
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SET APART?

SERIES: PAUSE | WEEK 4 | 5.3.2020

Thanks for joining us in your living room or your bedroom or with your PJs on or with a little breakfast in front of you. I hope that you can just sit back and take in what I'm about ready to share with you. One of Jesus' closest friends, disciples, comrades that was in it with Him every day of His ministry years on this earth sat down to pen a letter to a group of people going through a tough time. And they were people that were under a huge persecution under an emperor that was absolutely wicked to the core. And he just started out Chapter 1 by talking about Jesus' sacrifice, talking about His resurrection, talking about how you can believe in God and have this relationship restored with God through Jesus Christ, talking about that hope that we have because of Jesus, that we can be right with God. He even used the word "born again," like, you get a do-over, you get to start this thing over again, this thing called life because sin wrecked everything and wrecked this relationship [with God]. And he even went as far as to talk about loving each other, something that every one of us longs for and every one of us is frustrated that there's not enough of.

Let me read to you the words of the second chapter and I'm just gonna read the first couple verses but Chapter 2, verse 1, says:

¹ *So*

— and that just links everything I've just said to what he's about to say; so since Jesus died on the cross, because He rose from the dead, because we're right with God, because we are trying to figure out loving each other, *so* — then he says this:

put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

— and then he says this, it's sort of like we're talking along going hey, put away all these bad things, that is, *if* — this is verse 3:

³ *if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

— 1 PETER 2:1-3 (ESV)

It's like a sandwich, it started out saying all these things that God did for us through Jesus Christ and how that should change us to living a holy life like we talked about last week. And he says so if you've tasted that God is good, if you've seen — and again, this is Peter talking — if you felt what I felt, I had messed up, I was too far gone, I ran ahead when I should have pulled back, I didn't trust when I should have trusted, I didn't believe when I should have believed, I compromised when I should have been just full in—if you've tasted how good God is like He was to me when He came and He invited me back and even gave me a huge responsibility moving forward, if you've tasted of good God then then here's what Peter says we gotta chat. He says there's going to be some things that have to happen now. It's sort of like now what? If you've tasted all this, if you've become a Christian, if you've received the good gift of Jesus, now what? And he says here's now what, there's some things that are going to change. And I would say predominantly one of the things that's going to change is how we treat each other, and that's when he begins to list out five words and I'm gonna call them "the five." And you already see the first one in front of you, the word malice [*he holds up a card stating "Malice"*]. Very simply, the desire to cause harm to someone.

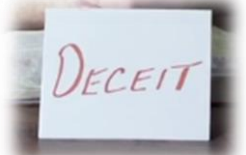


And I'm going to throw out all five of these real quick and what I'm hoping you'll do as I mention these is that you'll ask yourself is there one of these that, yeah, that's my go-to issue that harms my relationship with each other, that would cause people to say, "Yeah, he doesn't love." And what I'm

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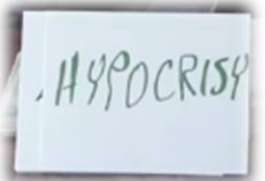
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gonna ask you to do today is just pick one of them and give it over to God today and say, "God, I need to do better in that area." So the first one is malice. The second one is deceit. I like this one because you'll remember Peter's a fisherman, it is absolutely a fishing term, it's the lure in the water. This isn't complicated. There is a lure in the water that the fish swimming by assumes is food and grabs it only to get a hook. And you and I know we live in a world full of deceit. There's so many times I've thought to myself *I wonder what truth is. I wonder what's really happening here. I wonder what was really said.* The fact of the matter is there may be some that are saying that about *us*, wondering if we are who we say we are or if we're deceiving them. And I just think of a number of things: What kind of information do I put out? What kind of signals do I try to send to try to put someone off the scent, to try to cause them to think something different?



I was talking to someone in criminal law here recently who said people hide files deep down inside of the operating system—that's deceit. There's something someone's trying to hide from someone when they get stuck there. I mean, it's quick to bring up taxes and the IRS, deceit with a spouse trying to cause them to believe one thing when you're doing a different thing. Um, deceit with a parent. I'm an employer, making them think that you're going down one path or that you did a certain project in a certain way when you had zero intention to do so. Some of us have boards – are they finding out the truth or are they finding out what you think?

