

NOVEMBER 5, 2018

Letters from the First Pastor

I Peter 2

In I & II Peter, Peter mentions Jesus over _____ times in 8 chapters.

Precious _____.

Precious _____.

Precious _____.

_____ is precious.

Precious _____.

Great and precious _____.

Take off the old self, which is being corrupted...and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-23 (excerpts)

Malice - an _____.

Deceit/Hypocrisy - _____ to be _____.

Envy - _____ of _____.

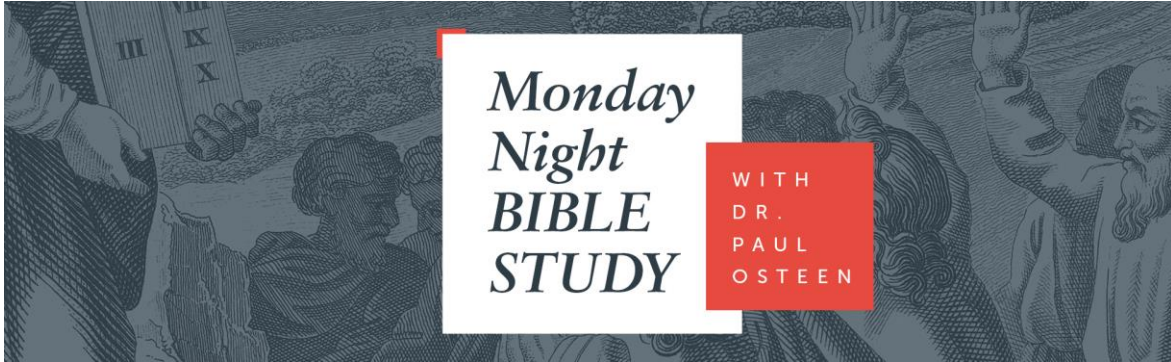
Slander - _____ talk.

Take off an unforgiving spirit and put on a _____ and _____.

Take off pretending to be someone you're not and that you have it all together. And put on an _____ and _____ and _____ life.

Take off being jealous of others and put on an _____ where you _____ others and what they have and what they _____ and how _____ is using them.

Take off hurtful talk and put on words that are _____ and _____ and _____ and that build people up.



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The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. John 6:63

Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4

Since you have already tasted that the Lord is good/gracious/kind (ness). See Psalm 34:8

Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God. 1 Peter 2:2 (Message)

Leave elementary things, move from milk to solid food so that you can mature. Hebrews 5:11-6:3 (excerpts)

We have to _____.

We have to _____.

We have to _____.

But the _____ gives understanding.

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation. Isaiah 28:16

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of His household build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

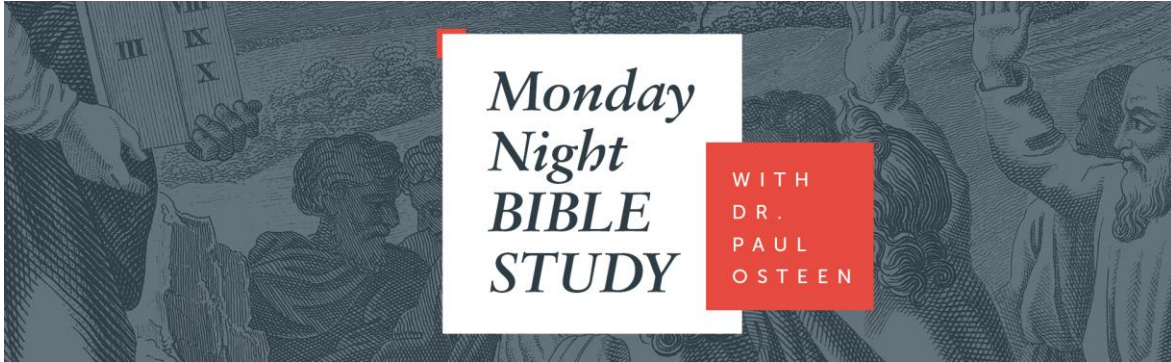
We are His:

_____ people.

_____ priesthood.

_____.

- What does a priest do/what is our ministry as priests?
 - Cleanses himself—we have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus
 - Puts on special garments—we have on the robe of righteousness because of Jesus.
 - Has access to the presence of God—we can come boldly to the throne of grace.



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- Offer sacrifices—not the blood of animals, but of praise and thanksgiving and worship.
- *We offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship.*

Romans 12:1

Holy _____.

God's _____.

For by one sacrifice He (Jesus) has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Hebrews 10:14

Show _____ to everyone...

_____ your fellow believers...

Fear _____...

_____ the emperor.

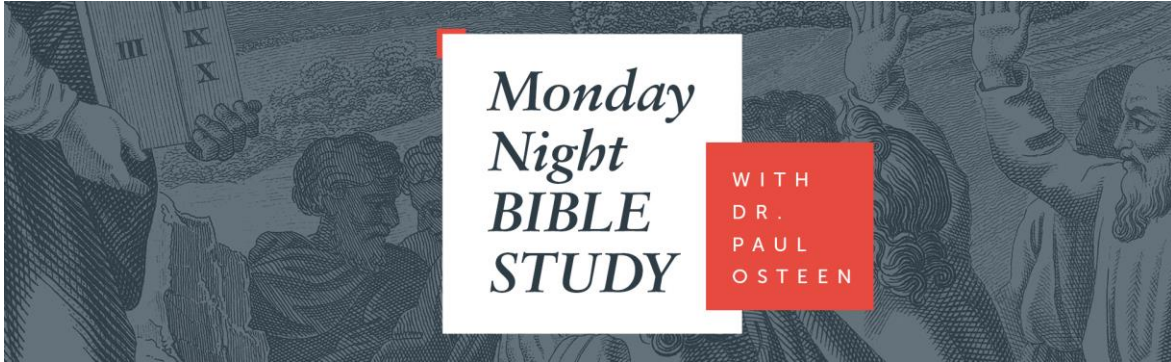
For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer and Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25

Memory Verse:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Personal Application:

1. This week, as you interact with your family and friends and co-workers, as you drive, as you come in contact with people you do not know, be aware of your attitudes concerning the following questions.
 - Did I have an unforgiving spirit? Or did I have a forgiving, merciful spirit?
 - Did I pretend to be someone I am not? Or was I real and authentic and vulnerable?
 - Was I jealous of others? Or did I celebrate others?
 - Were my words hurtful and harsh? Or were they kind and respectful, building people up?
2. Do I sincerely desire to grow in my walk with Jesus? If so, this week, how did I show this?



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3. Every day this week, meditate on what it means that YOU are one of God's chosen people, that YOU are royal priest, that YOU are a part of a holy nation and that you are God's special possession.
4. Every day this week, thank God that you have been called out of darkness. Thank Him that you are now in His wonderful light. Thank Him that you received mercy when you became a Christian. And thank Him that His mercies are new every morning—if you make a mistake, His mercy is always available to you.
5. When Peter said: *Show proper respect to everyone, love your fellow believer, fear God and honor the emperor* (those in authority), did you sense that you could 'come up higher' in any of these areas? If so, ask God to help you to do it.
6. This week at work, notice your reaction if you are treated unfairly. Try to respond like Jesus.
7. This week, if you feel alone or inadequate or like no one knows or cares, remind yourself that:
 - You have a Great Shepherd who knows every detail of your life.
 - He cares for you and watches over you and provides for you.
 - He is leading and guiding you.
 - He is protecting you.

Listen for His gentle voice this week. Remember, He speaks to our hearts not our minds. Ask Him to speak to you as you read His Word this week.

