

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

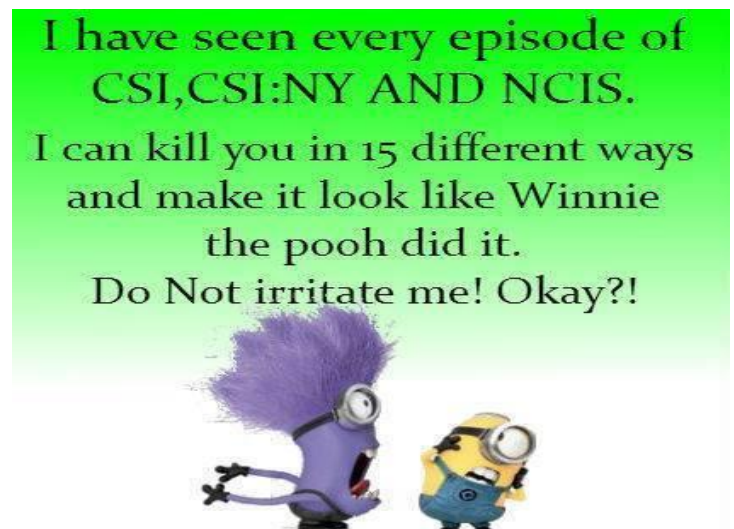
1) 04 Sept	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Living Hope
2) 11 Sept	1 Peter 1:13-25	Be Holy
3) 18 Sept	1 Peter 2:1-10	Building Our Faith
4) 25 Sept	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as Strangers
5) 02 Oct	1 Peter 3:1-12	Living in Relationship
6) 09 Oct	1 Peter 3:13-22	Always Ready
7) 16 Oct	1 Peter 4:1-11	Equipped to Live
8) 23 Oct	1 Peter 4:12-19	When Ridiculed
9) 30 Oct	1 Peter 5:1-14	Alert Living
10) 6 Nov	2 Peter 1:3-11	Being Useful
11) 13 Nov	2 Peter 1:1-21	With Trust
12) 20 Nov	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25	On Guard
13) 27 Nov	2 Peter 3:1-18	With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- What's more important in life? The Do's or the Don'ts?
- We are promised trouble in this life, and yet we are also promised a permanent healing by the stripes of Christ
- Jesus promised we will suffer if we live for Him. So, would we rather suffer for a crime we committed or a crime committed on us? ANSWER – Pick the one that brings the most eternal reward

Passage	Comments
1Peter 2:11	<p><b>“Abstain from Fleshly Lusts”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter doesn't make a casual recommendation, but he strongly PLEADS and BEGS his readers to avoid sin</li> <li>• Peter calls his readers “foreigners” and “strangers”, which is akin to us telling our friends when they travel to a foreign country “Don't drink the water!”</li> <li>• REMEMBER God's perspective on sin – What happens in Vegas is shouted from the roof tops ..... <a href="#">Luke 8:17</a></li> </ul>
2:12	<p><b>“Conduct Yourselves Honorably”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimony is everything</li> <li>• If someone catches us being hypocritical (lying, cheating, cussing, bad-mouthing), make amends and get back in God's good graces – because we need every blessing we can get</li> <li>• How do people speak evil of us today? And is it true?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ “Christians are too judgmental”</li> <li>♦ “All Christians are hypocrites”</li> <li>♦ “Christians are milk-toasts, wimps, naïve”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Our good testimony is what converts many people... – Not our Words shared in a moment of time, But our Deeds examined over a life time</li> </ul>
2:13-14	<p><b>“Submit Yourselves to the Government”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REMEMBER – The 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians were living under a tyrannical ruler (Nero) in countries with few morals and with few laws to protect the weak</li> <li>• It would be similar to living in Afghanistan with the Taliban in control. Anyone, especially women, could be brutally beaten, raped, and killed for bogus reasons</li> <li>• Peter never advocates fighting the Government – but, instead, advocates that Christians first clean up their own lives, obey the good laws of the land, then work within the system to challenge and transform it</li> <li>• Naturally, Peter would be the first person to advocate keeping God's laws above man's laws – even if it meant paying the ultimate price for the crime such as going to jail or even forfeiting one's life ..... <a href="#">Acts 5:29</a></li> </ul>
A Word on Politics	<p>How should Christians vote when the best of all candidates is Pokemon? Do we vote the lesser of the two or three evils, or the issues, or not vote at all? The worst scenario is not voting at all... So, Please Vote!</p>

Passage	Comments
2:15	<p><b>To Shut People Up, Let Them See God's Light in You</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This only works of course with reasonable people</li> <li>• Angry mobs of unruly people bent on destruction and anarchy only listen to those wielding more fire power                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Example #1 – Stephen was stoned by an unruly mob</li> <li>♦ Example #2 – U.S. embassies overrun by mobs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One day God Himself will be that over whelming force who will crush the final revolt with fire ..... <a href="#">Rev 20:9</a></li> </ul>
2:16	<p><b>To Be Truly Free, We Must Become Slaves to Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Act as Free Men” – How is this done if someone is enslaved in some capacity?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider this – if we are not enslaved to some kind of sin, we are free indeed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil”                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How would this be done in our lives?</li> <li>♦ How would our Freedom of Speech be viewed in a wrong manner?</li> <li>♦ How would our freedom to eat and drink be misconstrued for evil?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Live as Slaves to God” – What should this look like?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How hard should we work at this? Flippantly or fervently?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
A Note on Human Slavery	<p>Researchers have estimated there were over 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, with 1/3 of the population of Rome being slaves. Human slavery is still rampant today with human trafficking for sexual exploitation even in America. Know the signs of someone trapped in human trafficking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in</li> <li>• Loss of sense of time; Is in poor health</li> <li>• Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story</li> </ul>
2:17	<p><b>“Honor Everyone”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does honoring everyone mean submit to everyone?</li> <li>• Do we honor certain people above other people?</li> <li>• How does honoring someone involve our talk? Our wallet? Our attitude? Our thoughts? Our actions?</li> <li>• Was Mordecai wrong in not bowing down to honor Haman? (see lesson on <a href="#">Esther 3</a>)</li> </ul>



Honor Everyone...

