

1 PETER CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Study 5 2: 11-25

How would the average canberran describe what freedom is like relationally and behaviourally?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

While believers are not of this world, Peter calls on Christians to obey earthly authorities. What did that look like for the original readers? What are these authorities? Why should we obey them? (2:13-17) How will that look today?

Authorities	Reason for obeying
Original Hearers	
Us	

What would have made that hard in the first century? What's hard about this today? What are we to do if we disagree with a law or a governing authority?

What do you make of verse 16 ('Live as free' and literally 'live as slaves of God')?

How would you respond to someone who thinks the Bible supports slavery?

Look over verses 18-25 What is the link between what Jesus has done and what it means for us?

What did Jesus do?	Desired affect on the believe

How is the gospel clearly articulated in these verses? Can you think of reasons why you would use verses 19-21 when talking to a new Christian or someone interested in Christianity? What may stop you from talking about them?

What can we do to put our faith, words and behaviour together that will point others to glorify to God?

How do we approach life and God and his people when things are challenging? How do we approach life and God and his people when things are going well? How do we spuuport each other in both?

Alien Behaviour

In the movie *Men in Black* the men in black fight and protect different aliens. To the average person these aliens could not be detected (though, perhaps Elvis was a dead giveaway). Yet, unlike extra terrestrial beings, Christians are human, yet Peter rightly recognizes that the Christian's homeland is not the world as we know it. What kind of behaviour should be detected in Christians and what is the reason for this behaviour.

Freedom

The Christian version of freedom is different from the varied views of Australians. The passage brings up this intriguing (if not contradictory in eyes of Canberrans) –

1 Peter 1:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants¹ of God.

In Christ we have been freed from sin and rebellion to be a servant of Christ.

Through Christ we have been freed from the eternal affects of sin.

We have been redeemed from

- trying to fix it up
- the consequences of judgement
- futile living

We have been redeemed to

- be holy
- be God's chosen people
- be a royal priesthood
- be born again imperishable

To echo the Exodus God's people have been freed from serving sin to serving God. Israel were freed from serving Pharaoh in order to serve Yahweh (freed from worshipping Pharaoh to worshipping God).

The freedom that Christ brings means we can serve him which is for our good. This section of Peter's letter explores this issue. This too is part of the gospel. We are not given new birth for ourself but in order to serve, love and enjoy Jesus as his people. This is what we were made to do it and it is for our joy. It certainly highlights that living as imperishable now may not be easy. This pressure is a reality of Christian living. How do we encourage and arm each other to endure in the Christian life?

The noticeable change in motivation and behaviour because believers identify as followers of Jesus will have an impact on those around them. You would hope they would become Christians but they will certainly acknowledge God's goodness when Jesus returns.

The passage walks through social, neighbourly and life situation moments to talk about what that will look like (it continues into the next section too).

¹ Servant here is the same word for bondservant or slave