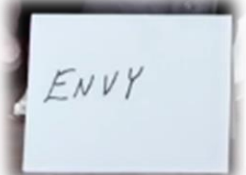
So he mentions this, so remember so that because of all that Jesus did, if you've tasted the goodness of Jesus, we want to get rid of some things. We want to get rid of malice, we want to get rid of deceit, we want to get rid of hypocrisy. Okay, gonna be relevant right now, okay [*he puts on a face mask*]. Right? I mean we all know one of these things and quite truthfully the word *hypocrisy* means "wearing a mask." And now my glasses are steaming up and it's miserable, and the word really means speaking under a mask. And I don't know about you but I hate doing that.



Here's what's funny, a couple weeks ago the governor came out and said hey, listen, everyone that's working in a position that they *have to* work in, they're a necessary worker, if you're in one of the exempted classes, you're gonna have to wear a mask when you do your work. Well, a number of my pastor friends were like, "Oh, my goodness, we have to do this [wear a mask], it's really hard to preach with a mask on." My face is getting hot right now, my glasses are steaming up. So we actually sent a letter to the person that we're working with at the governor's office and said, "Hey, could we, like, we need to take our masks off to preach, and can we do that?" And they were like, "Absolutely." So I appreciate their kindness but it's an apt term right now. It's hard talking

with a mask on, wearing a mask, pretending to be something that you're not, and some of us struggle with that. We are trying to pretend to be something that we're not. Hypocrisy.

The fourth is envy. This one's really very, very common, resenting what someone else has; or we can add to that in saying wanting what someone else has. I had an experience with this years ago. So in 2003 I bought our first SUV and we had saved up for it, we paid cash for it. It was actually a 2000 model SUV so it was three years old at the time, but it was what I had wanted, it was what I had been watching for, and I finally got the right price and I bought it. I was at the office a couple days later and a guy comes in that I knew well, we had a great friendship and we're chatting,



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and all sudden he got that serious look on his face and he said, "Hey, listen my wife and I are leaving the church." I'm like, "Dude, why? What happened?" He goes, "Your car." I said, "My car?" He says, "Yeah, no pastor ought to be driving a car like that." I'm like, "Really you're leaving the church because of that?" "Yeah, we're leaving the church because of that." I said, "All right." I said, "Dude, I wish you wouldn't, I mean, we're close and I don't know what the problem is. I paid cash for it and I'm sorry it's causing you to stumble. I don't know what to do for you." He says, "Well, we're out of here." As he's walking out the door he said something that I will never forget and it just epitomized envy. He goes, "You know, my wife has been begging me for one of those for years and I want one so bad." And he walked out and pushed the door closed real hard. That's the picture of envy and it causes us to do crazy, really weird stuff.

And then let me go to the last one and the last one is slander. And slander is very simple, it's when we make a comment about someone else trying to persuade or cause someone that we're talking to to think differently about that person. By the way, when I hear the word slander, in fact [*looks at the Slander card*], oh, I have it in blue, I thought I'd have it in red. When I hear the word slander I think of something really ugly. Truthfully, I don't think of something I do. I mean, you think of slanderous, you think about that kid on the playground that's going around just trying to say horrific things about you. You think paparazzi or you think some column writer that's just writing this juicy junk just trying to destroy someone. You think about politicians in political races and it's the thing that we hate about that because I don't care which side you're on, the other side's doing it and both sides are going after. We hate slander. And so we ask ourselves the question: Do I ever slander?



And as I was asking myself, because I was looking at these going, hey, if I'm gonna ask you to pick one of these because you tasted that God's good and if he says hey, there's five things I want to talk to you about, he could've picked anything. He picks these five. Like, how do I apply this to my own life? And I was thinking about this [*holds up the Slander card*], like, certainly I don't ever do that. I mean, I would never be that writer. I would never be that paparazzi. I would – that's why politics, I just wouldn't even want to get into it. I wouldn't play the game and I wouldn't win as a result of it. And then I got to thinking, I thought, Oh, I know how we do it. My wife and I chat, it's okay if I talk bad about someone when it's my wife. Right? Not talking bad about her but talking about someone else, this is between you and I, it's in the privacy of our home, no one else is hearing, no one's getting hurt. Isn't that the line we use all the time – "No one's gonna get hurt"? God doesn't give carve-outs for us.

