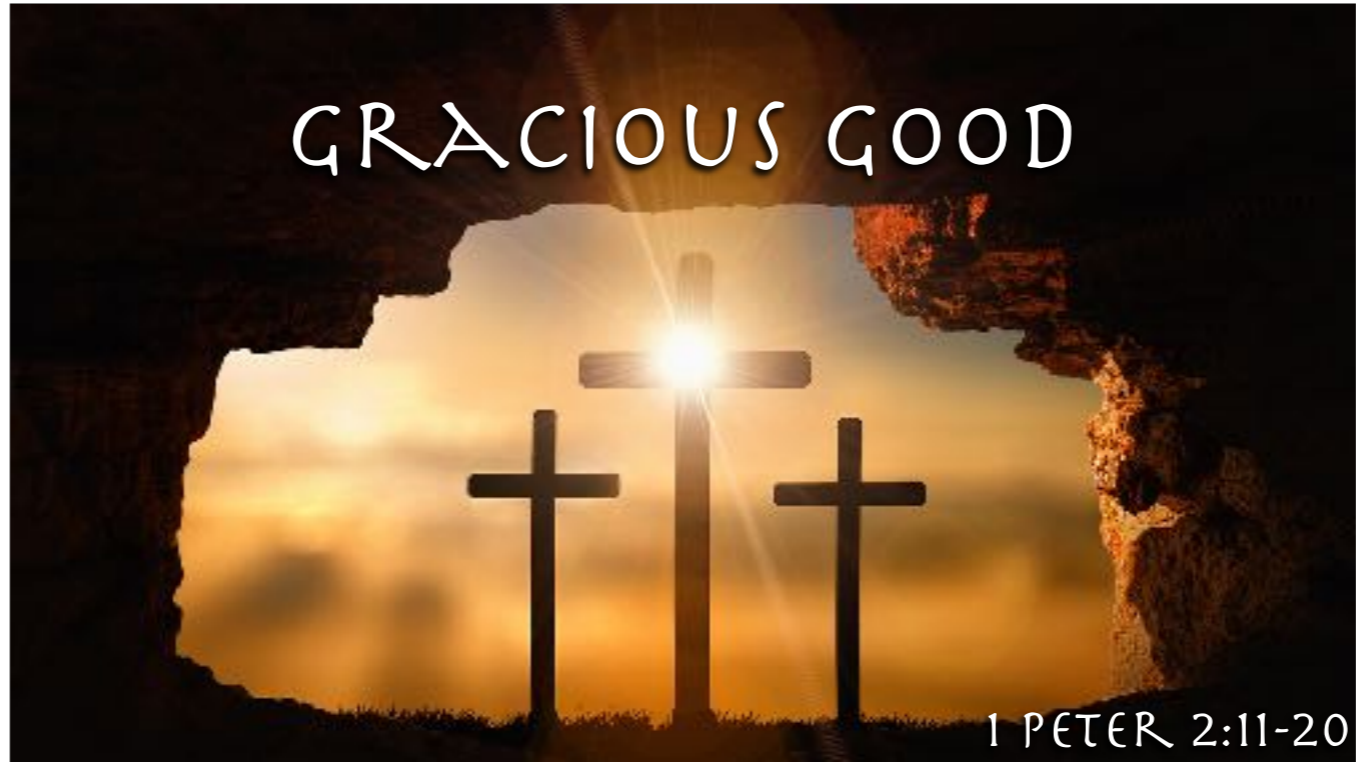


GRACIOUS GOOD



1 PETER 2:11-20

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation- God's people



sojourners & exiles



- We are God's chosen in very difficult circumstances
 - These saints had left home, moved to very areas, cultures, societies that were very different from home.
- Are we still sojourners and exiles?
 - Are there things for us to learn from this instruction?



- In this passage, Peter speaks of two that are opposed to us and one who is our example
 - Our own flesh (11)
 - Gentiles (12) — probably speaking of those who do not follow Jesus at this point, **UNBELIEVERS**, not just non-jews.



