

Do Not Be Surprised at the Fiery Ordeal Among You

An Expository Journey Through 1Peter 1Peter 2:11-25

22- How to Live as Aliens and Strangers- Part 4 Submission to Earthly Authority- Part 1

June 17, 2018

1 Peter 2:11-25

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 *WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;*

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

To the Glory of God

Now, inherently, the Bible says things that simply do not make any sense to the average person. And the result of that Reality is that more and more people, who attend Church and who say they are saved, simply *exclude* the Word of God from their daily life. One of the primary examples of this is in the reluctance of many modern believers to even discuss the Issue of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, and how radical Feminism has infiltrated the Church, and, in many places, completely *replaced* the Bible as the "Rule of all Life".

So, as the visible Church becomes more and *more* attuned to the lost world, and *less* attuned to the "**things of the Spirit of God**", more and more people, who make up the membership of the average Church, see the "**things of the Spirit of God**" as either outdated concerns of people who lived long ago, or things that are simply *irrelevant* to them and the way they live their daily lives.

And there are a lot of reasons for this, and each of those reasons deserve an entire Study of their own, but the *result* is that more and more people, who lay claim to have experienced the miracle of the New Birth, simply see no reason to strive against the lusts of their flesh to find themselves in humble and joyful submission to the clear Commands of Scripture. And so, they don't.

So, for a Pastor to get up and preach from the Passage that Brother Andy just read to you is, to these people, increasingly boring and has absolutely *nothing* to do with what they are interested in. And so, they either put pressure on the Pastor to change what he is preaching, or they leave and go where they can listen to very shallow and very surface information that might help them balance their checkbook, but which will not help them at all in becoming a person

who is in right standing with God. Here is what the Apostle Paul said about this phenomenon from **1 Corinthians 2:14**:

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Now notice several things about what the Apostle said. He wrote here, as God the Holy Spirit “moved him along”, about the condition of what he called the “natural man”. Now this is Pauline language that describes a person who is lost, or the individual who has not experienced the miracle of the New Birth. And Paul said here that the natural or the lost person does not do something:

... a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God ...

Now the word “accept” comes from a Greek word (*dechomai*; Strongs#1209), that means: *to receive; to trust in; to believe; to accept; to take in the hand; to embrace; to hold closely*.¹ So, what is it that a lost person does *not* receive, accept, believe in, or trust? What is it that a person, who has not experienced the miracle of the New Birth, does *not* take in his hand and embrace or hold closely?

... the things of the Spirit of God ...

But *why* does a lost person not trust in or embrace or accept the things of the Spirit of God? Paul answers:

... for [because] they are foolishness to him...

So, he “**does not**” accept the things of the Spirit of God because they are foolishness to him. So, Paul says here that the lost person makes a conscious decision of his will to not trust in or believe or receive the “**things of the Spirit of God**”. Now the word that was translated here as “**foolish**” comes from a Greek word (*mooria*; Strongs #3472), that means:

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*something so utterly absurd that it merits nothing but scorn, ridicule, and rejection.*²

And this means that the person, who has *not* experienced the miracle of the New Birth, makes a *conscious decision* of his will to completely *reject* the **“things of the Spirit of God”**. Why? Because the **“things of the Spirit of God”** are so utterly absurd to him, they are so completely *irrelevant* to his life that he sees them as only deserving of contempt and scorn and rejection.

And as bad as that is, it gets even worse. Because in the next phrase, the Apostle Paul says that lost people:

... cannot understand them ...

So, a person, who has not experienced the miracle of the New Birth, *cannot*, he does not have the ability or power to **“understand”** the **“things of the Spirit of God”**? Now the word that was translated here as “understand” comes from a Greek word (*ginooskoo*; Strongs#1097), that means: *to have a knowledge of something; to perceive or comprehend.*³

So, Paul goes on to teach that lost people do not have the power or ability to have a knowledge of, or perceive, or comprehend the **“things of the Spirit of God”**. Why not?

... because they are spiritually appraised.

