1 Peter – 2:18-25 July 29, 2025

Luther’s Works: Volume 30 (Concordia Publishing House – 1967)

1 Peter: A Commentary on 1 Peter - Paul J Achtemeier (Fortress Press – 1996)

Lutheran Study Bible

# 1 Peter 2:18-20 – Be a good employee.

* Note how we are moving down a ladder of authority.
  + The Lord God
  + Rulers and lords.
  + Masters.
* The Greek uses a word for a “house servant” compared to the more common “servant/slave.”
* A common theme of the Epistles
  + Ephesians 6:5-7
  + Colossians 3:22
  + 1 Timothy 6:1
  + Titus 2:9
  + Philemon
  + Also Psalm 123:2
  + God wants this. Therefore it should be done gladly.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* The Peasants’ War of 1524-1525
  + German uprising of peasants against nobility.
    - Fueled by a more radical view of the religious reformation that was taking place.
    - Theologians such as Zwingli and Muntzer (a leader of the peasant’s army) encouraged violence citing Matthew 10:34.
    - In early 1525, peasant leaders published, The Twelve Articles of the Christian Union of Upper Swabia.”
      * The ability to elect their own pastors.
      * Titles remaining within the community.
      * An end to serfdom, with a promise to obey elected and appointed rulers.
      * The right to fish or hunt without limitation.
      * The right to take wood as necessary.
      * Limitation on labour due to lords.
      * An end to traditional peasant services.
      * Reasonable rents paid to lords.
      * Fair judgements in legal cases.
      * Common lands returned to the peasants for common use.
      * An end to heriot (war tributes).
      * If any of these demands can be demonstrated to be unsupported by Scripture, they are null and void.[[2]](#footnote-2)
  + Which side do you think Luther took?
    - Commentary on 1 Peter was written sometime between 1523-1524.
    - Luther wrote and published: “Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of Peasants” in 1525.
      * Luther bluntly encouraged violence to stop the peasants.
    - Political, social, or theological?
  + Estimates of over 100,000 peasants killed.
    - Remember at this time, Luther is only a few years removed from Rome’s excommunication, and the Turks are an ever-increasing threat to Europe.
  + Was Luther supportive of lords being “jerks” to their peasants?
    - Remember the order of this section of 1 Peter.
    - How should lords treat their peasants?
      * Philemon.
* Back to the Text…
  + Therefore you should not consider what kind of master you have, whether good or bad, friendly or irritable and angry; but you must think as follows: “The master may be as he wants to be, I will serve Him and do his bidding in honor of God, because He wants me to do this, and because my Lord Christ Himself became a Servant for my sake.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
  + …serve as if Christ Himself were ordering you to do so[[4]](#footnote-4)
* A call to endure sorrow and suffering.
  + V.19 – For this is a ca,rij “grace” thing.
    - That which brings God’s favor.
    - Is it a “works righteousness” to suffer??
  + Matthew 5:10
  + Matthew 5:39
  + 1 Corinthians 4:11
  + A Christ-like thing.
    - Matthew 26:67
    - Mark 14:65

# 1 Peter 2:21-24 – Why you should endure

* Because Jesus suffered for you. (v. 21-23)
  + Matthew 10:38
  + Acts 9:16
  + Jesus is our example.
    - Psalm 85:13
    - John 13:15
    - 1 Corinthians 11:1
    - Ephesians 5:2
    - 1 John 3:16
    - Luke 23:34
      * Isaiah 53:5, 9
  + Why did Jesus suffer and die?
    - Matthew 6:12
  + Therefore St. Peter says: “To this you have been called.” To what? To suffer wrong, as Christ did. It is as if he were saying: “If you want to follow Christ, you dare not argue and complain much when you are wronged; but you must suffer it and be forgiving, since Christ suffered everything without any guilt on His part. He did not appeal to justice when He stood before the judge. Therefore you must tread justice underfoot and say: ‘Thank God, I have been called to suffer injustice. For why should I complain when my Lord did not complain?’ ”[[5]](#footnote-5)
* How should we respond to being unfairly treated?
  + Why, then, should you, too, not suffer this, since you are nothing but sin? You should praise and thank God for being worthy of becoming like Christ. You should not murmur or be impatient when you are wronged, since the Lord neither reviled nor threatened but even prayed for His enemies.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* Is Scripture and Luther condoning being a bully and a jerk to those who serve you?
  + Again, how did the previous section call us to care for one another?
    - They are sinning and (hopefully), “know not what they are doing.”
  + Therefore if you are a pious Christian, you should tread in the footsteps of the Lord and have compassion on those who harm you. You should also pray for them and ask God not to punish them. For they do far more harm to their souls than they do to your body. If you take this to heart, you will surely forget about your own sorrow and suffer gladly.[[7]](#footnote-7)
  + Luke 6:27-35
* You were a lost sheep
  + Isaiah 53:6
  + Luke 15:4

1. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.20&off=1653&ctx=+humility+and+fear.+~God+wants+this.+Ther), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Against\_the\_Murderous,\_Thieving\_Hordes\_of\_Peasants [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.20&off=2059&ctx=+given+through+men.+~Therefore+you+should), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.20&off=2695&ctx=+heart%2c+so+that+you+~serve+as+if+Christ+H), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.25&off=852&ctx=ervant+will+follow.%0a~Therefore+St.+Peter+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 85. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.25&off=1964&ctx=r+opened+His+mouth.+~Why%2c+then%2c+should+yo), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 85. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe2.25&off=2932&ctx=g+what+He+suffered.+~Therefore+if+you+are), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 86. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)