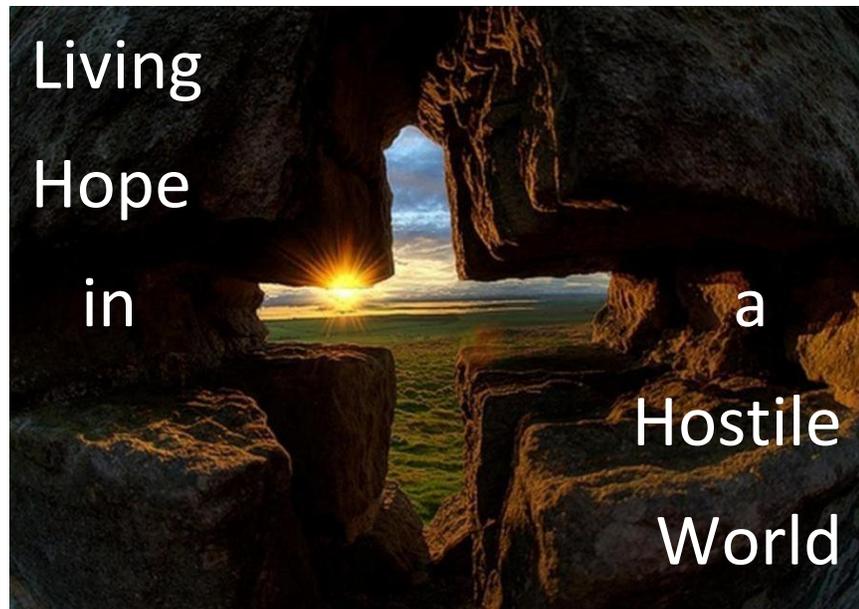


July 19, 2020

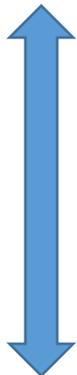
I Peter

2:11-17

Living Relationship:
Free in Christ – Servant to All



We live relationship in two directions



First, we are given relationship by God

Christians are:

- God's elect (1:1)
- Chosen children of the Father (1:2)
- Living stones built on Christ, the corner stone (2:5)
- Chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation (2:9)
- Strangers/aliens/scattered in the world (1:1, 17)



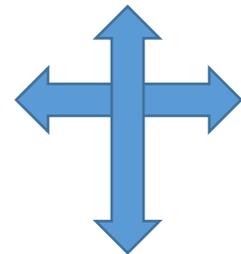
Peter writes about our relationships with other people
in circles getting closer to the Christian's heart
pagan society → government → master → spouse → Christians

We see others in light of God's gift of salvation to us

2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles,...

2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake...

2:18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves...



Pagan Society

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 2:11-12

“Foreigners and Exiles” “Live among the pagans”

There was no goal among the early Christians to create a “Christian Nation”

No expectation that neighbors are Christian

Goal – to tell others of Christ’s work

Governments and Authorities

Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 2:13-14

Governments were assumed to be run by non-Christians
but placed by God

fear God, honor the emperor 2:17 (but don’t get them mixed up)

obey authorities -- as God’s sword, not God’s mouthpiece

For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4

Masters

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 2:18

Slaves in Peter’s day – not about “race” – servants

Today’s “masters” – employers

Christians live differently by cheerfully working even under harsh masters.

God gives us eternal perspective -- Satan wants us to focus on the “now”.

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

