

1Peter 11-03-04a

This is Friday the 4th of March 2011. We continue our study in the book of 1st Peter. We resume in chapter 2 verse 13 We'll take a moment as we begin to go to the Lord in prayer.

It's an opportunity to kind of clear the decks for action I've listened to myself in years past and at the beginning of the lesson I would say we will clear our minds, and I think well, I'm not sure this You want to totally clear mind it wouldn't be anything in there But a prepared mind and a receptive heart for the things that we will find here in God's Word this evening shall we pray father it's a wonderful blessing to Realize that we have so many wonderful potentials Because of what the Lord Jesus has done for us in this age and at this time in history we are positioned to see and to take part in things that were only dreamed of by the prophets and Things into which angels long to look we pray that as we study your word this evening. We will become more aware and more understanding of what those opportunities are and the Calling to which we have been called so that we can fulfill it and live the remainder of this life in a way that is Pleasing in your sight we pray it in Jesus name. Amen we resume in 1st Peter chapter 2 verse 13 we saw last time that There is an exhortation that begins in verse 11 beloved.

I beg you as Sojourners and pilgrims which harks back to the early part of chapter 1 where his audience was identified as sojourners and pilgrims in the immediate sense you look at it as The Jews of the dispersion to whom Peter is writing, but we recognize that they Symbolize they represent our sojourn in the world we are in a sense strangers and pilgrims we live in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation and As Peter is calling them to holy life. We are also supposed to be living in a way that shines like a light Well, here's the thing We've heard this we've known this we've seen it and And it's been preached to us or at us a lot. We know we're supposed to set a good example We're supposed to let our light shine before men that they will see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven but It's more difficult to figure out exactly how that's supposed to work.

Should I put a sign in my yard? Should I put a When we lived at field crest and we had church there every Sunday often thought I'd make a card I would make a plywood steeple just a one-dimensional thing like they have for the Western towns in the movies and I would put it on hinges and lay it down there in the week and then on Sunday I Would just flip it up and our house would look like a church for Sunday Then I just flip it down for the rest of the week and it would just be a be a convertible thing Church on Sunday house the rest of the time And but how do you To what extent are we supposed to be militant to what extent are we supposed to make ourselves visible? Should we picket things? Should we? make a noise should we You know, the Supreme Court just said this week that these Horrible horrible people who protest at military funerals about homosexuals I don't quite understand the connection and I haven't really delved into it. But for some reason that's protected speech I think they take a perverse delight in in Christians making idiots of themselves And so they said sure we'll let you do that and continue to

besmirch the name of Christ As near as I can tell that's what they're doing but How do we actually make this happen? It's one thing to say we should shine as lights. It's another thing to do it Well happily for us this section that we're going to cover tonight in first Peter Addresses that very thing and he is Specific Peter is a no-nonsense guy.

You can gather this from looking at his career as a disciple and It comes across in this letter so he said beloved agape toy I beseech you I beg you as Sojourners and pilgrims Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul and And we saw those two words one the one that's translated abstain As is up echo and has the idea of hold it away push it away It's one thing When you are unavoidably tempted, it's something else when we put ourselves in the way of temptation I think about a story they told us in seminary. There was an amazing problem with pornography in seminary There was at the time and this has been many years ago they said that that a huge percentage of the seminary students where I went to school had come in for counseling because they couldn't stay away from porn and You know, the internet was fairly new at that time and it was just easy access you don't have to embarrass yourself by walking into a Shady magazine Area or going to an adult store you just make a few clicks and here's all this nastiness on your screen and so I guess it just overwhelmed a lot of people and they were having trouble and they went in for counseling and and So the chaplain was addressing this in Chapel And he said look And he went to passages. I don't know if it was this one But it was something like this, you know flee youthful lusts and that sort of thing and he said think about this You drive back and forth let's say from your apartment to work or to school every day and here's a bad place that's right on the way and So every time you drive by it you're tempted to stop and go in and buy something You shouldn't be buying or do something.