People, who have not experienced the miracle of the New Birth, do not have the ability or power to comprehend the **“things of the Spirit of God”** because the **“things of the Spirit of God”** are **“spiritually appraised”**, meaning: they are only understood, *correctly and fully*, “by” the Holy Spirit. So, the Holy Spirit, Who “moved along” the Apostle Paul 2,000 years ago to cause him to pen down this verse, is the very *same* Holy Spirit that now dwells inside of genuine believers, and gives them the capacity and ability and power and the desire to comprehend and appreciate the **“things of the Spirit of God”**.

Another way of understanding this verse is to know that the Apostle Paul taught that, since lost people do not have the third Person of the Trinity living inside them, they have neither the desire nor the

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ability to want or see the need for the **“things of the Spirit of God”**, and because they *cannot* comprehend how, what God says, is going to help them to serve God better and bring Him Glory (because they really don't care about serving God better or in bringing Him Glory), they see the **“things of the Spirit of God”** as being patently ridiculous and so utterly absurd that they reject them out of hand, and go about to trust in other things that God did *not* say and that are *contrary* to His Will.

Now most of the time when I get into this verse, I am talking about Salvation and how, that unless God moves upon the lost person first, *nobody* would ever be saved. But today, we are examining what the Apostle Peter taught about how we are to live as “Aliens and Strangers” in a hostile world. And so, it would behoove us to ponder for a moment just how what Paul teaches in **1 Corinthians 2:14** fits in with that.

The main issue that Paul is dealing with is:

The things of the Spirit of God

... and Paul is saying that people who are not saved have two dispositions towards the “things of the Spirit of God”:

1. They *do not* “embrace” them.
2. They *cannot* “understand” them.

... and that Truth brings up a question in my mind:

Exactly what are **“the things of the Spirit of God”** that the “natural person” *does not* “accept” and *is not able* to “understand”?

... because I would suggest that since lost people *do not* and *cannot* want them or embrace them or understand them, that these “things” are *exactly* what saved people do “love”. They are the *exact* things that redeemed souls “desire” and “hold tightly to”. And that means that, in the Church, the **“things of the Spirit of God”** are the *very* things, the *main* things, the *only* things that should be the *content* of preaching and teaching. The “things” that the lost world does *not* accept are the *very* “things” that saved people embrace with great delight. And the

“things” that unsaved people have no power to grasp or understand are the very things that those who have been reborn comprehend fully.

So, what exactly, are the “**things of the Spirit of God**”? What is it that lost people almost unanimously agree are completely *irrelevant* today, and that are unbelievably boring, and that have little or no bearing on their lives? What “**things**”, what “**issues**” are almost *universally* rejected as being “patently absurd and deserving of nothing but ridicule and scorn and rejection” by those who do not love God?

We have a hint in what Paul had been teaching just before he wrote this verse, like:

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

... and...

1 Corinthians 1:21

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

... and ...

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

... and even...

1 Corinthians 2:13

which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

... these and many others are examples of what the “natural person” *does not* “accept” and what he *cannot* “grasp”. These are examples of what has to be “spiritually appraised”. And another way of looking at these “things” is that these are the “issues” that *matter the most* to

God; these are the “issues” that are *paramount* in God’s Mind. These are the “things” that bring God Glory and that make God look amazing.

But notice that these “things” are mutually *exclusive* to fallen Man in that what *matters the most* to Man, what is *paramount* in Man’s mind, what brings Man glory and makes Man look amazing, are *not* the “things” that are primary with God. Don’t you find it interesting that the “things” that God promotes the most are the very “things” that fallen Man *does not* “accept” and *cannot* “understand”?

