

## A Study of The Epistle of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

### **Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”**

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**Lesson: 19**

**Chapter 2:21-25**

**Date: 12-13-20**



### **BIBLE TEXT:**

(21) For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (22) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

(25) For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to **the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

### **STUDY NOTES:**

**A. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. (22) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.**

(Dt 32:39; Ps 9:4; 103:3; Is 52:13-53:12;  
Mt 4:23; 8:17; 10:28,38,39; 11:29; 16:24; 27:12-14,34-44;  
Lk 23:46; Jn 8:46; 13:15; Acts 3:14; 5:30; 10:39; 13:29; 14:22)

**(Rom 6:3-14; 8:28; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; Php 1:29;  
Heb 4:15; 7:26; 9:28; 12:3,13; 1 Jn 3:5; Jas 5:16)**

**B. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned  
to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

**(Job 10:12; Ps 23; 119:176; Ezek 34:5,6;  
Lk 15:4; Jn 10:11-14; Acts 20:28; Heb 13:20)**

“So you might say: “Do you mean to say that I should justify those who wrong me and say: ‘They have done well?’ ” Answer: No. But you should say: “I will suffer this very willingly, even though I have not deserved it and you are doing me an injustice. I will suffer it for my Lord’s sake. He also suffered injustice for me.” You should leave the matter to **God**, just as **Christ** leaves it to **His heavenly Father. God is a just Judge.** He will reward it richly.

St. Peter says: “**He Himself** bore our sins in His body on the tree”; that is, He did not suffer for **Himself**. No, He suffered for our benefit. We crucified **Him** with our sins. We are still far from suffering what He suffered. 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. Here we should be mindful of the fact that formerly we, too, led the kind of unchristian life that they lead, but that we have now been converted through **Christ**, as St. Peter concludes when he says:

You were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

But this is a quotation from the prophet Isaiah, who says: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way” (53:6). But we have now acquired a Shepherd, says St. Peter. **The Son of God** came for our sakes, to be our **Shepherd and Bishop**. He gives us **His Spirit**, feeds and leads us with His Word, so that we now know how we have been helped. Consequently, if you realize that your sins have been removed through **Him**, you are His sheep, and **He is your Shepherd**. Moreover, **He is your Bishop**, and you are His soul. This is now the comfort all Christians have.

Thus in this epistle we have two chapters in which St. Peter has taught us in the first place the true faith and then the true works of love. He has spoken about two kinds of works. First he has told us about the duty we all owe the government, then how servants should conduct themselves toward their masters. And what Saint Peter says here about servants also applies to some other persons, namely, to craftsmen, day laborers, and hired help of all kinds. Now he will go on to teach how husband and wife should conduct themselves toward each other.”

### LIFE APPLICATION

When we are straying like sheep, but then return  
to **the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls**,  
by what means does he then keep us close to him?