You shouldn't do and he said Why try to steal yourself to go directly by that every time change your route? Go a block out of your way find a different route that doesn't put you in the way of Temptation and there are things we can do when it says hold these lusts away You don't sit there Right in the proximity and just say I'm not going to sin. I'm not going to sin I'm not going to sin we find a way to get away from this situation change the parameters of the equation if you've got a problem with Internet access then shut the thing off everybody has a router and every router has times of access and If somebody has a problem with Accessing the internet late at night when their guard is down and they're tired and they are susceptible to temptation Well shut the thing off in the evening. Tell your router no internet access after 10 p.m. And That's an obstacle that is holding away pushing away.

This is the idea of the passage I picked that because I don't know anybody that has that problem, but it's a Practical piece of advice if you've got a problem with gossip and gossip ensues every time you go to the weekly Tuesday Luncheon with the gals then don't go to the Tuesday luncheon with the gals if you can't go without Sins of the tongue ensuing then bow out do something different change the parameters do something To don't just sit there and fail and fail and fail and say I don't understand why I'm failing Change the game change the rules change the situation get

out of the situation that repeatedly causes you to fail Take some sort of an active step now I am NOT speaking to you as one with experience in successfully overcoming ones besetting sins I'm telling you what scripture says all of us Have things that are just the boogaboo that get us and I'm not don't Think that I'm sitting here saying, you know do as I have done, but this is what Peter says and Peter knew about temptation Jesus says more about Peter with regard to temptation Satan has asked for you that he may sift you like wheat I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail Peter was tempted graphically, so in the Courtyard outside where Jesus was being tried so he knows what he's talking about when he says push these Things away up echo means get a hold of it and hold it away stiff arm it Push it beyond where it can touch you and hurt you. So however that plays out whatever Mechanism that is that's what scripture is telling us to do There's no reason to just beat our bruised and bloody heads against the same wall time after time after time That's the first word. The second word is that war against the soul and we saw that this is The same route that we get strategy from strategos there used to be a game called stratego But it can be The strata goi were the soldiers they were the ones that were the the point of the spear the generals make the strategy and they send the strata goi out to make it happen and these passions that Strategize against our soul that march against us.

They they infiltrate they pierce they find the chinks in our armor He says push them away get them out of spear range And he gives a reason for this having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles and this is a Wonderful way to get us out of subjectivity because we tend to think Woe is me. I have failed. Oh lord.

Help me not to fail again. Oh, look. I just failed again.

Oh lord. I Confessed my sin. I'm gonna try to not do that again.

Oh lord. I've done it again then we get in this loop and we start thinking it's just it's me and my Quote unquote sin nature. It's me and my weakness.

It's me and my failure me and my shadow Me and the sin that so easily besets, but look what Peter does he very deftly? Changes the conversation. This is like a clue on how to do something different He says look if you're having trouble with this Think about the fact that you are sojourners and pilgrims and one of the reasons you are a sojourner And a pilgrim one of the reasons you're there is to be a light among the Gentiles So get your eyes off yourself and start thinking about doing it for someone else's sake. I Need to be aware this, you know This has been taken to great extremes and in some denominational churches that I have attended where you know There's no there's nothing except you better be a good witness, you know, they don't tell you how they don't give you any power They don't give you any any understanding the Word of God But boy, you'd better have a good witness because your testimony is everything if you've got a bad testimony, you're just another failure That's taking a good thing and pushing it way too far But there is a sense here in this passage that we need to have of the impression we make on others It is important to not let our good be spoken of as evil and it is important for these Jews of

the dispersion to Have a good testimony before the Gentiles, that's what this passage says that it's a biblical concept Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles that when they speak against you as evildoers They may by your good works, which they observe and this is a parable having observed they will glorify God in the day of Visitation I didn't give you the word visitation because I think I ran out of time but You'll be interested that this is the Greek word episkopos epi scopus This is translated bishop in other places in the day of the overseer Actually, this is in the day of the overseeing Now, what is the day of overseeing? Is it the day of judgment? Nowhere else is episkopos used for the day of judgment that I know of So, what is this what is the day of visitation well, it is the day I think of The Resolution of this issue.

