



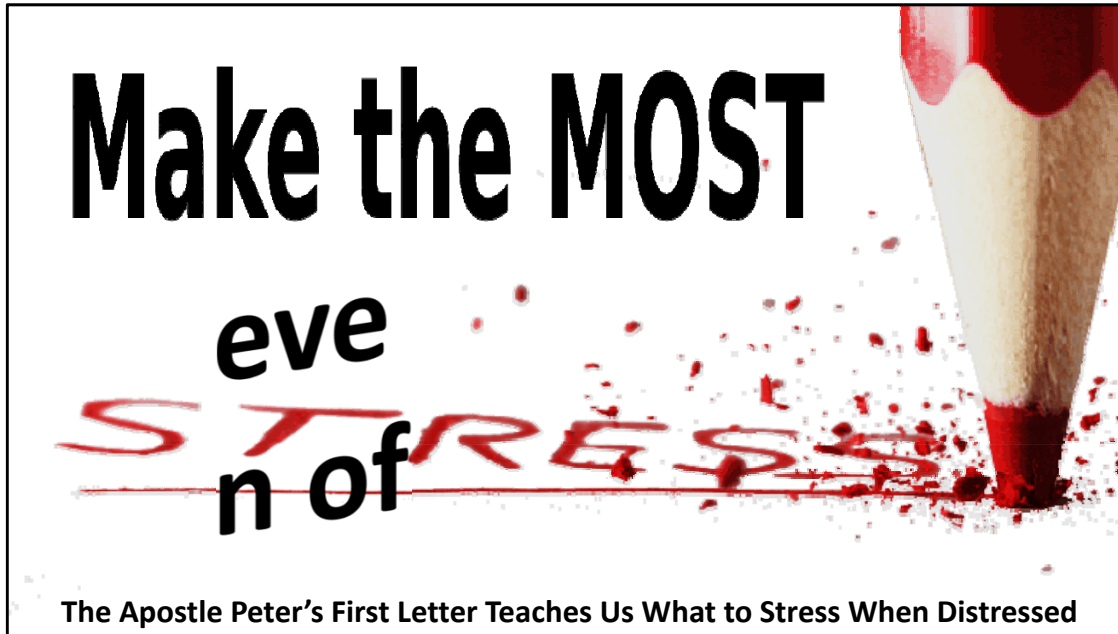
Those of us who have received Christ realize that we are to . . . READ SLIDE

TR: But many of us slip into thinking that we can't, at least not now, because we are under so much . . .



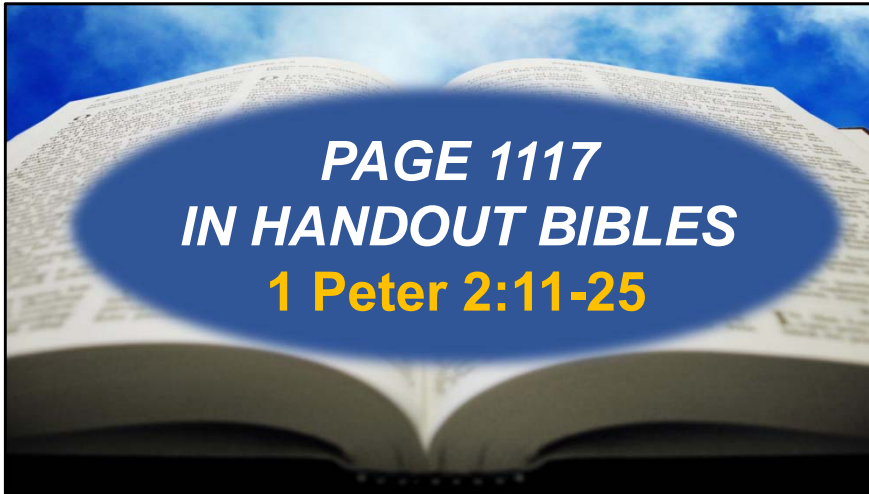
... stress!

TR: Yet it is in the moments of greatest pressure and stress that God often gives us our greatest opportunities to make a difference for the kingdom of Christ.



So, it is imperative that we continue to learn how to . . . READ SLIDE

TR: With gratitude to Nick and Trevor for continuing our study of 1 Peter these last several weeks, let's press on by looking at . . .



PAGE 1117
IN HANDOUT BIBLES
1 Peter 2:11-25

. . . READ SLIDE
-- Handout Bibles

TR: Having established what God has packed into our “thrival kit”, having learned how to unpack it, and then marveling at our new identity in Christ . . .