So, what Salvation is is being so radically transformed (by what God alone did for you [at great cost to His Son]) that what matters the most to God are the very “things” that matter the most to you, namely:

The Glory of God

And that means that the chief and ultimate Goal of Preaching and Teaching is to make Jesus look magnificent. The primary Purpose of Preaching and Teaching is *not* to “make much of you”, or to make you powerful, or to give you insight on how you can live in this world more safely and more securely, but God the Holy Spirit takes the Word preached and He powerfully unveils the eyes so that unworthy sinners can behold the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and two things happen as a result of that:

1. They love what they see (the Glory of God).
2. They are changed into what they see (Sanctification).

But while we fall in love with Jesus all over again, every time we see Him in His Magnificence through the Word that is preached, those who are not saved, those who have *not* tasted the Kindness of the Lord, those who have never been supernaturally and miraculously born again, they will be bored out of their minds, they will not see that *anything* that God says is relevant to their lives, and they will quickly and completely reject it out of hand. So, at the very point and with the very issues the things that matter the most to God, those are the very issues that lost people will quickly depart from and reject.

And nowhere is this acceptance and rejection seen more clearly than it is in **1 Peter 2:13-17** that says:

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Now remember that Peter is not telling people who are sitting safely and comfortably in Church on Sunday morning that they need to respect and obey Human Government. No, Peter is giving this Apostolic Command to the “**scattered aliens**” of his day. Peter has the audacity and unmitigated gaul to expect people, who are, at the very moment, being persecuted by the Government, to be *submissive* to that same Government!

Let me try to make this sound as bad as I can. The Apostle Peter was being “moved along” by God the Holy Spirit to infallibly pen down a Command of God, through part of the Revelation of the New Covenant, that believers, whose children had been murdered, whose wives had been ravaged, whose businesses had been taken from them, whose homes and possessions had been stolen from them by the authorities, that they should submit to those in authority!

You talk about looking foolish! You talk about being utterly ridiculous! You talk about something that is patently absurd! And yet, as ridiculous and as preposterous as this sounds, especially to those believers, Peter “doubles down” and says in verse 15:

For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

I can't think of very many “things” that would garner more rejection by hurting and suffering saints than to *command* and *expect* them to respect and honor and be submissive to the very authorities that are causing them so much pain and agony. It would be hard to image an issue that more people would say to themselves, “*Well that surely doesn't apply to me!*” than this. It would be hard to think about

any other topic that more people would simply reject out of hand than this. I can just imagine genuine believers saying to themselves, *"You know, I really liked Peter, I mean, after all, he did walk on water and he was with the Lord, but he's really lost it here on this issue!"*

I know of several believers, who, based on their rejection of the current President and his predecessor, think that they are exempt from submitting to them simply because they disagree with their position on certain issues or because they consider him to be illegitimate. These believers are *not* being thrown in jail or beaten by those in Government they simply disagree with the politics of the "man in charge".

So, I ask again. *"Is this how you talk to people who are hurting? Is this the way you lead refugees? Is this issue even in the top 100 of "things" that matter the most to God?"* Well, evidently, because this is right here in sacred Scripture. And we need to remind ourselves, that what Peter teaches here is not just *interesting*, it isn't simply something that might be *helpful* to some people, no, this Command to

Submit yourselves... to every human institution

... is inspired, meaning it is inerrant and infallible! So, this is a true Command. It is the Will of God. But I agree that it isn't *applicable* to everyone. Peter is *not* writing this Epistle to everyone. He is writing this Epistle only to those:

- ✓ Who were chosen according to the Foreknowledge of God the Father (verse 2)
- ✓ Who were chosen by the sanctifying Work of God the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Who were chosen so that we would obey Jesus Christ
- ✓ God the Father has *caused* us to be born again to a living Hope
- ✓ Whose eternal Inheritance is Imperishable; undefiled; Unfading; and Reserved
- ✓ Who are sovereignly protected by the Power of God through Faith
- ✓ Who rejoice- even in the worst kind of persecution
- ✓ Whose Proof of their Faith in Jesus Christ is more precious than gold
- ✓ Whose Proof will result in Praise and Glory and Honor when Jesus comes back
- ✓ Who love Him even though we have not seen Him