- But we also have an example to aid us: Christ
 - Jesus was also a sojourner and exile in the world and even among his own people
 - Jesus was also tempted like we are ... yet did not sin (Hebrews 4:15)
 - Jesus was surrounded by those who considered him to be an evildoer
 - Yet Jesus did good, submitted himself to God's will and saved us.



- 1 Peter 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.
- I know I'm plucking this clause out of the whole context, but it reminds us that Peter is not just randomly giving us his opinion about how we live and survive as sojourners and exiles.
 - The key for our understanding is that God's will for us is aligned with His plan: salvation of those who are lost.

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

—Abstain

Will of God



Flesh
Gentiles

Christ

- 1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
 - There are two aspects: one inner and one outward toward others



- What are these passions?

- Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV) 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Galatians 5:24 (ESV) 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the flesh with its passions and desires.

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

—Abstain

Will of God



Flesh
Gentiles

Christ

- Why? — wage war against your soul
 - Romans 7:21-25 (ESV) 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do **right**, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
- Right (vs. 18, 21) is the same as “good” in our text.



- Honorable Conduct:
 - outward toward others
- Honorable
 - good, suited to it's purpose, beautiful
 - (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged - Little Kittel)) In these passages, kalós has for the most part the philosophical sense of 'right,' 'orderly,' or 'excellent,' manifested in such things as right conduct, correct teaching, and a proper attitude to the world. All this, however, is in orientation to Christ and the gospel.
 - Used again in this passage:
 - 12: they may see your good deeds



- Why our behavior matters?
 - We can't control everything that others think about us.
 - Constantly being scrutinized
 - Peter warns that people may accuse us of being evil doers
 - How can our conduct be misconstrued as "evil"?
 - Jesus spent time with gluttons and drunkards
 - Jesus was accused of rebelling against the Romans
 - Paul cast demon out of little girl, thrown in prison
 - Paul was at the center of a riot, but



- We are not judged by the world, but by Jehovah:
 - 1 Corinthians 4:4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.
- So why do we have to be mindful?: see good deeds, glorify God in judgment
 - They may not recognize the good now, but they will
 - Matthew 5:16 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.

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

Will of God

Honorable Conduct

Flesh

Gentiles

Christ

- Our conduct among the unbelievers matters
 - Even when we are derided
 - We are the light.



- Doing Good
 - 1 Peter 2:13-15 (ESV) 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.
- Good means
 - benefits others, profits others, do right, excellent



- Peter has a very specific example
 - Subject to every human institution: emperor or governors
 - Vital for sojourners and exiles: many suspicious
 - We often struggle with this: we think of our rights, governed by the people
 - Sometimes our government seems to break their own rules or principles
 - We are allowed to disagree.
 - But Peter reminds us that doing good includes submitting to the control of the leaders.



- For the Lord's sake
 - It's not for our sake
 - It's not for 'freedom' sake
 - It's not about patriotism.
 - This is about Jesus ... doing good
 - When Peter used Sword to defend Jesus
 - Matthew 26:53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?
 - Silent before accusers
 - Submitted to Pilate



- Silence the ignorance of foolish people
 - This would be a reference to the evil that they speak against us.
 - Ignorant because they don't understand
 - Foolish because they don't try to understand
 - Jesus as King, e.g.: Yes a king, not of this world.
 - To those who are not spiritually minded, this might not make sense.
- Will of God is that we are actively doing good
 - But this means subject ourselves to others, working for their benefit
 - Not always putting ourselves and our rights forward.



- 1 Peter 2:16-17— 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.
- Interesting that immediately after teaching us to submit to government, Peter tells us to live as free people.
- Attitude we need to have as we face a world that is opposed to us and in difficult situations and trials.



- It's easy to forget that in Christ we are free people.
 - John 8:34-36 — Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
 - Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

Will of God

— Live as Free People

Flesh

Gentiles

Christ

- Galatians 5:13-15 (ESV) 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.



- Living as free people
 - doesn't mean that we can do evil (abstaining from passions and honorable conduct)
 - Nor can we hide behind "freedom" and do things that are sinful.
 - This includes not submitting to authorities
 - Galatians: "opportunity for the flesh"; "yoke of slavery"



- Specifically:
 - Honor everyone
 - Value — understanding that each human on this earth has value
 - We tend to assign value based on our standards of good, and worthy, and righteousness
 - But also wealth, social, job, cleanliness
 - How do you think of immigrants? Do you honor them? Do you value them?
 - This is not a matter of judging if their actions are right or wrong: that misses the point.
 - Free people honor all people.