THE STRESS OF

ANTAGONISTIC GOVERNMENT

AUTHORITIES AND SPITEFUL,

DEMANDING

BOSSES.



. . . we now come to the first section of specific exhortation regarding the stresses we face in real life.

-- Today we deal with the . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Our question is . . .



. . . READ SLIDE

TR: Using our notes page to help us work through the text of God's Word . . .

To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity
IN our communities, we will need to . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY



. . . we find four leverage points we must take a
firm grip on . . . the first is . . . **READ SLIDE**

TR: Let's turn in our Bibles to 1 Peter 2:11 . . .

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

READ SLIDE

TR: The urging of Peter for his beloved readers is . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY

- as sojourners and exiles (11)

... READ SLIDE (as sojourners and exiles)

TR: Yes, this may have been a literal description .

..



. . . but there's debate about that.

-- Perhaps they were those who believed on Pentecost and those who learned from them.

-- Perhaps they were folks who moved from Palestine.

-- Perhaps they were folks who were forced to

**move by Rome, from wherever, in order to populate a part of the empire
-- BUT what is clear is that they are “strangers and aliens” because there citizenship is ultimately in heaven.**

TR: So, what does Peter urge them, and us, to do?

1. LIVE HONORABLY

- as sojourners and exiles (11)
- **by abstaining from the passions of the flesh (11)**

**First there is a negative . . . something to stop . . .
we can only live honorably by . . . READ SLIDE**

**TR: Nick shared this same concept with us in his
teaching . . .**

¹⁴As obedient children, **do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,**
¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

. . . from back in chapter 1 . . . READ SLIDE
-- Our world tries to squeeze us into its mold by saying that we ought to give in to our passions if we are to be authentic, real people.
-- God says, "That's the way of ignorance. Those passions are waging war against your soul."

TR: This battle against our passions has a purpose much greater than our personal sense of victory . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY

- as sojourners and exiles (11)
- by abstaining from the passions of the flesh (11)
- for the purpose that unbelievers may see our good works and be drawn to Christ while there is still time (12)

... it is tied to the purpose for living honorably .

.. READ SLIDE

TR: Let me take us back to the text again . . .

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, **so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

. . . Negatively, we abstain. Positively we conduct ourselves with honor.

-- All this is SO THAT, for the purpose or to the end that . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Peter may well have in mind the teaching of his Lord and ours . . .



**In the same way,
let your light shine
before others,
so that they may
see your good works
and give glory to
your Father
who is in heaven.**

Jesus in Matthew 5:16

READ SLIDE

-- What the world needs is in us. Even under the squeeze of being sojourners and exiles, strangers and aliens, we must remember the goal . . . get the Gospel out!

-- Some of us are tempted to let our passions win

the day . . .

-- . . . please let me remind you that you will impact not only yourself but the others, who will not see your good works and therefore not give glory to God.

TR: To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity IN our communities, we will need to grab hold of a second leverage point . . .

To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity
IN our communities, we will need to . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY
2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN
AUTHORITIES



. . . the second is . . . **READ SLIDE**

TR: We pick up the text in verse 13 . . .

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

READ SLIDE

TR: Be subject, submit . . .

2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES

- at all levels, remembering the role of government (13-14)



PRAISE GOOD
GOVERNMENT
PUNISH EVIL

. . . willingly submit . . . READ SLIDE

-- At the supreme level of the emperor and at the more mundane level of governors, like county officials.

-- Government is to restrain and punish evil, and praise good.

TR: But note WHY we do this . . .

2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES

- at all levels, remembering the role of government (13-14)
- for the Lord's sake (13)

... in verse 13 it says “for the Lord’s sake” ...

this is for His honor and glory

-- It is for the accomplishment of His mission and objectives.

-- So, why do we obey the speed limits? Because we see a trooper in the median? Or for the

Lord's sake?

TR: There is a second WHY given in verse 15 .

..

2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES

- at all levels, remembering the role of government (13-14)
- for the Lord's sake (13)
- for the purpose of silencing arguments against the Gospel (15)

READ SLIDE

TR: Let's look again at the text so we don't miss this . . .