- ✓ Who greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory in the midst of suffering
- ✓ Who have experienced the same Grace that the OT Prophets foretold
- ✓ Whose Salvation Angels desire to examine
- ✓ Who have prepared their minds for action, and who keep sober in Spirit, those who fix their Hope on the Grace that Jesus is bringing with Him
- ✓ Who, as obedient children, are no longer driven by the lusts that dominated them when they were lost
- ✓ Who pursue Holiness on purpose to the same extent that God Himself is Holy
- ✓ Whose heavenly Father is also their heavenly Judge
- ✓ Who walk in reverential fear
- ✓ Who were redeemed by the Blood of Jesus Christ
- ✓ Whose Faith and Hope are in God
- ✓ Who have purified their souls by fervently loving the brethren
- ✓ Who have not been born again with imperishable things but with the living and enduring Word of God, which is imperishable
- ✓ Who do not trust in Flowers and Grass, but in the Word of God which lives and abides forever
- ✓ Who put aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
- ✓ Who long for the pure milk of the Word
- ✓ Who have tasted the Kindness of the Lord
- ✓ Who come to Jesus as "Choice" and "Precious" in the Sight of God
- ✓ Who are living stones, being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood so they can offer up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
- ✓ Who believe
- ✓ Who have been sovereignly made into a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's Own possession
- ✓ Who may proclaim the excellencies of Jesus, Who has called them out of Darkness and into His marvelous Light
- ✓ Who were not a people but have now become the people of God, those who had not received Mercy but who have now received Mercy

- ✓ Who, as aliens and strangers, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul
- ✓ Who keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the very thing they slander you as evil doers, they may, because of their good deeds which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

... those are the *only ones* that Peter now says:

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution....

... and everybody else is exempt. Now, of course, everybody else will burn in hell forever, but if all that Peter has talked about for two Chapters is *not* true with you, then you are free to disobey what Peter says here about Human Government. But, if it is, if you are saved, then what Peter says here is applicable to you.

Now I want you to look closely at the very first word that Peter gives us in verse 13:

Submit ...

And this is an English translation of a Greek word (*hupotassoo*; Strongs#5293), that Peter originally wrote down that means: *to arrange under; to subordinate; to put into subjection*. And the *best* way to understand how Peter meant us to understand this word is by looking at other places in the New Testament where the *identical* word was used, such as when James said this in **James 4:3-10**:

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

... so the idea here is that all believers are to “arrange their lives under” the mighty Hand of God. And that means that we are not autonomous beings. We do not have the right to live as we see fit and to behave in whatever way we deem appropriate. That is the very definition of Chaos and Rebellion, while glad submission to God and His Word is the very definition of Worship. There is an Authority over us, namely God, to Whom we are accountable. And therefore, we are not “free” to do as we please. But we are told repeatedly and clearly that we are to submit to God’s Authority and live according to His “Divine Order” that is delineated in sacred Scripture. Now look what the Apostle Paul wrote from **Ephesians 5:22-24**:

22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

... here the Apostle wrote to say that Marriage is not to be conducted on a purely “egalitarian” basis. There is a “Divine Order” in Marriage, that God has ordained, that we are to live in accord with and submit to, or we are rebels and are dishonoring the God we say we love.

Likewise, Peter is telling us that to preserve “Order” in society; humans are not autonomous creatures, but are accountable to and are to submit to the Human Institutions. So, what does Peter teach here that believers are to arrange under or to subordinate, or to put into subjection?

... yourselves ...

... and to what are believers to submit *to*?

... to every human institution ...

.. and what is the *reason* behind why believers are to submit to every human institution?

... for the Lord's sake ...

... which is just another way of saying,

For God's Glory

Now I just spent the better part of 2-1/2 Sermons teaching you that God is not after simple Obedience. We have learned that whatever God commands, God must supply. We must constantly remind ourselves that it is not hard, it is *impossible* for human beings to simply "gin up" their own human will-power to the degree that they can please God through their Obedience. And that is because God is not after our Obedience. God is after *glad* Obedience; *joyful* Obedience. God is after a people, who have been so radically transformed, by what He alone has done for them, that the Commandments of God are no longer *burdensome*, but are not only the way to please and honor God, but the Commandments of God are the pathway to the fullness of our *own* joy and *eternal* happiness!