Passage	Comments
1Peter 2:18	<p><b>Submit to Your Masters – Whether Good or Bad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human slavery is alive and well around the world and slaves still have little recourse from harsh treatment</li> <li>Master/slave relationships could be considered typical employers/employees or husband/wife or, in the worst, case sadism/sex slave. Would this passage still apply?</li> <li>If we ever find ourselves as a “slave” in some capacity, are there limitations to our submitting?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What if our “Master” ask us to commit a crime?</li> <li>What if we are subjected to physical or emotional brutality?</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Principle to Live By:</b> Slaves can seek freedom – but we should always be slaves to Christ..... <a href="#">1Cor 7:21-22</a></li> </ul>
2:19-20	<p><b>Suffering Injustice Brings Eternal Rewards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you get a ticket while speeding to church, that is not suffering for the Lord</li> <li>If you lost a job opportunity because you would refuse to lie, cheat, or steal – then endure the earthly loss graciously knowing your heavenly reward will be BIG</li> <li>What other injustices could we experience: _____</li> </ul>
2:21-22	<p><b>We are Called to Suffer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Righteousness is not a protection against suffering but vibrant Christians will suffer</li> <li>Jesus set the example for us to follow His steps – but what are those steps?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In word – conveying the truth in love</li> <li>In deed – showing compassion and generosity to the brokenhearted, to the unlovable, to the poor</li> <li>What other steps? _____</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:23	<p><b>Christians are Vulnerable by Design</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus had the ability to call down legions of Angels to save Him from the cross – BUT He had a higher priority than being saved from harm – He was committed to His Father’s will, which meant dying on the cross</li> <li>Should we fight back when we are attacked unjustly?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It depends – will fighting back accomplish God’s will?</li> <li>Stephen did not fight back and he got stoned</li> <li>Peter did not fight back and he went to jail</li> <li>Paul did not fight back over Timothy’s need for circumcision – and the church grew ..... <a href="#">Acts 16:1-5</a></li> <li>Paul, however, did fight back by not having Titus circumcised – and the gospel flourished..... <a href="#">Gal 2:3-5</a></li> <li>Paul fought his accusers by appealing to Caesar</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Principle to Live By – Know When to Fight, Flight or Surrender:</b> It’s OK to fight to defend the truth, and avail yourself to every legal recourse ..... <a href="#">Acts 25:11</a> Other times it is wiser to flee a bad situation .... <a href="#">Mt 10:23</a> Then there are times we must acknowledge the outcome is in God’s hands ..... <a href="#">Rom 8:36</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note:</b> Jesus debated the rulers for 3 years trying to convince them of the truth of His Messiahship before succumbing to the cross. In two cases He even had to escape from the clutches of a crowd</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:24	<p><b>By His Wounds We Are Healed [PERMANENTLY]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charismatics render this passage and its OT source <a href="#">Isaiah 53:5</a> as a guarantee for temporary physical healings</li> <li>BUT the context of <a href="#">1Peter 2</a> and <a href="#">Isaiah 53</a> imply we are permanently healed from God’s wrath (Hell), and not temporarily healed from any physical ailments</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
2:25	<p><b>We Were Once Lost Sheep – Now We Are Found</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peter often repeats his key messages, but differently                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">1 Pet 2:10</a> – You were once Not a People, now you are the People of God – You once had not received Mercy, now you have received Mercy</li> <li><a href="#">1 Pet 3:10</a> (next week’s lesson) – We were once unjust, now we are justified; and <a href="#">1 Pet 4:6</a> – We were once dead in our sins, now we live (<a href="#">Col 2:13</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>In brief, Peter was conveying a very important doctrinal position – We were once unsaved, now we are saved; We were once doomed for Hell, now we are Heaven-bound; We were once unchosen, now we are chosen</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- The Do’s and the Don’t’s in life are equally important, but as Mike Warnke, a Christian comedian, once said – “If we concentrate on doing the Do’s we won’t have time to do the Don’t’s”
- How serious do we take God’s word so that outsiders do not have a valid reason to malign us?
  - Do we obey the speed limit?
  - Do we honor those around us (friends and foes)?
  - Do we honor the marriage bed?
  - Do we suffer graciously or are we a whiney-hiney?
- There is no easy cookie-cutter solution or answer for every suffering situation. God tailors each situation for our benefit and for His Glory..... [Romans 8:28](#)
  - Even someone caught up in the vilest of human tragedies such as childhood sexual abuse, human trafficking, and drug addiction can find hope in the Gospel message – For God is more concerned about our future than our past

**NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 3:1-12.** Wives are to be submissive to their husbands and a husband needs to be understanding of his wife’s needs.



American Christians have got it good!