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or 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.**

READ SLIDE

- By doing good, by being subject and submitting to human authorities, we can silence their opposition to the Gospel.
- In the first century there were lots of rumors about these “Christians” . . . disloyalty to Caesar, upsetting trade, teaching that slaves

are free, advocating not paying taxes, not participating in festivals because they hated people, atheists because they had no idols. The gatherings of the faithful: calling themselves brothers and sisters of Christ and sons and daughters of God, aroused suspicion of incest. The Eucharist, the symbolic or mystical consumption of the body and blood of Christ conjured an image of cannibalism.

-- In our time there are rumors starting as

well, especially about conservative Christians . . . labeling us with the term “fanatics.”

TR: Yes, we are to be subject . . . but not because we are slaves in this world . . .

¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

. . . as verse 16 says . . . READ SLIDE

-- Our submission to authority is limited by the clear moral teachings of God's Word. When we are told to violate what we know to be wrong, it is an unlawful order and is to be resisted.

-- Yet, if we are honest, it is usually not about

issues of sin that we chaff under . . .

-- . . . rather it is the judgment calls that we don't agree with.

-- We must learn to differentiate what we think is UNWISE from what the Bible clearly teaches is SIN.

-- Don't make absolute what the Bible does not make absolute.

TR: So, in our notes we see that our willing submission is . . .

2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES

- at all levels, remembering the role of government (13-14)
- for the Lord's sake (13)
- for the purpose of silencing arguments against the Gospel (15)
- as truly "free" servants of God (16)

... as ... READ SLIDE

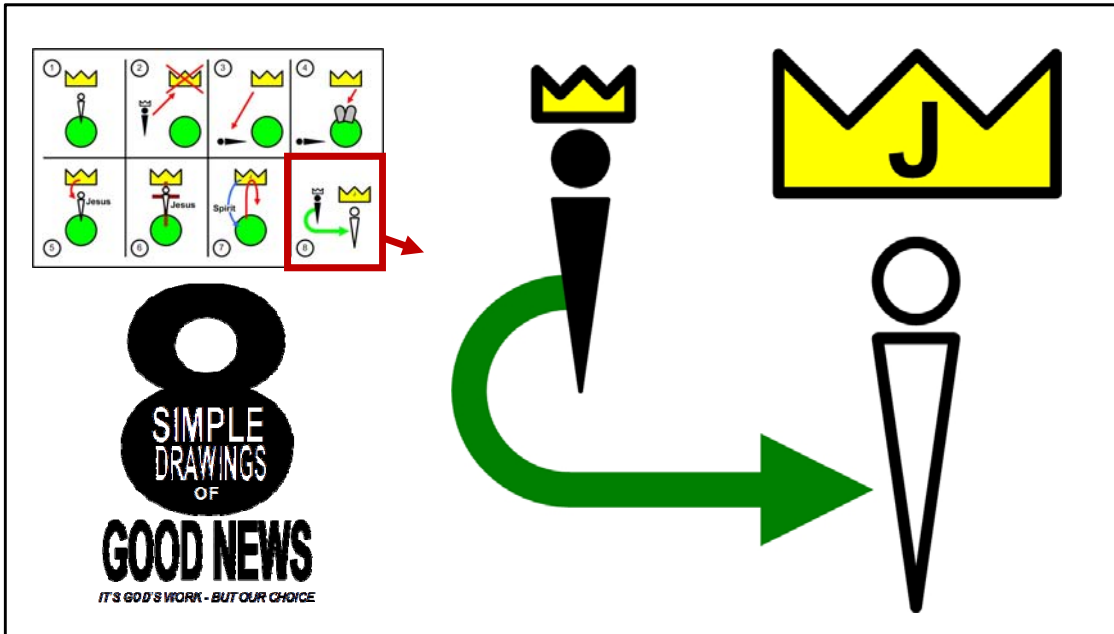
-- We are still SERVANTS ... but now we are servants of God.

-- This is not some absolute freedom where we can do whatever we want as long as it doesn't hurt somebody else (except, of course, we

ourselves are defining what “hurts”)

-- This is the freedom of being who we were created to be.

TR: As the 8th panel of the 8 Simple Drawings shows us . . .



... when we chose to repent of our sins, we **TURN FROM** them and then we **TURN TO** God in belief and trust.

-- We put ourselves under the crown of Jesus . . . and are restored to our rightful place for which we were created.

-- We are “free” . . . not free to sin and do evil but to live honorably, doing good.

TR: Verse 17 then has a summary statement of application.