These people are being spoken of as evildoers and They're not you know, for example Christians who speak out against perverts are Labeled evildoers Well, what is the typical argument if they disagree with your point of view you say and you do it in Nicely not hatefully not with signs not with vituperation and bad-mouthing, but you say, you know, biblically speaking From my point of view and the values that I have learned from the Word of God this same-sex Stuff is a Perversion God condemns it God calls people out from it in the same way that he would call them out from any other perversion and that's what my Bible says and that's what I believe and to the extent that I can support a society that Keeps that off the map I would do so It doesn't mean we have to go egg somebody's house because there's two guys living in there or we're gonna break all their windows because two women are living in there or we're going to Look at them askance or refuse to speak to them or they come by to borrow a cup of sugar We slam the door in their face that's judging we as believers know the difference between discerning that something is wrong and Trying to inflict a penalty on somebody Trying to make them pay and this is where so many Christians get off track. Yes. There is evil Yes, there is perversion.

Yes, there is Bad stuff going on, but it is not our place to try to penalize anybody. We don't Find a way to make them pay it doesn't give us a license to be hateful Doesn't give us a license to slash their tires or or even run around ruining their reputation If we find out that there's a couple of gay people living next door it's not our business to run around and inform the neighborhood and and Call the cops and you know get the dog to pee on their lawn every time it walks by and or any anything else we observe and for ourself we might Take some precautions if we think they're necessary. I don't know what precaution you would take but There is an association by the way a known association a documented statistical association between male homosexuality and pedophilia So if I had two male homosexuals next to me Then I might keep a closer watch on any children that were in my yard.

I just would it's I'm sorry if that's insensitive, but I would that would be a precaution I would take and that's about all I would do I wouldn't say anything. I wouldn't go knock on the door and yell at him. I wouldn't Be anything but courteous if they came over and said hey, you know There's a problem with the fence or your trees overhanging my land or I we you should be nice as pie Treat him just like anybody else.

It's not our place to penalize people for that. Do you want somebody penalizing us for our sins? You want somebody coming over and you know? Wreaking some kind of havoc because they've determined that you're in some sort of sin or have committed some sin. It's not our place It's not our call we discern, but we do not judge so Back to the day of visitation.

These people have taken some sort of stand and When the Gentiles speak evil of them these Jews are a pox They're coming in and taking over and making successful businesses and running the rest of us out because they're doing better than we are You know This has been the historical objection against Jews as they're so good at business that they out compete everybody and it makes others angry in that day when that charge is brought and It is brought in some sort of public way. These Gentiles are going to try to render some sort of judgment against these sojourning Pilgrimage Jews in that day They're good works. Well, yes, they do seem to be awfully successful at business But you know since they came to the neighborhood look at these good things that have happened Look how nice they have been they were there when we needed help They have been nice as pie anytime.

We came to them. They have been nothing but nice. They've been nothing but courteous They've been nothing but helpful.

They have been done nothing but reflect the love of Jesus Christ on every occasion Yes, they're taking a stand but look they're good people and We can forgive this difference of opinion. I think that's the day of visitation That's the day when people are looking it over episkopos Let's look this over and figure it out or do these people need to go should we tar and feather them and run them out? Of town should we burn them out? Should we have crystal knocked? or what and their Their good life their good testimony is such a blessing to the community that if somebody speaks evil of them for some Infraction Perceived infraction the good just so outweighs the bad that people say I just can't I just can't see running them out That's the idea of verse 12 and of course that's very pertinent to us We can be right and be really ugly about it or we can be right and be loving be courteous You can you don't have to water down your right message, but there is a way to do it That is not offensive. We don't have to needlessly give offense.

