) επίσκοπον overseer [3588](#) των
[5590-1473](#) ψυχών υμών of your souls.

“bishop” is the word translated “visit” in 2:12

God is the overseer of our souls or the protector and keeper of our souls which may be mistreated by men