- Love the brotherhood
 - Galatians: “through love serve one another”
- Fear God
 - Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
- Honor the emperor
 - Value those who lead us.
 - Again, doesn’t mean that we think they are always right or moral.
 - Doesn’t mean we agree with them.
 - But we are to submit to them.

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

Will of God

— Live as Free People

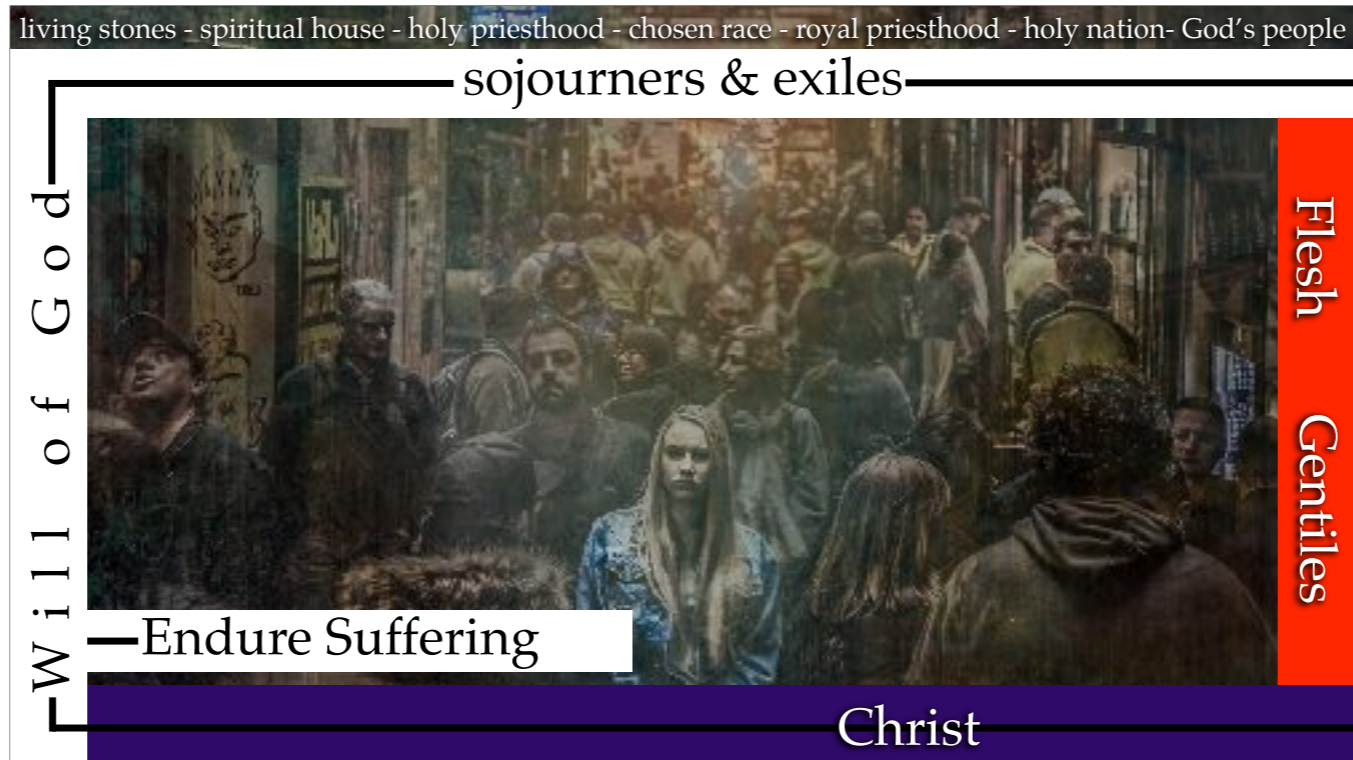
