

A LIVING HOPE
1 PETER SERMON SERIES

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

1 Peter 2:13-25 // ¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. ¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Faith in an Unjust World

1 Peter 2:13-25

What empowers you to live faithfully in an unjust world?

I. Freedom in Christ

A. Servant of Christ (v. 16)

B. Free to submit and do good (v. 13-15, 17; Luke 6:35)

II. Calling from Christ

A. Called to suffer unjustly (v. 18-21a)

B. The pattern of Christ (v. 21b)

III. Justice through Christ

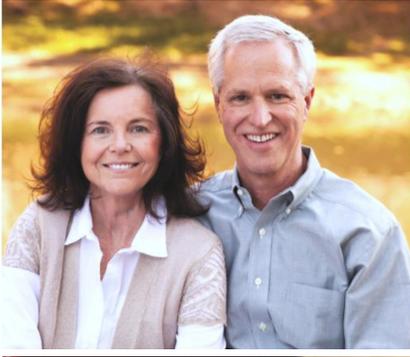
A. Trusting God's justice (v. 22-23; Rom. 12:19-21)

B. Justice accomplished through Christ (v. 24-25)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. How have you experienced injustice in your life? How have you been controlled by the pain and suffering that someone else has caused?
2. How does suffering as a calling challenge the way you view it? How have you experienced the grace of deeper fellowship with Christ through suffering?
3. In what situation are you having to trust the justice of God?
4. What opportunities do you have to honor, respect, and do good to someone who doesn't deserve it?

MISSIONARY PRAYER // KURT NELSON - EAST WEST MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



As President and CEO of East-West Ministries International, Kurt Nelson provides leadership and oversight to all worldwide ministry endeavors in the 47 countries in which East-West currently operates. He assisted in launching the Institutes for Emerging Itinerant Evangelists in Russia, Kazakhstan, and India, and he currently serves on the Board of Directors, the Executive Team, the Strategic Leadership Team, and the Office of Field Ministries. For more information on East West go to www.eastwest.org.

Kurt's 11-year old grandson, Jackson Bates, was diagnosed with an inoperable and highly aggressive brain tumor in May of 2019. The following is a very heartfelt update from Kurt's daughter, Virginia, who herself is suffering from a genetic spinal disorder, to help us put in perspective whatever challenges we may be facing today.

"I have received many messages asking how Jackson is. I don't know how to answer that question at the moment. He is declining rapidly. An MRI showed that the radiation he received last summer did nothing to the tumor. We have no other treatment options at this time.

"Jackson has been spacing out a lot and when I ask him what he's thinking about, he has started talking about what it would be like to not be here on Earth anymore. He prayed recently and told God that he knew God allowed him to have cancer to teach other people that they can still be themselves and have a horrible disease. He said he knew God created him to be so strong that he could handle having this cancer. My 11-year-old said that!



"My heart burst! Here he is understanding why God would allow him to have cancer, while I'm cursing God and anyone else in my path. Cancer has changed me, and I loathe myself. I loathe everyone right now. I've never been that kind of person. I used to see the best in everyone and everything. I hate who I am becoming, and I hate the idea that I may not see that optimistic side of me again.

"I feel time slipping away; I see our son slipping away. It doesn't hurt any less than it did when we first learned of his diagnosis."

When I (Kurt) shared this recent update with a friend who is a medical doctor and who has been a relentless prayer warrior for Jackson over the past year, she responded with stunning insight: "Jackson's tired and ready to go home! When you think about it, there is no greater feeling than going home!"

Prayer Requests:

1. Please join us in crying out to the Lord for Jackson and be with Virginia in this time!
2. The Lord would use the church planting training to further fuel gospel movements in the nations our missionaries & national partners serve.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

What are they?

The Bible is clear that God has designed life to be lived in dynamic relationships of trust and love. For this reason, Christ Church East also meets weekly in homes throughout the city for food, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. While groups meet weekly, they are not defined by a night of the week or a time on the clock. They are a people increasingly living their lives together and learning how to love one another in gospel community.

How do they work?

Groups are open to people in all seasons and walks of life. Each group provides child care so that the adults can focus on study, sharing, and prayer after a time of food and fellowship. On a regular basis, men and women break out separately to address gender specific needs. Typically, our groups take time off during the months of June and July. If you are interested in joining a group, fill out our online connect card (www.christchurcheast.org/connectwithus).

COMMUNITY BIBLE READING // JULY 13 - 19

Day	Date	Read
Mon	7/13/20	2 Thessalonians 1, Psalm 90
Tues	7/14/20	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Psalm 91
Wed	7/15/20	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18, Psalm 92
Thurs	7/16/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 93
Fri	7/17/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 94
Sat	7/18/20	1 Timothy 1, Psalm 95
Sun	7/19/20	1 Timothy 2, Psalm 96