

1 Peter

Lesson #8, Chapter 2:9-12

Lean on the Lord for His help as you read through Chapter 2 in preparation for this lesson.

1. Peter begins verse 9 with the contrasting word *but*. What contrast is he making here?
2. What group is Peter speaking to and how does he describe them in verse 9?
3. Peter refers to different Old Testament texts in his description. Look up the original references to gain a more complete picture of what Peter intends his audience to understand. See Ex. 19:6; Deut. 7:6-8; 14:2.
4. God has showered His mercy and goodness upon you for a purpose. What is it according to verse 9?
5. The Psalms also talk about proclaiming God's praises. See Ps. 22:22; 51:15; 79:13; 106:1-2; 138:1-2; and 1 Pet. 2:9. Explain what it means to proclaim the excellencies of God.
6. According to verses 9 and 10 what is the content of your message about God? In verse 10 Peter is quoting from the prophet Hosea. Look up Hosea 1:6-10 and 2:23 for a clearer understanding of what Peter is trying to communicate.

7. Briefly proclaim the excellencies of God by writing down how He called you from darkness into light.

8. God called you for this purpose: to proclaim and show forth how wonderful He is. How are you doing in this area? Do others know what you think about God? Can others see the work He is doing in your life?

9. How does Peter describe his readers in verse 11? How do those descriptions fit with what he had been telling them in verses 9-10?

10. The Bible frequently refers to God's people as strangers or foreigners. See what you can learn as you look up the following verses: Gen. 15:13; Ex. 23:9; Deut. 10:18-19; Heb. 11:13-16; 1 Pet. 1:1; 2:11.

11. Puritan preacher Thomas Watson wrote, "The world is but a great inn, where we are to stay a night or two, and be gone; what madness is it to set our heart upon our inn, as to forget our home." When you introduce yourself do you use terms like alien and stranger to describe who you are? Probably not. Yet, what is your identity? Why is it crucial to develop the mindset of a "foreigner in a foreign land?"

12. Because Christ has redeemed us and this world is no longer our home, what does Peter urge us to do and why (verse 11)?

13. Define fleshly lusts. See also Eph. 2:3; Rom. 6:12-13; 13:13-14; 1 Pet. 4:1-3.

14. What do you learn about the battle fleshly lusts wage against your soul from the following verses: Rom. 7:14-23; Gal. 5:17, 24; James 4:1?

15. How can you battle against fleshly lusts? Start with 1 Pet. 2:11; Rom. 8:12-13; 13:13-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Tim. 2:22.

16. Not only are we to abstain from fleshly lusts, Peter also urges us to do what in verse 12? What reason is given for maintaining that command in verse 12?

17. Think carefully about verse 12. At what point is your behavior to be excellent?

18. Notice that Peter emphasizes your good deeds, rather than your words in response to slander and accusation. The following verses echo that thought: Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:1-2. Why would that emphasis on deeds rather than words be a challenge for you?

19. How would knowing that your good deeds could become a means of giving God glory help you to press on in the face of accusation and slander?

20. To give glory to God is to be every Christian's goal today, tomorrow, and in eternity. As you have grown more aware of giving God glory in all you do, how has it changed your attitudes and actions?