2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN AUTHORITIES

- at all levels, remembering the role of government (13-14)
- for the Lord's sake (13)
- for the purpose of silencing arguments against the Gospel (15)
- as truly "free" servants of God (16)
- **Honor all, but love the brotherhood, and only fear God (17)**

We are told to . . . READ SLIDE . . . and then it repeats "Honor the emperor"

-- It seems like it is stepping up, up, up and then back down.

-- Everyone is to be honored . . . all are made in the image of God, and government authorities

have their role (even if they are hostile unbelievers)

-- Much higher is our responsibility to the brotherhood . . . we must LOVE each other.

-- And even higher is our duty to God . . . to reverently FEAR Him as the Holy Judge of all.

--

TR: To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity IN our communities, we will need to take a firm grip on Four leverage points . . . the

third is . . .

To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity
IN our communities, we will need to . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY
2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN
AUTHORITIES
3. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT TO OUR BOSSES



. . . READ SLIDE

-- This brings it even closer to home for most of
us.

TR: Look at your Bibles, verse 18 . . .

¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For 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.

READ SLIDE

- Parallel to being subject to government authorities, human institutions . . . we are to be subject to our masters
- Many in the early church were servants, slaves. When they came to Christ some thought they should rebel against their

masters.

-- BUT that is not what Peter teaches.

TR: He says we are to . . .

- 3. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT TO OUR BOSSES**
- **even the unjust ones (18)**

. . . READ SLIDE

-- Note that I am applying the principle to our experience of dealing with bosses at work.

TR: While it may not be a perfect parallel, many of you understand what it is to be . . .



. . . squeezed by the boss . . . to feel like their boots are on our necks.

-- We can feel OK about submitting to a good boss, but an unjust one?

-- Not just an incompetent one, but an UNJUST one?

TR: Why would anyone want to do that?

3. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT TO OUR BOSSES

- even the unjust ones (18)
- because we are mindful of God and seeking His favor (19-20)

Because . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verses 19 and 20 repeat a interesting phrase

. . .

¹⁸Servants, 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. ²⁰For 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.

. . . “for this is a gracious thing”

-- Many take this to mean that doing this results in the favor of God.

-- Others see that this is an action of graciousness on our part that is also gracious in God’s sight.

-- Some suggest that we can do all this

because of the grace of God given to us now.

TR: Note what the gracious thing is that we are to do . . .

3. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT TO OUR BOSSES

- even the unjust ones (18)
- because we are mindful of God and seeking His favor (19-20)
- even if we have to endure suffering for doing good (19-20)

. . . we have to endure suffering for doing good.

-- This seems so backwards . . . shouldn't we get good for doing good?

-- But when we are mindful of God and seeking His favor, wanting to do what is gracious . . . then we endure unjust suffering.

-- Have you had to endure sorrows while suffering unjustly? Have you done what is right and still be raked over the hot coals of gossip?

-- If you think this never happens today . . . well, then you are probably the boss. Over the years, I've spent hours talking with a number of men who were terminated from their jobs unjustly. I can say that those who fought against the passions of their fleshly desires and obeyed God's Word, these men

handled themselves with honor.

TR: When we see the purposes and causes behind this honorable living with appropriate submission, we realize it is all possible if we . . . take a firm grip on Four leverage points . . . the fourth is . . .

To MAKE THE MOST of every opportunity
IN our communities, we will need to . . .

1. LIVE HONORABLY
2. WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO HUMAN
AUTHORITIES
3. RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT TO OUR BOSSES
4. REMEMBER OUR CALLING



. . . READ SLIDE

TR: While verses 21 and following is giving us more specific reasons for being subject to our bosses, they are so important that we look at them separately. Look to verse 21 . . .

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When 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.

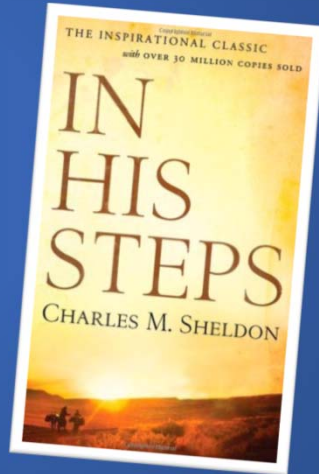
READ SLIDE

-- “to this” = suffering for doing good

TR: We remember our calling to Christ,
focusing on . . .

4. REMEMBER OUR CALLING

- Christ suffered to give us an example to follow (21)



READ SLIDE

-- This is the passage that inspired Charles Sheldon to write the classic, **IN HIS STEPS**. This is where we get the question, “What would Jesus do?”