— Endure Suffering

Christ

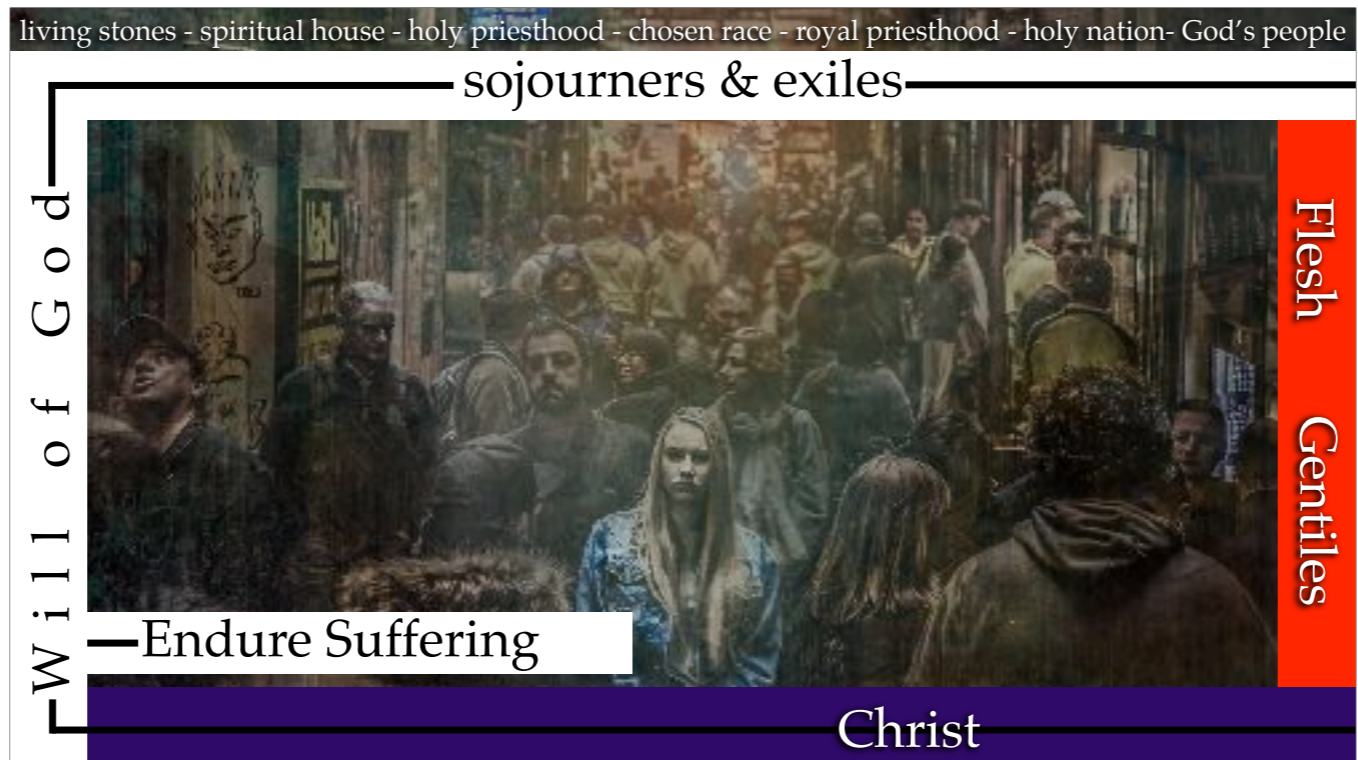
Flesh

Gentiles

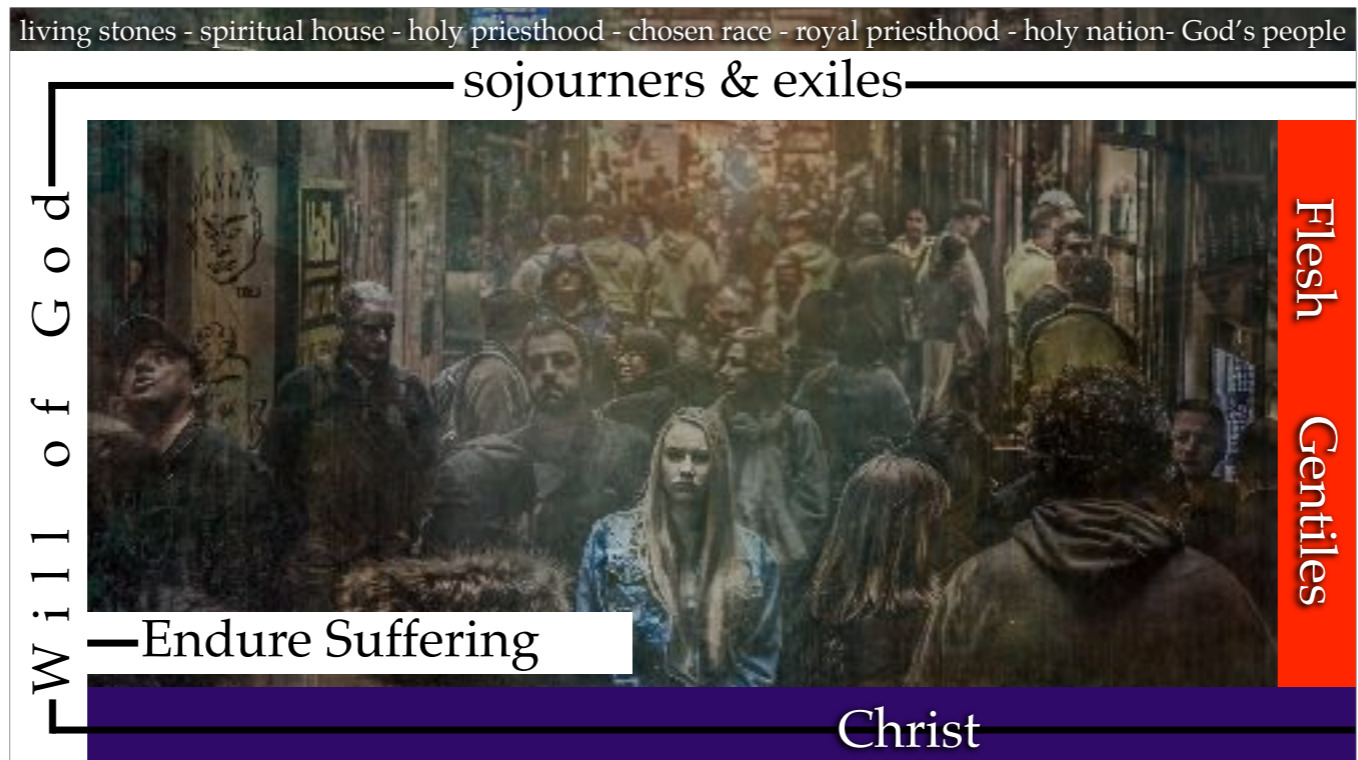
- 1 Peter 2:18-20 (ESV) 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.



