

ANALYSIS:

1. What negative evils are Christians to lay aside in order to grow spiritually? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What positive step is essential to grow spiritually? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What spiritual terms describe the people of God? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How are Christians to relate to governmental rulers? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What were servants to remember when they suffered? \_\_\_\_\_

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Peter uses the word "precious" seven times in his two epistles (I, 1:7,19; 2:4,6,7; II, 1:1,4). "Precious" describes what is "of high worth, valuable, esteemed, beloved." In chapter one the "blood of Christ" is precious (v 19) being seen as immeasurably superior to the tradition of the fathers. In chapter two Christ is declared precious because God chose Him as a living stone which unites the elect as lively stones in a spiritual house (vs 4-5). Next He is precious because He is the chief corner stone in this spiritual house where we will never be confounded (v 6). Finally He is precious to us who believe because all our hopes for now and eternity rest safely on Him and His work of salvation, even though unbelievers stumble on Him and are offended at His word (vs 7-8)

In light of so great salvation, let us remember to travel through this world as "strangers and pilgrims." We are cautioned to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against our souls and spiritual growth. These easily keep us from bearing fruit -- recall that "the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches" can choke the word so we are unfruitful (Mt 13:22). Our Lord deserves our best attention and service as long as we're in this body. Let us give Him our all!

Note that verses 13-17 spell out our Christian duties toward civil authority, and verses 18-25 which are addressed to servants includes our duties toward our employer.

HELP:

1. All malice, all guile, hypocrisies, envies, all evil speaking (v 1).

2. The sincere milk of the word must be desired [read, meditate, memorize the Bible] (v 2).

3. A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, strangers and pilgrims (vs 9, 11).

4. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man (v 13), honor the king (v 17).

5. Christ is an example to be followed (v 21), He did not revile or threaten, but He took suffering by committing himself to the Father (v 23), He suffered and bore our sins to save us (v 24).