Here's another one, oh man, this – okay, we're getting convicting now, maybe this isn't convicting for you but it is for me so maybe you want to pick one of these other ones and tell us what you're struggling with in that area, but here I am talking to my executive team and we bring up something and we go, "Well, guys you need to recognize what I'm about to say, this is a leadership conversation." Do you see what I'm doing? What we do is we take stuff that have a nasty word like slander and we say, "It's just between you and me, it won't hurt anyone." We say, "This is a leadership conversation." Or we reframe it and we say, "I'm just trying to protect other people," or "I'm just trying to protect our company." You see what saying? When in point of fact what we're doing is slandering, and Jesus says when you've been changed by the Gospel, by the good news of Jesus, put away these five. The exact words are "***So put away.***"

Question: Why'd he pick these five? Why these five? I can think of others, but when he says you've tasted how good God is, He's so wonderful, why these five?

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A couple quick answers. First one, in our flesh, in our sinfulness, and in our society these just roll off our tongue. We want revenge so malice is easy. Deceit: We want to get something, we want to get somewhere, we want to accomplish a goal; we can't find a straight path to that so we deceive someone, look over there [*points to his left*] and we run [*we go right*] through it. Hypocrisy: Put on a mask, pretend to be something else, step up to the plate and do it. Envy: I just can't stand having someone else have something that I want.

Slander: I'm just gonna foul their name so bad that my friend sees them very differently. It's sort of our go-to response. It's a go-to sin that our flesh just so naturally responds to to get the things of this earth done the way we want them to be done.

Now I want you to think about something here. Here's the other reason why I think he goes to these five, these people were mad at this wicked emperor. If you feel anyone in your world is wicked and doing evil, awful things, whether it's leadership in your family, whether it's leadership in your company, whether it's leadership in your state, whether it's leadership in your nation and you are horrified by it, let me tell you this: It is nothing compared – nothing compared to what these people went through under wicked Nero.

And here's what I want us to hear because this is a message to me, it's preaching to me, and this is what it's saying, "Lee, you don't get a pass because the other person is horrible, because the other person is wicked, because the other person has done something horrific to you." I get it. It's easy to justify when we feel hurt. It's easy to justify when we feel betrayed. It's easy to say, "Hey, we gotta talk about this and I'm just trying to warn you, give you a little heads up, I'm trying to protect you. You need to know this." Of course if the other person's evil that has to be right. Right? And God would say through Peter – No. And Peter would say here's the example I want to give you. I followed Jesus around, I watched every move He made, listen to what he says in verse 18:

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

— well, it's easy to be good to your good bosses, but what about the unjust? He says:

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

— Jesus suffered unjustly on the cross —

20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

— it's that flipside of this where it doesn't make any sense, it doesn't feel right, but that's the God-side of this, and then he uses Jesus and he starts out:

21 For to this you have been called,

– 1 PETER 2:18-21A (ESV)

By the way, earlier on in this when he's talked about being subject or under authority to many, he says this is the will of God. So, this is the will of God that you be under authority he says, and he says hey, if you're a servant to a master, you have a boss, he says this is what you've been called to, he says do it just like Christ. Listen to what he says:

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

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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.*

– 1 PETER 2:21-23 (ESV)

People will let you down. People will disappoint you. Don't stoop to their level. Don't go do what they're doing. Don't copy their ways of handling it. They have no other way to handle it. This is all they've ever seen. This is how their god, the god of this world, Satan, their father, does business. This is how he does work with people. It's how he treats people. When you see awful stuff going on in this world it's because of the god of this world, Satan, the father of so many in this world, has taught his children how to behave. You, Peter is saying, based on what he saw our master Jesus doing, you can behave differently, you follow Jesus. And even when you are treated wrongly don't entrust yourself to these people [indulging in the five], entrust yourself, he says here, to the One who judges justly, verse 23. Hopefully, you have your Bible open, underline it, this is the hardest thing for any of us to learn as we become Christians.

Back up in verse 2 he says:

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

– 1 PETER 2:2-3 (ESV)

Hey, you're babies taking in milk, you're growing in in the Word of God. And he says you're taking in this pure spiritual milk—this Book, prayer, serving Him—so that you can grow in your faith. That's what he's trying to explain and he says as you get to know Jesus more and more and more, as you get to know the God of Heaven more and more, you are going to grow in your faith.