So, God did not issue Commandments because He is a "kill-joy", and delights in spoiling our fun and enjoys watching us struggle to do what we simply cannot do. That would make God to be a sadist. No, God is Good. And He issues Commands so that two things will happen:

1. He alone will be glorified.
2. We will obtain the fullness of Joy.

So, the Commandments of God are the only place where God's Passion to be known and seen and adored and magnified intersects with our passion to be happy. And that means that God is not interested in dry, dull, duty and obligation. God is interested in so changing you that you will honestly *delight* in obeying Him.

So, Salvation is where God removes the barrier that prohibits humans from truly enjoying themselves in God, which is sin. So, yes,

God saved you because He loved you. That is absolutely true. But that statement is also absolutely incomplete. We need to finish it by saying:

“God saved me because He loved me, so that by saving me I will love Him!”

Sin and disobedience stops that from happening. So, rather than looking at the Commandments of God as something to obtain through human effort and human will-power and through human discipline and various works of the flesh, we need to see God’s Commandments being obeyed the very *same* way that we were saved in the first place:

“By” God’s Grace and “through” Faith

We were *not* saved by our works, and we will not be sanctified through our works either. So, the “effort to obey”, the “struggle against the lusts of our flesh” must always be “by” the Grace of God. So, the *origination*, the *catalyst*, the *genesis*, the *initiation*, the *beginning*, the *source* of our obedience must be the Grace of God, or else God will not be glorified and we will never be eternally happy.

But Salvation was not by Grace *alone*. We were *not* saved by Grace *alone*. We were saved “by” Grace, and we were saved “through” Faith. So, in order to be saved, we had to “believe”, we had to “trust”, we had to “accept”, we had to “embrace” Jesus and His finished Work.

But we didn’t *manufacture* that Faith. We didn’t *psyche ourselves* up so that we could believe, and we didn’t already have that Faith. No, this Faith, this “Saving Faith”, the ability and the desire to believe and trust in Jesus, was a gracious gift from God. Here’s how the Apostle Paul put it:

Ephesians 2:8&9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

... so, the Faith that it took for us to be saved, was:

“not of yourselves, it is the gift of God”

... Salvation is “**not of yourselves**”, meaning we did not *initiate* it, we did not *originate* it, we were not the *cause* or the *catalyst* for it. But why is that so important?

... so that no one may boast

So, it is not simply God's Passion to do things, not even powerful and earthshaking things. It is God's Passion to do things so that humans will *acknowledge* that He did it, and *marvel* at Him, and see Him as glorious, and then joy in Him! And so, God knows that only when He is glorified, will we obtain the fullness of our Joy as well.

Sin blinds us from seeing God as glorious, and therefore, sin robs God of the Glory that is due Him, and sin robs us of the Joy that God wants for us. Being born again then, is the forgiveness of sin, which initiates a life here on earth that will prove to the world that God is glorious! So, truly redeemed souls live for no other reason than to make Jesus look wonderful!

So, when we don't handle temptations or sufferings or trials or disappointments any differently than the lost world, we rob God of the Glory that is due Him, and we rob ourselves of the fullness of Joy. When we don't hope in God any better or any more than those who are not saved, we make Jesus to look like He really isn't that big a deal.

But when we struggle against the lusts of our flesh, the lust to disbelieve, the lust to trust in things that are made and that are passing away, when we struggle against the lust to see God's Commandments as being joy-killers and things that we cannot ever delight in, when we struggle against those lusts by the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and *not* through mere discipline or through duty or obligation, we testify that we need God to provide us with both the desire and the power to obey, and that without Him providing we *cannot* and we *will not* obey, with Joy, then God looks glorious and we find the fullness of Joy!

And that is because glad Obedience to Commands that appear, to the carnal eye, to actually be *against* our own interests is simply not normal. Joyful Obedience is not natural, it does not flow out from human beings, normally or naturally. Glad and joyful Obedience to the Commands of God is a sovereign Work of God the Holy Spirit in broken

and humble bond-slaves, and is only engaged in “by” the Grace of God and “through” the gift of Faith.

