

# **STANDING STRONG**

## **BEING YOUR BEST WHEN LIFE IS AT ITS WORST**

### **(A STUDY OF 1 AND 2 PETER)**

#### **#4: STANDING STRONG THROUGH UNFAIRNESS—1 PETER 2:13-25**

**JIM HINTON**

Trust the LORD and do good. Live in the land and feed on truth. Enjoy serving the LORD, and he will give you what you want. Depend on the LORD; trust him, and he will take care of you.

Psalm 37:3-5 (NCV)

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD.

Romans 12:19 (NLT)

## **I. WHAT IS BIBLICAL SUBMISSION?**

### **THE SERENITY PRAYER**

By Reinhold Neibuhr

God, grant me the serenity...  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;  
Taking as Jesus did,

This sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it;  
Trusting that You will make things right  
if I surrender to Your will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
And supremely happy with You forever in the  
next  
Amen

## **II. HOW WILL SUBMISSION EMPOWER ME TO STAND STRONG? – 1 PET. 2:13-25**

1. Peace with authorities is achieved by respecting God's order for society (v.13-17)
2. Peace in the workplace is achieved by cooperation rather than hatred and rebellion (v.18)

### **A BRIEF LOOK AT SLAVERY IN ANCIENT TIMES**

- Slavery was a fact in the ancient world
- Slavery was often different than we understand it

Kinds of slavery addressed in this scripture:

- ⇒ Judicial slavery
- ⇒ Indentured servitude
- ⇒ Conquered peoples

- **Why didn't the New Testament overtly condemn slavery?**

**The New Testament does subtly – but clearly – condemn slavery by promoting love and equality for all people**

You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This means that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. In Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. You belong to Christ, so you are Abraham's descendants. You will inherit all of God's blessings because of the promise God made to Abraham.

Galatians 3:26-30 (NCV)

- **Any attempt by the church to forcibly overthrow the institution of slavery would have been crushed by the Roman Empire**

**So, this passage and most New Testament scriptures give practical counsel about how to best manage the reality of a situation as it existed. However, in 1 Timothy 1:10 the Apostle Paul did specifically condemn slave trading by equating it with the sin of murder. He also wrote:**

Were you a slave when you were called? That shouldn't bother you. However, if you have a chance to become free, take it.

1 Corinthians 7:21 (GWT)

- **Eventually Christ did destroy slavery by transforming hearts**

There are some things which cannot happen quickly; there are some situations in which the leaven has to work and in which haste is the surest way to delay the desired end. The leaven of Christianity had to work in the world for many generations before the abolition of slavery became a practical possibility. The New Testament writers were concerned that Christian slaves should not demonstrate to the world that their Christianity did not make them disgruntled rebels but rather workmen who had found a new inspiration towards doing and honest days work. It will still often happen that, when some situation cannot be changed, the Christian duty is to be Christian within that situation and to accept what cannot be changed until the leaven has worked.

William Barclay

3. **Peace in the workplace is achieved by cooperation rather than hatred and rebellion (v.18)**

4. **Peace eternally is achieved by trusting that God's transcendent justice will prevail (v.23-25)**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NIV)