-- As we face repressive authorities and bosses,

we must ask ourselves, “What would my Lord do?”

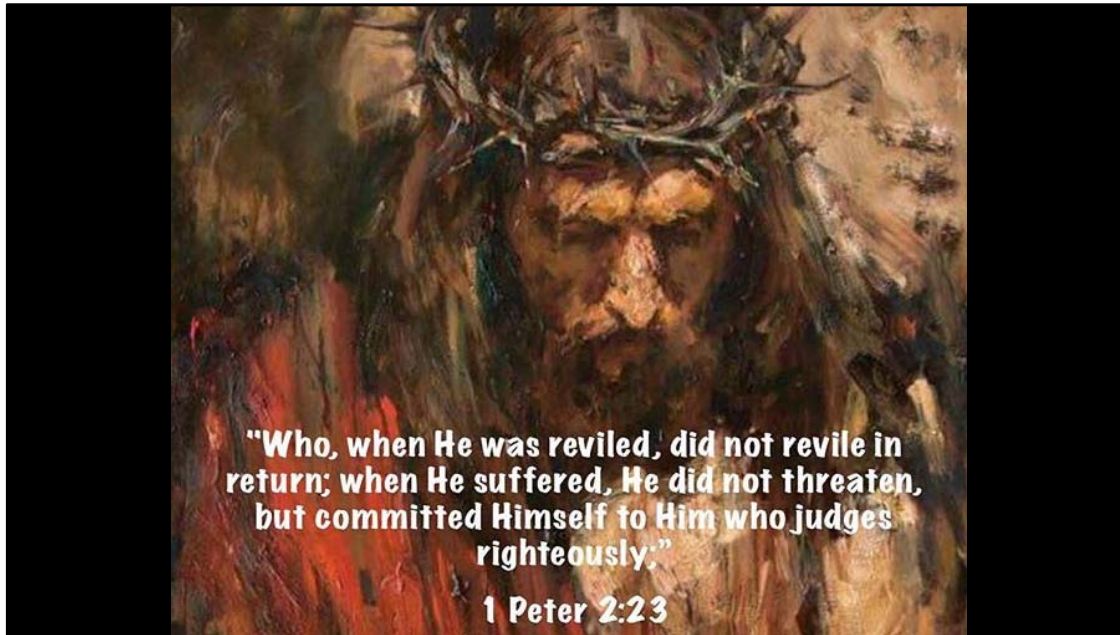
TR: His suffering is an example to us . . .

4. REMEMBER OUR CALLING

- Christ suffered to give us an example to follow (21)
- His suffering was an example of quiet trust (22-23)

. . . and, specifically, an example of quiet trust.

TR: In the anguish of His suffering, when Jesus could have called down a legion of angels to defend Him, our Savior . . .



**. . . did not revile, did not threaten
-- BUT He committed Himself in QUIET TRUST to
God His Father.**

**TR: He was modeling for us what He taught in
the Sermon on the Mount . . .**

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

READ SLIDE

- The agenda is bigger than getting what we deserve now . . . it is about lifting the name of Jesus in our actions and words.
- Justice will prevail in the end because God is a righteous Judge . . . but in the meantime, we are to follow Christ's teachings and example.

TR: Jesus' suffering and death were more than an example to us . . . as verse 24 tells us . . .

24He 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.

READ SLIDE

TR: Christ did much more than provide an example in His atoning work . . .

4. REMEMBER OUR CALLING

- Christ suffered to give us an example to follow (21)
- His suffering was an example of quiet trust (22-23)
- **His suffering was as our substitutionary sacrifice (24)**

. . . READ SLIDE

-- In His earthly body He carried our sins . . .

-- He Who knew no sin became sin so that we could be become the righteousness of God

TR: Don't miss what this work as our substitute

accomplished . . .

²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

and the purpose for which it was done . . .

“that we might die to sin and live to righteousness”

-- This honorable living that exceeds all earthly standards and continues to do good even when suffering for it . . .

-- . . . is possible because by faith we have so

identified with Christ that we died and were raised WITH HIM.

-- And therefore, as portrayed in baptism, we are now dead to sin and alive to righteousness.

-- Read verse 25 (“For you were . . .”)

TR: To live honorably, submitting for the sake of our Lord, mindful of Him . . . requires that we . . .

4. REMEMBER OUR CALLING

- Christ suffered to give us an example to follow (21)
- His suffering was an example of quiet trust (22-23)
- His suffering was as our substitutionary sacrifice (24)
- He has called us from our straying to His watch-care (25)

... remember ... READ SLIDE

-- All of us like sheep have gone astray.

