

## Protecting the Soul, Glorifying God

1 Peter 2:11-12

June 22, 2008

**Summary:** The Apostle Peter makes it clear that who we are has everything to do with the way we live. In the context of "this world is not our home," all people of God have the mandate to "*abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*" As a holy people for God's own possession, we exist for the purpose of glorifying God with a corresponding holy behavior.

1. A. Considering the context of our main passage, why does Peter call the people he is writing to, "*beloved*" in 1 Peter 2:11?

1 Peter 2: 9-10

B. List out each of the ways that God's people are identified here in verses 9-10. Why do you think this meant so much to Peter *as an apostle*?

1 Peter 1:14-19

C. Keep in mind that it was many years before that Peter was an eye witness, and that with bitter tears, of the blood that gushed out from his dying Messiah. Many years of transformed lives later, don't you think that blood was precious to Him, as well as the very people whom God had purchased with that blood? Do not the two go hand in hand, the blood of Christ and transformed lives? If you call yourself a Christian, how has the blood of Christ changed your life?

1 Peter 2:24

2. A. According to 1 Peter 2:11, the soul faces undeclared war from which enemy? What else should we understand regarding this opposition against our own souls? Matthew 16:26, John 10:10, Romans 8:5-9, James 4:1-4

B. As we shall see, God alone can protect/save our souls. How does He do this? Psalms 19:7, Psalms 103, James 1:18 & 21, 1 Peter 1:23

C. Since the Word of God alone has the power to restore/protect/save our souls, what then should be our response?

Psalms 1:1-3, 16:7-11, 42:1-5, 62:5-8, 107:8-9, Colossians 3:16

3. A. It has been said that all ministry is watching over the soul. How do we know this to be the case?

Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:25

B. What are some of the non-negotiables, or primary responsibilities of effective ministry, and why? 2 Corinthians 12:15, Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

C. Are you a husband? This is for you. Are you mom or a dad? Then this is for you. Do you have influence over anybody? Then we should *care enough* and *pray enough* and *spend ourselves enough* because that is our calling. Do you?

Colossians 1:28-29

4. A. Notice the "so that" in 1 Peter 2:12; what is the purpose of excellent behavior which we are to have?

1 Peter 3:15

B. 1 Peter 2:5 states that we as believers are being built up "for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." What are those "spiritual sacrifices?"

Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 13:15, 13:16, Philippians 4:18

C. If we are going to have excellent behavior which causes people to ask about our faith, it will be manifested in our **devotion** to Christ, in our **worship** of Christ, in our **servicing** others because we love Christ and in our **giving** to His causes. In this fashion we glorify God; is this your greatest ambition?

Colossians 1:10