

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2018-19
Session #3: God’s Chosen People and Temple Should
Lead a Life of Obedience to God**

*CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures on
1&2 Peter, Jude
NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary
SN = Special Notes / NAB = New American Bible
SK = Chinese Bible / CCC = Catholic Catechism*

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview of Scripture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the previous verses, concerns about how God’s people, “aliens and exiles” must live – they are call to holy living. Under the motif of holiness, this section details the three types of relationships characterized by a central attitude of obedience: human institution, master, and husband. “... Abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul ... maintain good conduct” so that your good behaviours may be shown as exemplars of holy living for the Gentiles who “speak against you”, and glorify God. “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution”, the emperor or “governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right”. Live freely as “servants of God “. Servants must be submissive to their masters, even to the “overbearing”. This is because one is approved by God as he/she endures pain while suffering unjustly. This is your call just as Christ endures unjust pain. Christ is the “suffering servant” who suffers for us and bears our sins. Wives “be submissive to your husbands” so that they may be converted through the faith of their wives. Wives should not focus on appearance but “let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious”. Follow the examples of the holy women “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord”. Husbands must “honour ... the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life”. Christian communities must “have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind”; “turn away from evil and do right, let him seek peace and pursue it”. 	<p>2:11 - 3:12</p> <p>2:11-17</p> <p>2:18-25</p> <p>3:1-7</p> <p>3:8-12</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Live with Good Conduct; Be Subject to Civil Authorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As God’s people “aliens and exiles”, we are in constant struggles with ourselves: belonging to God and not to the world. With this in mind, Peter teaches the new Christian churches about 3 worldly concerns: authority, master, husband/wife. “For I am your passing guest an alien, like all my forebears” (Ps 39:12), as descendants of Abraham, we, too are travelers journeying throughout this world. In the eyes of Gentiles, we are resident aliens “seeking a homeland”, that is, heaven. Therefore, we must “not be conformed to this world”, “abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against [our] soul” (1Pet 2:11). “Maintain good conduct” so that those who 	<p>2:11-17</p> <p>2:11-12, CCSS, CSB</p> <p>Heb 11:14</p> <p>Rm 12:2</p> <p>2Cor 10:3, Rm 7:14-19</p>

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	<p> speak against you as “wrongdoers” may “see your good deeds” and convert to God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God wills good order in human relationships; for “the Lord’s sake” we must be subject “to every human institution”, “whether it be to the emperor as supreme or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right”. God wants us to do right so that those who speak against us are left speechless. Do not use “your freedom as a pretext for evil, but live as servants of God”. Christians should “honour God, respect emperors”; but our honour for God must supersede the respect for authorities, e.g. 64 AD Nero’s oppression 	<p>2:13-17 CCSS, CSB Rm 13:1-7</p> <p>SN 1 & 2</p> <p>CCSS, CCC 2240 SN3, CCC 2238 Acts 5:29</p>
C	<p><u>Obedience to the Master</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slavery in the Greco-Roman world. We freely accept our mission to be God’s slaves based on our respect and honour for God and our freedom in God. “Not only to the kind and gentle but also to the overbearing”. This is our call to suffer with Christ since “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps”. 	<p>2:18-25</p> <p>SN4</p> <p>CCSS, Col 3:22</p> <p>Is 53</p>
D	<p><u>The Duties of Wives and Husbands</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In both Jewish and Gentile cultures, women during the Greco-Roman times were deemed inferior to men; therefore their choices and roles were rather limited. Philosophers of the time urged husbands to be gentle with their wives; but they considered women were inferior to their counterparts in terms of wisdom, morality, and leadership. They believed that women must obey their husbands in the matters of faith. On the contrary, Peter directly addresses matters of faith and morality with women and by so doing, assumes that they possess agency. The obedience of the wife can convert the unbelief of her husband. “Let not yours be the outward adorning .. but let it be the hidden person of the heart”, like the holy women, especially Sarah. Husbands should love and honour their wives since “you are joint heirs of the grace of life”. 	<p>3:1-7</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>CCSS, Eph 5:22-25 SN5, 1Sam 16:7 Gen 2:18</p>
E	<p><u>Christian Communities Thrive in Unity, Love, and Humility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The five characteristics of a Christian Community. 	<p>3:8-12</p> <p>SN6</p>

Special Notes: Please refer to Chinese handouts.