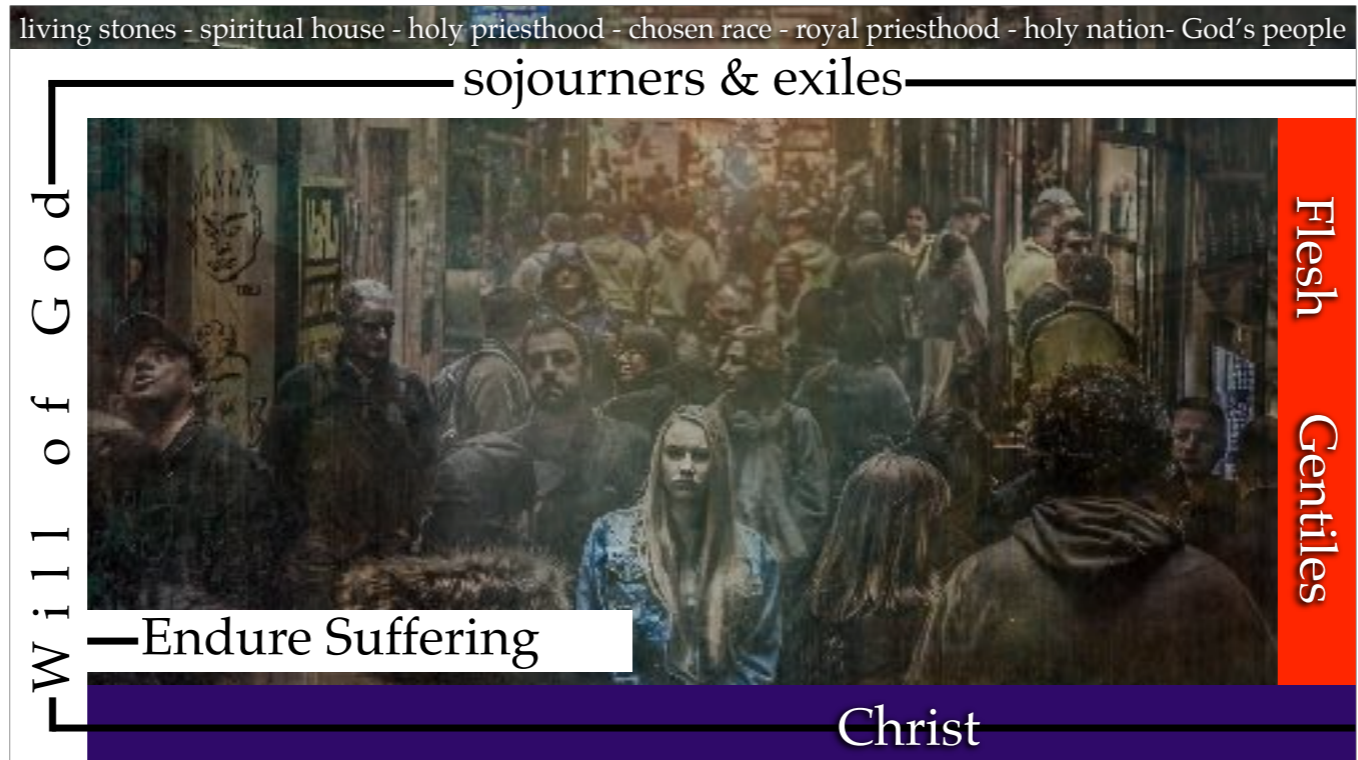
- Peter's teaching is especially important to those who are literally slaves.
 - Odd that it follows the teaching of living as free people.
 - How do slaves live as free people?
 - How do slaves value masters?
 - Peter is using a particularly difficult situation to teach all of us what it means to be doing good in the most difficult of circumstances.
 - Slaves do not have a lot of options: at the mercy of their master
 - We must be careful not to apply this to any abusive situation
 - Notice: sorrows (19), suffering unjustly (19), suffer (20)
 - Peter reminds them ...