We don't have to purposely This is kind of what Elizabeth and I were talking and I mentioned this last week About the difference between being assertive and being aggressive You can assert your faith without having an aggressive faith. It's sort of a negative Bad taste left in someone's mouth and I Personally and everybody can make this call for themselves, but you will never see me underneath the picket sign at any Establishment that does any kind of business The Lord never did it never told the disciples to do it. The Apostles never encouraged anybody to do it I just don't think going down and publicly decrying a thing is the Christians place I think it I think it defeats the purpose of this passage.

We are to work and Live quietly live quietly work with your hands mind your own business. That's what Paul told us and It doesn't mean we can't stand up for what's right it doesn't mean we can't

make our voices heard, but we need to do it in such a way that the love of Christ and The glory of God is always visible. Look at the criteria when they observe your good works They glorify your God They know that the reason you are a good person the reason you are the way you are is That same God that you are speaking up for when you say these things that may offend some people therefore verse 13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake Whether to the King is supreme or to governors, etc.

I am happy I am almost ecstatic to tell you that this is not a good translation Can you imagine the problem of? Actually submitting yourself to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake We wouldn't have the United States of America if the Founding Fathers had submitted themselves to every ordinance of man They could have never broken away from England. They would have had to obey King George. They would had a knuckle under There would have been no discretion.

It isn't what it says at all and the study of this has been really interesting to me and so let me start with the Greek here this is Well, it begins with the with the word own I'll just do it from memory own is therefore Therefore that goes back to what we just covered in the light of the fact that you're to have a life That even though you stand up for what's right, and some people may speak against you your good works Engender a Respect for God and people will glorify God in the day when these things are looked over therefore because of that Hoopoe Tasso, this is the word for Placing yourself under the orders of a military commander. This is the word that is used Wives submit to your husband's children obey your parents Hoopoe Tasso But don't panic yet. If you're worried about the whole woman submitting to the man thing just watch Give give me a little time here.

It's not as bad as it sounds Hoopoe Tasso submit Yourselves To every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake and we have to take this whole thing together. It's all one thing and It's posse cattice You can you get the you know PAS PAS Panta the whole PAS PAN You know pan American it means everything it means all so this is every every posse Cattice a this is a word. We're gonna have to look at it comes from cattice.

It's ktis is Often translated creation That's its normal most common translation in the New Testament. In fact, this is the only place where it is translated as something else If any man be in Christ he is a new what If any man be in Christ, he is a new Creature creation old things are passed away behold all things become new same word Then we have dia tan korean dia Root meaning is through you have dia plus the genitive or dia plus the accusative This is dia plus the accusative and you can tell that from tan korean the o n that's your accusative ending Dia tan korean dia plus the accusative Generally means instrumentality how this came about this would be by the Lord So a raw translation would be Every creation of man by the Lord. Are we done? Is that that enough? probably not every creation of man by the Lord well To Save spending nears much time on this Tonight as I did in figuring it out let me give you a an illustration from the English word create What does create normally mean you create something you create a Work of art you create a a A Document you create a file is we bring something into being right? But

there's a specialized use that really pertains to the use here have you ever heard the phrase some of you have and some of you may not have when they're talking about the nobility or the peerage in England and they say You know Lord Fauntleroy was created a peer It there's a special use of the word create that means to bestow a title an office or An honor he was created a knight of the bath He was created a lord Elton John was created a lord of the realm Sir, Paul McCartney was created a knight of something or other And and it means to bestow a title or an office And he was created a peer a peer of the realm Matthew Hall was created a peer of the realm That's just how it's used.

Well. That's exactly the sense of katise here. This is the creation of an office a human office These are created men so what we're submitting to here is not an ordinance we're submitting to the the man created to be that authority So the first thing is we're not submitting to the ordinance.

We're some when it says ordinance of man. This is submit to the office a that a man fulfills And but the but the focus is on the man I would try to read you a thing from the Theological dictionary in the New Testament, but trust me when I tell you you wouldn't know any more when I finished than you do now It's it took me three readings to figure out what the guy was saying, but this was his point Is the is that this is a real strange use of katise any? text note any commentary that delves into the Greek will tell you this is a weird use of the word and It doesn't make sense to translate it as ordinance. It's never in secular Greek.

