

Submissive Sufferers Find Favor I Peter 2:18-25

Submitting is our responsibility even if authority figures are bad, 2:18

- ♦ The submission of servants / slaves to masters is throughout the NT: Col. 3: 22-25, Eph. 6:5-8, I Tim. 6:1,2, Titus 2:9,10, I Cor 7:21-23.
- ♦ Actually, commanding submission wasn't as irksome as it appears. Unlike government / marriage in this passage, slavery is not an institution mandated in NT. But why then no frontal assault on it?

- ♦ Actually, submission to slavery isn't as irrelevant as it appears today. Slaves akin to employees today: to bring profit / leisure for owners

Submitting is rewarded if we suffer under bad authorities, 2:19, 20

- ♦ A key motivation for submissive suffering is that, unlike suffering for sin, it brings *God's favor = grace (2x), credit = fame, renown, glory*. See Lk. 6:32-35 for a similar synonymous usage of *reward* and *grace* in Gk. Idea, as in Eph. 6:8, Col. 3:25 = future rewards.
- ♦ *Suffering* occurs for the first time in this book (1/4 of all NT usage is in this little book!) Vs. 20 = rhetorical Q.; there are two types of suffering (rewardless / rewarded), see later in 3:17, 4:15

- ♦ Rewards are ever alluded to so as to take much of the sting out of temporary suffering: 3:9, Mtt. 5:11,12, 2 Cor. 4:17-18, Rev. 2:10

Submissive suffering is required of us as it was with Christ, 21-25

- ♦ We are *called / chosen* to suffer (*this purpose*), not just for good things (see *called / chosen* in 1:1, 2:9).
- ♦ Isa 53:4-6,12 is woven together with Jesus' suffering / death. Note what he doesn't do (sin, deceit, retaliate, threaten) yet He suffers, then note what He does do (entrusts Himself to the justice to God).
- ♦ Since He is the suffering servant, we must be suffering servants! See 4:1, Phil. 1:29, Jn. 15:20, 2 Tim. 3:12, Js. 5:10,11