

# “Stand Fast!”

## The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 4, for Sunday, November 4, 2001

“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.” 1 Peter 2:11-12, NAS

### The Outline

#### II. The chastened response of practical holiness (2:1-3:22)

- A. The negative and positive bases of holiness (2:1-2:3).
- B. The readers’ participation in a holy community, the Church (2:4-2:10).
- C. Unimpeachable living, the answer to persecution (2:11-3:13).
  - 1. Deference to statutes, officers, fellow citizens (2:11-2:17).

### The Argument

Do the right thing! Shun evil behavior in any form. Follow our Lord and listen to Him. He has most certainly chosen you to work together with Him and for Him.

Do the right thing! Just as Jesus was chosen by God and yet rejected by men, you also are chosen by God and are being rejected by men. As His chosen ones, serve Him together and proclaim His salvation to all around you. You have been chosen and brought together for this very purpose.

Do the right thing! Shun earthly evil behavior. As you do the right thing, the pagans will see you, and although they hate you for doing right today, yet some will praise our God for the salvation which your behavior influenced them to accept also.

Do the right thing!

### The Key Words

**Salvation:** σωτηρία -- deliverance, preservation, release: to rescue from danger and to restore to a former state of safety and well being.

Examples: 'and as he began to sink, he shouted, Lord, rescue me' Mt

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14.30. 'and he thought that his own people would recognize that God would provide for their deliverance through him' Ac 7.25; 'therefore, I urge you to take some food, for this is important for your deliverance' or '... for your survival' Ac 27.34.

**Choice:** ἐκλεκτός -- chosen, elect, choice, select. Examples: 'you are the chosen race' 1 Pe 2.9; 'for the sake of his chosen people whom he chose, he has reduced those days' Mk 13.20; 'what Israel sought so eagerly it did not gain, but those whom he chose did' Ro 11.7.

**Priesthood:** ἱεράτευμα -- priesthood *f*: the role of being a priest - 'priesthood, to be a priest.' Examples: 'those who are priests are commanded to collect a tenth from the people in accordance with the Law' He 7.5; '(where) you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual sacrifices' 1 Pe 2.5; 'when the role of the priest is changed, there also necessarily has to be a change of the law' He 7.12.

**Submit:** ὑποτάσσω -- put in subjection, subject, subordinate; pass. be subject, submit to, obey, be under the authority of; take a subordinate place (1 Cor 14.34); to bring something under the firm control of someone - 'to subject to, to bring under control. Examples: 'the town secretary got the crowd under control' Ac 19.35.

### The Quotations

**1 Peter 2:6b** “Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in him shall not be disappointed.” Isaiah 28:16

**1 Peter 2:7b** “... the stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone ...” Psalm 118:22

**1 Peter 2:8a** “... a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense ...” Isaiah 8:14

**1 Peter 2:9a** “... a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession ...” Deuteronomy 10:15

**1 Peter 2:10** “... for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Leviticus 25:23