And that is why most people don't even care about this stuff. They look at a wicked Government that hurts its citizens and doesn't care about the people, and that seems to exist solely for the benefit of the people who are in power, and they buy into the voice of the serpent that says, *“If I submit to that, I am acting against my own best interests. And what God expects out of me is irrational and counter-productive to me living in safety and security and prosperity.”* And so, with that carnal mind, that sees the “things of the Spirit of God” as being patently ridiculous and utterly foolish, these rebels energetically *reject* the clear Commands of God and they live in direct rebellion to the Word of God.

“But Brother Blair, can you give me one single Reason why I should act against my own self-interests and submit myself to every human institution?” Well, yes, I can, because there is only one reason why believers, who are being horribly persecuted, should act in a way that is seemingly against their own personal interests. Peter said we should submit to every human institution:

... for the Lord's sake ...

... meaning that God has chosen His people, submitting themselves to Human Government, even one that is actively persecuting them, as one of the *best ways* we can display to the world just how glorious God really is. And if you don't care about that, or if that isn't a priority of yours, then I urge you to examine whether you are really saved, because the Bible teaches from cover to cover that giving God Glory is the *only thing* that genuine believers live for.

So, *part* of living as “Aliens and Strangers” is that we willingly and gladly submit ourselves to every “Human Institution” for the Glory of God. But then that brings up another question: What exactly constitutes a “Human Institution”? And when searching for answers like this, we should never use our own intellect or our own personal experiences to direct our way. Being “Sola Scriptura” means that we use the Scriptures and the Scriptures alone to determine what we believe and teach.

So, the first step is going directly to the Words that Peter himself used. As we know, Peter never wrote or spoke a single word in English.

So, *whichever* English version of the Bible you use, it is *inadequate* to give the full information that we need. And that is why it doesn't matter what a particular verse in the Bible may mean to you. All that matters in arriving at a correct and full exegesis of Scripture is what the verse or Passage meant to the man who wrote it down under the "moving" of God the Spirit.

And when God the Holy Spirit "moved along" this Apostle, about 2,000 years ago, Peter used a very precise Greek word to describe what he was talking about (*ktisis*; Strongs#2937), which is used nowhere else in the Bible except here. And the word that Peter used here piggybacks on another very common Old Testament Hebrew Word that has to do with "Order", as in the "Created Order".

But Peter made himself clear about what he meant by adding *another* Greek word that came *before* this word that is translated as "Human". So, by using these words like this, Peter was talking about the kind of "order" that human beings bring to the world, such as the "order of the State", or the "rules", "laws", "ordinances", and "institutions" that human beings use to maintain order in a fallen world. So, Peter was talking about "Human Institutions" or "Human Government" or "Human Ordinances, Rules, and Laws".

So, a good way of understanding this is to see what Peter was talking about here as the "civil government". And this is confirmed by what he said next:

**13 ... whether to a king as the one in authority,
14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.**

Now keep in mind that Peter's *primary* understanding of "Government" was with a "Dictatorship". Through being exposed to the Old Testament, Peter was familiar with the "benevolent dictatorship" of both David and Solomon, as well as the evil and cruel kings of Israel's past. He would also be aware of the Pharaoh down in Egypt. But by not being formally educated as Paul was, Peter might not have understood other forms of Government like "Democracy" or a "Republic" as practiced by the Greeks and the Romans, both before and after Peter's lifetime.

So, as he lists the types of “Human Institutions” to which he is instructing believers to submit, Peter starts off with a “king”, and his God-given “authority” over other people. So, clearly, the inspired New Testament teaches that believers are to submit to Human Institutions, even those which are evil and wicked.

And, Lord willing, we will get into the depth of just *how* Christians are to relate to their Government, and what that submission might look like. But suffice it to say that this Command is in the Bible, and it is true, and as fantastic as it might seem to us to be, Peter actually wrote this, and according to history, the people of the early Church actually obeyed it. And so, even this part of the “**things of the Spirit of God**” are important for us today and must not be overlooked.

Amen. Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.