No place is it ever translated ordinance? Institution of government a government authority Greek never uses the word katise this way Peter is using it in conjunction with dia tan korean This is submit yourself to those people who are created an authority by the Lord submit yourself to created human authorities Created by the Lord, it's there's no Way to get it into English without it being awkward, but that's the sense of it God has put certain people in positions of authority When you recognize that this is a human authority that God has created Submit to it This is not for the Lord's sake This is you identify which authorities to submit to based on Recognizing that this is God's will God has put kings in office Submit to the king at the point that a king gets so bad that you don't think his authority is Blessed by God or is condoned by God you find that people throw off governments and rightfully so because you're not slavishly bound to follow an authority just because it's an authority as Long as you believe that that authority has God behind it for example our current Government our president our Senate and and and our justices in the Supreme Court and so on you might you might have violent disagreements with some of the people But there's no doubt in my mind that the president is supposed to be the president The senators are supposed to be the senators the congressmen are supposed to be there governor supposed to be sitting in his chair I don't see anybody in our government that doesn't have God's backing for their authority. Nobody is Bundling people off in the night and murdering them. Nobody is grossly abusing their authority to the point that God is no longer in it and So long as you see that this is a created authority in the human realm by the Lord Submit now.

What does this do? What about women who are submitting to their husband, but their husband turns into a drunk wife beating child abusing Creator of chaos and mayhem and danger is God still in that authority. Is he still an authority created by God to fulfill that role? No He is not he has abdicated that office. He has disqualified himself from that authority.

What about a pastor? he's the pastor of the church and he does no longer fits the spirit the Criteria for his spiritual life in his family life. He can't keep his kids in order He's not the husband of one wife or a one-woman man as it literally says He his anger goes unbridled and out of control. He can't rule.

Well his own household Do you have to wait and well, we can't get a quorum of deacons until you know next fall Is he still the pastor? No at the point that he is no longer God's created authority and this is going to be a judgment call That's what our founding fathers did King George no longer has divine authority to exercise Kingly rule over us and that's what they said in the Declaration of Independence When in the course of human events read the thing they understood this principle I don't know that they went into the Greek of this passage But this is where they could have gotten support for what they did because there came a point where the king no longer had divine authority to exercise that kind of rule and Godly men came out from under it There is a point at which a woman should take her children and get out of an abusive household When that man is no longer exercising authority That God condones that God is in it. Is this subjective? Is there room for interpretation? Of course, but you have to pray and make your best call. That's what our founding fathers did They met together in prayer.

They pledged their Fortunes and their collective honor on it. They believed that they were in the right They believed that they were doing right in the eyes of the Creator and and they they went for it Women have to do this when they get out of an abusive relationship Men in the military if they get illegal orders have to come out from under that military authority and say God does not going to condone that exercise a military authority if a government goes sour then You have the right to stand up against the sea of Troubles and and oppose it So that's what he's saying here. It's really helpful and it's so consistent with everything else We're supposed to do as believers.

We have to have discernment We have to be people of prayer and we have to recognize where God is and where God isn't Looking at the goal your conduct should be honorable before the Gentiles. They should not find fault with you They shouldn't be able to launch a big ad hominem attack when you state a moral position They shouldn't be able to say what do you know about morals? Look at the way you do this and that any other look at your your rotten lifestyle and you're gonna tell us what's moral He says no your conduct should be honorable before the Gentiles Therefore submit yourself to authority so long as it is God created human authority Submit and he's going to elaborate on that this this phrase and the reason I've spent some time on it a little overtime here is Because this is kind of the title for this whole next section everything. We're going to cover all the way down into chapter 3 All the way down to to chapter 3 verse 8 all

of that this is the title for it.

This is the Thematic statement. It's all going to relate back to this idea and and Understanding this idea is going to make the rest of this really make great sense and be very Pertinent and applicable for us. So we'll pause here and take our break when we come back We'll we'll move on through and see if this bears out