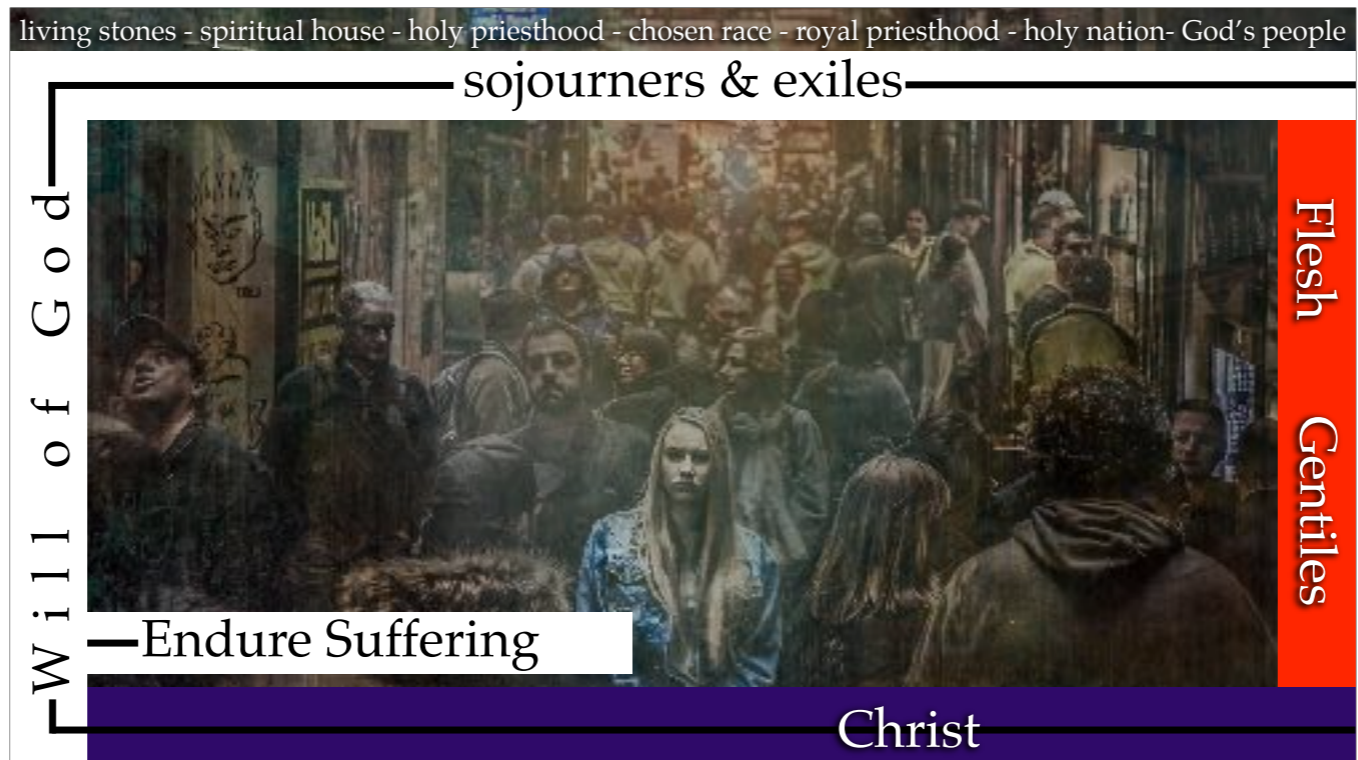
- How to think and treat your Masters: be subject with ALL respect
 - not just good and gentle
 - (Is this just a hypothetical idea)
 - but also unjust
 - (but that's not fair, or right)
 - What if my master mistreats me ... beats me
 - Our tendency to to think that we would stand up for our rights, oppose the Master
 - Or feel justified in running away.
- Peter recognizes that if we are not respectful of our masters and they beat us that, our reaction says nothing about who we are.



