week 18

Studying

THE CHURCHAAA

Together

[a weekly study of the Church as a church]

Day 1

Reading – 1 PETER 2:11-25

Keep in Mind

The disciples to whom Peter was writing were living in different parts of the Roman empire, which was thoroughly pagan in lifestyle and mindset. These disciples, who had given their loyalty to the Lord Jesus, would have been tempted to disdain their godless and corrupt earthly rulers.

Did You Notice?

1. What do sinful desires do to disciples of Jesus, the foreigners and exiles in the world? (2:11)

2. What are two desired outcomes of living good lives as we live among unbelievers? (2:12,15)

3. We should live as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people even as we live as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. (2:16)

4. To what are we called to do in order to follow the example of our Master Jesus? (2:20-21)

What Do You Think?

Have you ever suffered in the world – or even in the church – for doing what’s right? Have you known others who have suffered for what’s right? How did you or they respond to that suffering?

Day 2

Reading – 1 PETER 3:1-7

Keep in Mind

Disciples of Jesus are clearly instructed to marry fellow disciples, but it has always been true that some people are already married when they come to follow Jesus. Peter here offers instructions to married disciples, keeping those wives in mind who husbands were not believers.

Did You Notice?

1. What did Peter suggest might win over unbelieving husbands? (3:1-3)

2. What kind of beauty ought a godly woman devote herself to developing? (3:3-4)

3. What is the responsibility of a wife toward her husband and a husband toward his wife? (3:1,7)

4. What is one thing might hinder a man’s prayers? (3:7)

What Do You Think?

If you are married, are you living in your role the way our Master desires?

If you are single, how might you pray for and encourage those in our church who are married?

Day 3

Reading – 1 PETER 3:8-22

Keep in Mind

The disciples of Jesus should not only expect to suffer as individuals, but also as a community. As Peter instructed the churches about what kind of a people they ought to be, he was preparing them to respond to persecution *together* to represent Jesus.

Did You Notice?

1. What kind of people ought we to be as a church of Jesus Christ? (3:8-9)

2. What should be the focus of our hearts if we suffer for doing what’s right? (3:15)

3. With what attitude are we to give people the reason for our hope? (3:15-16)

4. Though we suffer at the hands of those with earthly power, who has ultimate authority? (3:22)

What Do You Think?

Why is it so important that the members of a church be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate and humble toward each other?

What happens when we are *not* this way?

Day 4

Reading – 1 PETER 4:1-11

Keep in Mind

As stated before, many in Peter’s original audience were former pagans, whose lives dramatically changed when they became disciples of Jesus. They had to face harsh backlash from their family and neighbors because of the change in their lifestyle.

Did You Notice?

1. Rather than live our lives fulfilling our evil human desires, what should we live for? (4:2)

2. If people “heap abuse” on us for our godly lifestyle, what ought we to remember? (4:5)

3. We must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so we can pray effectively. (4:7)

4. When we use our gifts to serve others, we are being good stewards of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:10)

What Do You Think?

Have you ever been ridiculed or treated differently because you no longer do what you once did with people in the world?

Do you think you’ve been faithful in using your gifts to serve others as God intends?

Day 5

Reading – 1 PETER 4:12-19

Keep in Mind

The use of the word “Christian” in 4:16 is one of the three times it is used in the Bible (pretty rare!). It is also used in Acts 11:26 and 26:28. Also, the word “judgment” in 4:17 shouldn’t be confused with the idea of condemnation. Judgment has to do with evaluation, and is not necessarily good or bad.

Did You Notice?

1. Rather than be surprised when we suffer for Christ, we ought to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (4:13)

2. What is true of those who are insulted because of the name of Jesus? (4:14)

3. With whom does God’s judgment begin? (4:17)

4. What should we do if we suffer for the right reasons – for being a Christian? (4:16,19)

What Do You Think?

Peter stated that God’s judgment begins within His own household. What do you think He sees – good and bad – when He evaluates First Church of Christ?