So let me just sort of go down a rabbit trail for a second. Have you ever heard someone that was an instant sensation or an instant success or all of a sudden they just skyrocketed to the top and everyone's like, "How'd that happen?! I want to be like that." And so all of a sudden we start making YouTube videos because we know we can do it with our thing, too. Or all of a sudden we start trying to do all sorts of different stuff. I was – you remember the book by Malcolm Gladwell? He said that if you could become an expert at anything you need to – I think his words were do something for 10,000 hours and if I'm not mistaken that was equal to 10 years of doing that thing over and over and over again. Bottom line what he says is no one's an instant success. That person that plays a musical instrument, they've been practicing since they were little. Maybe you and I just noticed them, but they've been working on that for years.

The 10,000-hours rule says that if you look at any kind of cognitively complex field, from playing chess to being a neurosurgeon, we see this incredibly consistent pattern that you cannot be good at that unless you practice for 10,000 hours, which is roughly ten years, if you think about four hours a day.

— Malcolm Gladwell —

That person that's an inventor, they've filed 200 other patents and no one ever responded, nothing ever happened, they worked their tail off for that, and then one day on patent #201 it goes big and you go, "Wow, they're an instantaneous success." So we go and file a patent and wonder why nothing happens. That's our mindset, we want instant everything in our world. We're used to driving through the drive-thru, used to the microwave. But Christianity, our walk, and our relationship with individuals, mine with you, didn't happen that way. First time I met you we were just not automatically connected,

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we've had to build a trust relationship and you're learning to trust me and I'm learning to trust you. I'm trying to get to know you more, you're trying to get to know me more, and that's what I'm doing with God every day when I'm reading His Word.

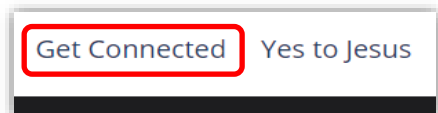
Someone asked me a while ago, "We're in the Old Testament right now in our daily reading. I tried to read through the Bible, right through the Bible all year long," and they said to me, "Pastor, I don't even understand some of this stuff. And sometimes I find some of this stuff troubling." They said, "Like, you know everything about the Bible, I'm sure you get it and you can explain this to me." I said, "No, I guess I don't know that I do know everything about the Bible, and I think I would agree with you. There are times when I'm reading stuff in the Old Testament and I'm going [SEE PHOTO BELOW], "Whew!" and I'm trying to read through the Bible, I read through it several chapters a day, I don't have time to just stop and dig deep and go down a rabbit hole on that text. But here's what's happening, the more and more I read His Word, the more and more I get to know Him, the more and more I see themes and I see ways things work, and I get to understand how He thinks and how He acts and how He behaves, and how when I respond to Him in obedience there's blessings that come out of that. And I start seeing these themes and these patterns evolving and all of a sudden I begin to respond in worship and in praise to Him. So, yeah, I may not have understood that little thing and it may not have made sense, and I read over that long list of names that I couldn't pronounce, and I couldn't remember if this was Elijah or Elisha, and I was trying to figure out – did this come before that last book I read or that kind of thing, but after a while we begin to know and get to know the heart of God.



Whew!

That's why Peter would tell you – I'm jumping back and forth, right there I was in verse 2 but now I'm gonna just jump back here into verse 23 where it says Jesus did not come back on them like we've been taught in our world to come back on them, but he said He didn't bring about threats. And it just went through it, He didn't have deceit in his mouth, and it said He did this as an example. He didn't revile in return when He suffered, and He did not threaten. Oh, my goodness. I – yeah, I want to do all of those things. I mean, how many of us have sat down and penned a letter letting them know if this, then that? How many of us have called our attorney and said, "Send a note and scare him to death right now"? Peter says Jesus doesn't do that but puts them into the hands of the One who judges justly. And again, here's where the problem comes.

And I'm, by the way, I just continue to be excited how many of you are in groups and how many of you're meeting with your groups every week. If you're not in a group, jump into a group. The best way to do that is jump onto our app or jump onto our website and let us know. Even right here on this site you can put a note on there that you want to be in a group and we'll get you connected, click on the connect button and we'll connect with you. But when you're in your groups this week, here's going to be the temptation is to say, "Yeah, my situation is a little bit different." All of our situations are a little bit different.