-- We have been called back to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls ... the One Who wants what is absolutely best for us.

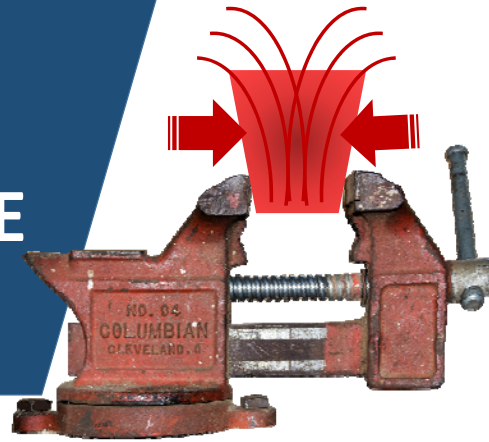
-- The true Christian has absolute humility ...

because we did not deserve nor did we earn our salvation.

-- YET the true Christian is also filled with confidence . . . our sins are paid for and we died to sin and were raised to live in righteousness.

TR: So, we circle back to our key question for the day . . .

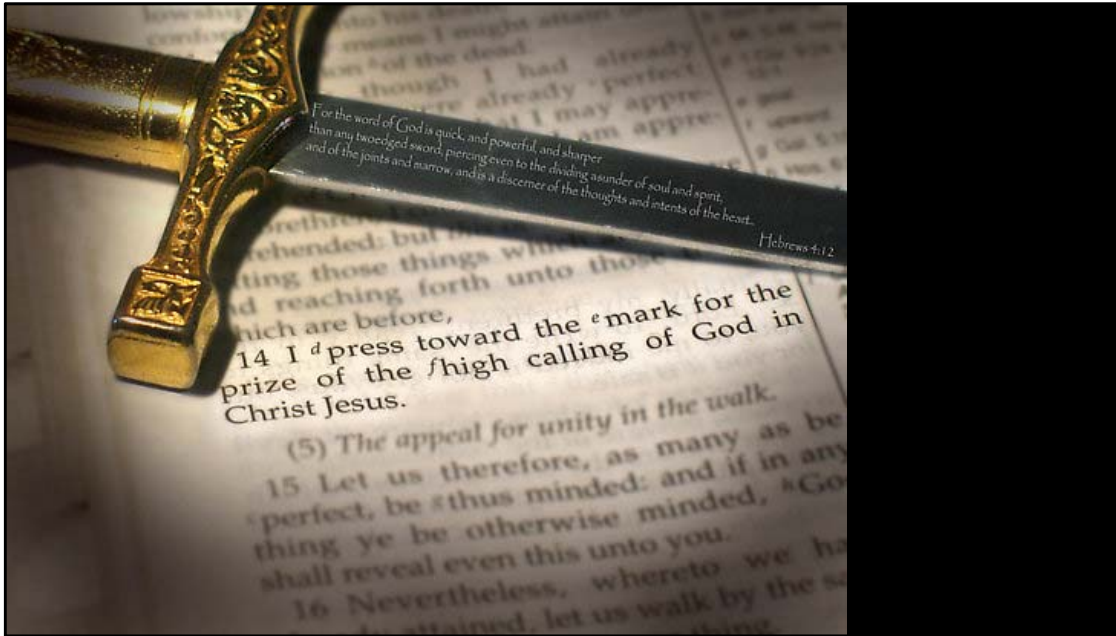
HOW ARE WE
CALLED TO
MAKE THE
MOST OF LIFE
IN A VISE?



READ SLIDE

TR: To put in the simplest terms, those of you on the front-lines of government and the workplace . . . and for all of us facing suffering that isn't a

result of our sinful choices . . .



. . . you must remember your high calling, as Philippians 3:14 says.

-- “I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

-- Life will squeeze us, as strangers and aliens in this world. What does God call us to?

TR: Who are the heroes among us? Who are MY heroes?



You are my heroes,
the ones,
when squeezed,
who pour forth
Gospel Fluency!

. . . READ SLIDE

-- cf. Satan said about Job: "Of course he serves You, because you bless him. But . . ."

-- And yet, for all his honest questions and confusions . . . Job lived honorably.

-- Christian, if you are being squeezed to a pulp

right now, this is your moment of opportunity to live honorably and fulfill your high calling.

-- “Will we remember our calling?”