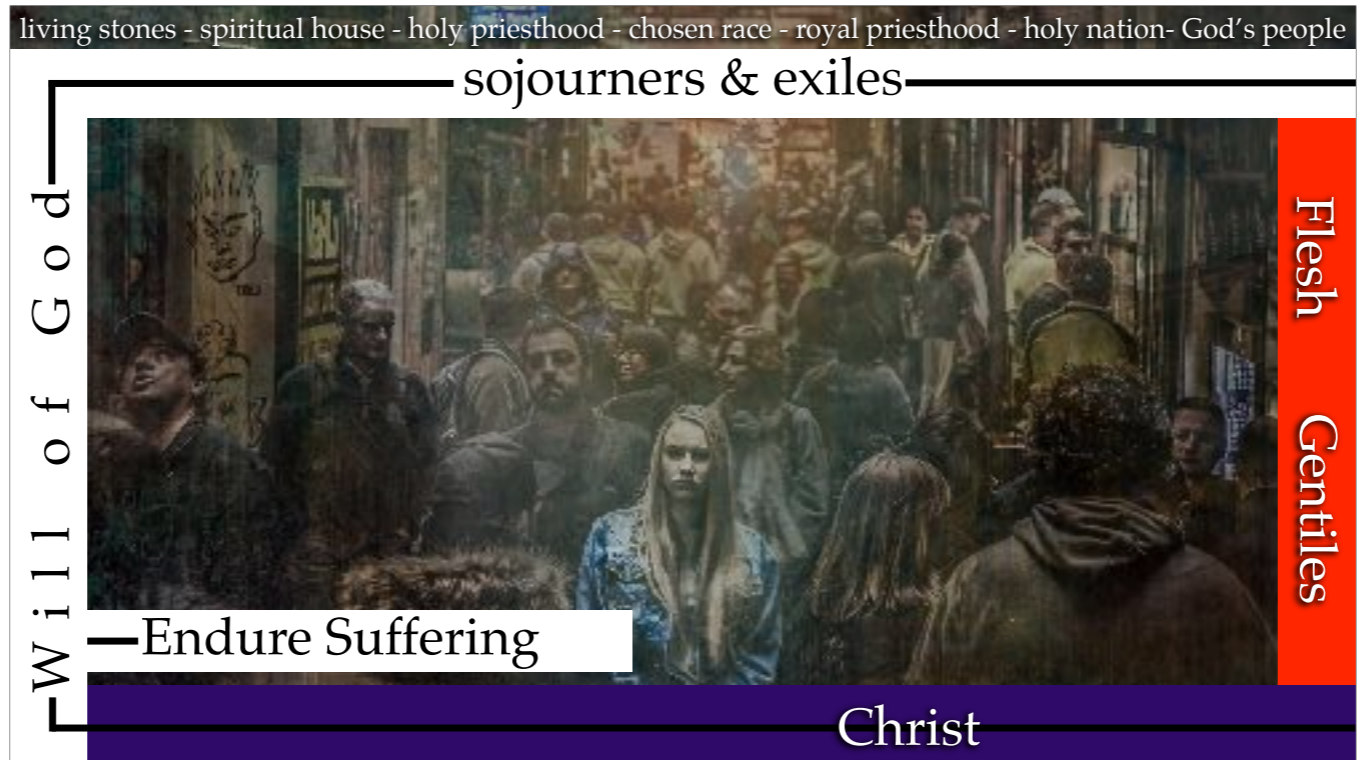
- Three times Peter speaks of enduring.
- Twice he speaks of it being a gracious thing when we endure.
- How do we endure when things are not as they should be, when they are very wrong?
 - What does Peter mean by “endures”?
 - Vines: denotes “to abide under, to bear up courageously”
 - It doesn’t mean that we approve of what is happening to us.
 - It doesn’t mean that we blame ourselves for the wrong that is happening to us. Nor does it mean we are complicit.



- Respect
 - Just and Unjust
 - Be subject with all respect
 - No matter what they do, we can choose to respond respectfully.
 - Difficult, because sometimes we revel in being belligerent, sarcastic, mocking, even if our Master never knows



- Mindful of God
 - Because our tendency is to focus on the one who is doing these things and we tend to think only of our immediate distress. (Understandable!)
 - What would be included in being mindful of God?
 - Things we praise him for as Peter mentioned in chapter 1.
 - Great Mercy
 - Living Hope
 - Guarded by God's Power
 - Salvation in last time




- Do Good

- When suffering is it more difficult to do good?
- More prone to excuse poor or rude behavior towards others because we are under duress?
- Also, we're tired and overwhelmed.
- But finding little ways of doing good means a lot
 - Reading accounts of the prisoners in the nazi concentration camps reveal kindness after kindness that meant so much to be reminded that they were human and had value
 - Cup of cold water

living stones - spiritual house - holy priesthood - chosen race - royal priesthood - holy nation - God's people

sojourners & exiles

Will of God



Flesh
Gentiles

— Endure Suffering

Christ

- This is a gracious thing in the sight of God
 - This is not saying that we are being gracious,
 - But that God shows his favor for us when we endure
 - He approves of our character and choices in difficult situations

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

<https://pixabay.com/photos/sheep-lamb-cattle-herd-person-man-5301699/>

<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/resurrection-cross-crucifixion-5019777/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-alone-crowd-sad-depressed-2666433/>

True Grace

#04

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2024 January 28
www.1corinthians1614.com

Gracious Good

1 Peter 2:11-20

Synopsis: Peter reminds these exiles that they have two wars: their flesh and the unbelievers. So they must learn to abstain from the passions of the flesh, have honorable conduct, do good, live as free people, and endure suffering.

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

“Let all that you do be done with love.”