And we're gonna look again, the word I used earlier, we're gonna look for a "carve-out" to say, "I know that's what Jesus did, hey guys, He's God, He can do that, I can't." Well, unless you want your father to be the one of deceit and envy and lying and hypocrisy and slander and malice, if you want that to be your father and you want to have loving relationships—you can't. It's not equal to each other. God is love. If we're gonna follow His example, then we follow His example. If we follow the enemy's example, then we follow that example, and you can't mix them together.

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So again, looking what it said:

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.

— I PETER 2:22-23 (ESV)

Figure out how can you do that; how can that be part of your life?

There is a phrase right next to here, I almost want to skip over it but we never get a good chance to talk about it, so let me talk about it. Verse 24 it says:

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

— pretty clear, right? He died on the cross so that we can have a relationship with Him. He'll take our sin, we take His righteousness. That's what he's talking about here. The next phrase confuses a lot of people and there's been a lot of false teaching as a result of it. It says:

By his wounds you have been healed.

— I PETER 2:24 (ESV)

And a lot of people pull that out and they right away want to say, "Because of what happened on the cross, what happened in the Garden of Eden when we sinned, is now nullified. So you just claim the cross, you claim His wounds and you can be healed." So if you have cancer today, if you have corona virus today, if you have a headache today, claim the cross and you'll be healed. And some of you have stepped back and you've tried that because those people show up at the most inopportune times and they teach you this and say, "Just claim the cross, claim the cross." You'll hear people praying that, "We know, Lord, by your wounds we are healed." No, that's not what this text says. James says that we can pray for healing, he says we can go to the elders to anoint us with oil.¹

The Scripture in many places talks about that God is a healer, that God heals, He wants to heal you, and we are praying for those of you who are sick today in our church. When you tell us you're sick we pray for you and we believe that God will heal you, but don't use this passage to say it. Why? There's one simple little rule that's true in every bit of literature, read any of my books—it's context—you look at what's written around it and you say, "That's going to help you mean it." You can't just make it mean this because that's what you believe it to be. This text says right before it He bore our sins in his body on the tree, when He died on the cross He did it to forgive us of our sins and He says because of that we are healed—we're healed *spiritually*. It's not talking about a physical healing.

Let me try to wrap this all up with a few other thoughts. Verse 11, again, I'm sorry, I've been all over this text, it says:

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh,

— the big five. He says you don't even belong to this world. He says you're something different now. By the way, you want to see what that is? Back up to verse 9:

¹ **JAMES 5:14 (ESV):** *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

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⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

— he says next:

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,

— once you weren't with God, once you weren't walking with God —

but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy,

— guess what —

but now you have received mercy.

— and then he gets to this:

¹¹ Beloved,

– PETER 2:11-12 (ESV)

I love you, God says. Peter says I want you to know Jesus loves you, and he says but you're not at home yet. This isn't home. This isn't your final destination. This isn't where you are headed for. Leave on vacation and stop in Somerset and you'll be disappointed; there's not much there. There's one architectural thing to go look at it, Frank Lloyd Wright's place, but when you're done with that there's not much there. There is a Starbucks there, I like that, that's about it. We're not at our destination. Yeah, there's some nice stuff here, there's a couple architectural features, there's some good food, but there is so much more.

When we leave this earth someday we're going to be going to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where we're going to be with the God of the universe. You're not there yet. And he says beloved, I just want to tell you Jesus told me there's more coming—don't get too comfortable here and don't give into this stuff [the five]. If you give in to this stuff it's going to lead you down a path that they're all going to look at you and go, "You're one of us." And that's going to feel good—if you want to live in Somerset the rest of your life. But if you want to get to that beautiful place that God has prepared for you, he says live in such a way that is pleasing to God, and everyone around you will look at you and go, "I want that." Why is it you love people so well? Why is it when you get around people things change? Because I am living for God and it's changed the way I live my life. I don't live by these rules [malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander], I live by Jesus' rules. Go back to verse 23: He didn't revile, He didn't have deceit, He put sin away, He trusted Himself to the hands of the Father. In fact, the very last words of this chapter are so helpful to me, that I find so encouraging. Verse 25 it says this:

²⁵ For you were straying like sheep,

— malice – by the way, we need to decide which one of these to get rid of – deceit, hypocrisy, pretending to be part of this world, Somerset, when really you wanted to be part of Heaven, faking it. I mean, poser, whatever your word is, and I'm sure there's a list of new words today. N-n-n-n-no. He says you strayed, you strayed, you're there, today figure out which one's your thing and say, "I'm gonna be done with this." Yeah, you're sheep that stray, but listen and Peter knows of what he speaks, he says this:

but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

– 1 PETER 2:25 (ESV)

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Put this into context and we'll wrap up. I can submit and behave according to the way the world gets it done and the way Satan tells us business is to be done, and I can have a "good, happy, successful life." A little rough, some angry moments, but if you out-malice people or you out-deceive people, you might end up with more money in the bank account the day that they put you in the ground. But here's what I like, he says you can choose that or you can choose the Overseer of your souls. Remember how he started out?

So because you put your trust in Jesus,
so because He's come out of the grave alive we no longer have to live to death but we live to life,
so because you have been born again you left that way of life you have a new life,
so since you now are able to love people rather than deceive and hate people,
so because of that put away this stuff and follow Jesus, the Overseer of your souls.

You know, this comes down to a couple things. One, who do I want my God to be? Chapter 1 talks about us putting my trust in Jesus. Chapter 2 says yeah, we still have these things hanging around and we need to get rid of those so that the people around us see us for who we are because we got a way better thing going on right now. Remember what it said – you're a chosen generation, a royal priesthood. And the verses right before that he compared us to the temple and being part of building it up with stones before there was a physical edifice that maintained the presence of God here on earth. Now we are part of it with the cornerstone being Jesus who was rejected by the people here on this earth. Crazy. And yet we're part of that. He says you have a better thing going. Do you want that? Follow this.

I was meeting with my small group this week and one of the guys was really quiet throughout the whole time. At the end we looked at him and said, "What's up with that? Why are you quiet this week?" He goes, "I just kept on reading this over and over and the more I read it the more I got out of it." Can I encourage you on that this week? Read Chapter 1, read Chapter 2, and just keep on reading it over and over, just let God speak to you with these thought processes built in.

Let me pray for you.

Jesus,

Thanks so much for your Word. I pray that somehow some of the messages that You wanted to get across in this passage came across today. Lord God, one of these things that each one of us are dealing with a lot right now, I pray through the Spirit who moves in us would convict us of one of these five sins and that we would be able to say no to those today and put it aside; that your Spirit would help us to gain victory over that. And that we'd get to really realizing the joy of being part of another kingdom, a royal priesthood. I mean, being part of something that sounds other-earthly in this moment, that it would change our view even of we're headed. That You'd put our eyes on You, that You'd put our eyes on the destination, on the goal of the prize of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

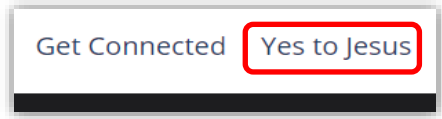
It's in your Name we pray. Amen.

Listen, if you've never put your trust in Jesus, ask Him right now. Just say, "Jesus, come into my life. Forgive me of my sins." Probably the most important thing that I can invite you to do today. Who cares if you try to fix one of these things, you can't do that if you haven't put your trust in Jesus. And so when you put your trust in Jesus He gives you the power to do that. There's a little box up above you there [upper right corner] it says "Yes to Jesus" click on that and here's really what matters, you can click on it

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all day long, it doesn't change anything, but if you just pray a prayer and say, "Jesus, I believe in You, I want to put my trust in You. I want my old life to go away; I want the new life in Jesus. I want to be forgiven by your blood. I trust that that's the only way I can have eternal life. I want trust in You for changing my life right now." Whatever your words are just say something like that. Like I say, if you press that little button, one, we can rejoice with you, we'll be pumped up that you're part of the Kingdom of God and not the kingdom of darkness, and we'd be more than glad to reach out to you and just encourage you in this time.



God bless you. Have a wonderful week. Read 1st & 2nd Peter, jump into a small group, and give your family just a big hug if you're with family. If you're not with family right now, give us a virtual hug, give us a shout out on the side. We love you. Have a wonderful week.

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KEYWORDS: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander



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