

1 Peter Part 6 – The Foundation of Suffering – Maturity in Christ-Maturity in the Assembly – Summary & Study Guide – March 26, 2026

Summary

This teaching provides a **theological study of First Peter**, focusing on the **purpose and practice of suffering** within the Christian life. The speaker emphasizes that **maturity in Christ** and the assembly is achieved by following the **sacrificial example of Jesus**, particularly through **submission to earthly authorities** and enduring workplace hardships. Central to the teaching is the **unveiling of the mystery** regarding the inclusion of Gentiles as “fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”. A revelation that initially challenged the Apostle Peter’s Jewish traditions. The text states that true believers must **die to sin** and **live righteously**, rejecting "counterfeit" religious structures in favour of Christ’s **sole mediatory role** as high priest and what other scriptures state. Finally, the discourse concludes by framing **unjust suffering** as a means of finding **favour with God**, urging listeners to remain faithful through life's various trials.

Study Guide

I. Definitions of Key Words

- **The Mystery:** A truth previously hidden in God and kept secret from the prophets of old and the Celestial council, now revealed to the Apostle Paul initially as well as those he taught specifically regarding the inclusion of Gentiles as “fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel”.
- **Fellow Members/Heirs/Partakers:** The specific status of Gentiles who are now on par with the called of Israel through the gospel.
- **Chief Cornerstone:** Jesus Christ, the foundation stone rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God.
- **Doom:** The judicial appointment or certain end for those who live in disobedience to the Word.
- **Day of Visitation:** A direct intervention by God, which can manifest either as a blessing or as a time of punishment and judgment.
- **Sovereign Will:** The overarching plan of God where He allows even unrighteous leaders to remain in power to eventually enable the proclamation of His name and demonstration of His power.
- **Propitiation:** The work of Jesus Christ as the High Priest, making on-going atonement for sins in the heavenly Holy of Holies, based on His perfect blood sacrifice.

- **Bond-slaves of God:** The identity of believers who are sold-out servants to the Lord Jesus Christ and use their freedom not for evil, but for total service and obedience to God.
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II. Expansion of Key Points

1. *The Revelation of the Hidden Mystery*

The prophets of old made "careful searches and inquiries," leaving no stone unturned to understand the salvation to come (1 Peter 1:10-12). This mystery, which was hidden in God until it was revealed to the Apostle Paul and subsequently the other apostles, is that the "**Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body and fellow partakers** of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" (Ephesians 3:1-12). Even the Apostle Peter initially struggled to accept this until God intervened with a direct vision (Acts 10:9-16, 34-36).

2. *The Living Stone and the True Priesthood*

Believers are called to come to Christ as "living stones," built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:4-5). The teaching emphasizes that **there is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus** (1 Timothy 2:5). Consequently, any modern system claiming to appoint human priests or intermediaries is described as a "devilish counterfeit," as **Christ the man alone** occupies the office of High Priest in the presence of God.

3. *Submission to Authority in Society and the Workplace*

Submission is required "**for the Lord's sake**" (1 Peter 2:13).

- **In Society:** Believers must submit to kings and governors because they are part of God's **sovereign will** (Romans 13). Just as God raised up Pharaoh to demonstrate His power, He allows earthly governments to exist to accomplish His Sovereign purposes (Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17).
- **In the Workplace:** Servants (or employees) are commanded to be submissive not only to good and gentle masters but also to those who are **unreasonable or depraved**. Enduring unjust suffering in the workplace finds favor with God.

4. *Jesus Christ as the Definitive Example*

Jesus provides the blueprint for "walking in His steps" during suffering (1 Peter 2:21). The five keys to this walk are:

1. **Commit no sin.**
2. **Live with no verbal deceit.**
3. **Do not revile in return when reviled.**
4. **Utter no threats while suffering.**
5. **Keep entrusting yourself to Him who judges righteously.**

5. *Dying to Sin and Living to Righteousness*

The ultimate purpose of Christ bearing our sins on the cross was so that we "**might die to sin and live to righteousness**" (1 Peter 2:24). This death to sin is a **precursor** to living righteously; one cannot habitually practice sin and truly follow Christ. Righteousness is mandatory for a proper relationship with God and others.

III. Study Questions

1. According to the teachings, why were the prophets of old unable to find the "mystery" they were searching for?
 2. What is the significance of the word "fellow" in the context of the mystery revealed to the apostles?
 3. Why does the text argue that there are no human priests in the church today?
 4. According to 1 Peter 2:13-14, what is the motivation for submitting to human institutions?
 5. Explain the relationship between "dying to sin" and "living to righteousness" as described in the teaching.
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IV. Answer Key

1. The mystery was **hidden only in God** and had not yet been revealed to any generation until the time of the apostles.
 2. It indicates that Gentiles are now **on par** with the called of Israel, serving as equal heirs and members of the body.
 3. Because there is **only one mediator, the man Jesus Christ**. High priests were required to come from the tribe of Levi, and Christ now performs this role exclusively in the heavenly Holy of Holies only for His own people.
 4. Submission is done "**for the Lord's sake**" because these authorities are part of His sovereign will to fulfill His Sovereign purposes.
 5. Dying to sin is a **necessary precursor** to living to righteousness. It involves escaping the defilement of the world and resisting the practice of habitual sin.
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V. Biblical References used within the Teaching

- **1 Peter 1:10-12** (Prophets searching for the mystery)
- **1 Peter 2:4-12** (Living stones, chosen race, day of visitation)
- **1 Peter 2:13-25** (Submission to authority, workplace, Christ's example)

- **2 Peter 3:14-16** (Peter's acknowledgement of Paul's wisdom)
 - **Ephesians 3:1-12** (The mystery of the Gentiles)
 - **Acts 10:9-16, 34-36** (Peter's vision and understanding of partiality)
 - **Exodus 19:6** (Kingdom of priests)
 - **Exodus 9:16** (God allowing Pharaoh to remain)
 - **Romans 9:17** (Purpose of raising up Pharaoh)
 - **Romans 13** (Submission to authorities)
 - **1 Timothy 2:5** (One mediator)
 - **Hebrews 7:11-22; 8:4** (Requirements for priesthood)
 - **Isaiah 10:3; Jeremiah 6:15** (Day of punishment/visitation)
 - **Matthew 22:21** (Render to Caesar)
 - **James 3** (The power of the tongue)
 - **Isaiah 53:4-5** (Healed by His scourging)
 - **John 19:34** (Blood from Christ's side)
 - **Romans 6:6** (Dying to sin)
 - **2 Peter 1:4** (Partakers of the divine nature)
 - **Galatians 5:16** (Walking by the Spirit vs. flesh)
 - **1 Thessalonians 1:9** (Turning from idols)
 - **Matthew 1:21** (Saving people from their sins)
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VI. Exhortations

- **Hold Fast Through the Fire:** Recognize that suffering in society, the workplace, and marriage is often a trial that refines you like gold.
- **Guard Your Speech:** A major part of suffering and sin originates from the tongue. Follow Christ's example by ensuring no deceit is found in your mouth and refusing to revile those who treat you harshly.
- **Focus on the Example, Not the Trial:** It is easy to teach submission and patience, but often difficult to practice them. Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ, who "blazed a trail" for how to handle unjust treatment with grace.
- **Commit to Righteousness:** Dying to sin is not a one-time event but a daily requirement to maintain a proper relationship with God. Be a "rarity" in this world by practicing the righteousness you teach.

Following the Living Stone: A Guide to Purposeful Suffering

