

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD**

Message One

The Universal Government of God

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:2, 17; 2:21-25; 3:15; 4:12, 15-19; 5:5-8; 2 Pet. 1:1-4; 3:13

I. The Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter are on the universal government of God:

- A. The subject of 1 Peter is the Christian life under the government of God, showing us the government of God especially in His dealings with His chosen people—1:2.
- B. The subject of 2 Peter is the divine provision and the divine government, showing us that as God is governing us, He supplies us with whatever we need—1:1-4; 3:13.
- C. God governs by judging; this judgment of God is for the carrying out of His government—1 Pet. 1:17; 4:17:
 - 1. Because 1 and 2 Peter are concerned with the government of God, in these Epistles the judgment of God and of the Lord is referred to repeatedly as one of the essential items—1 Pet. 2:23; 4:5-6, 17; 2 Pet. 2:3-4, 9; 3:7.
 - 2. Through various kinds of judgments, the Lord God will clear up the entire universe and purify it so that He may have a new heaven and a new earth for a new universe filled with His righteousness for His delight—v. 13.
- D. The judgment in 1 Peter 1:17, which is carried out by the Father, is not the future judgment but is the present, daily judgment of God's governmental dealings with His children:
 - 1. The Father has regenerated us to produce a holy family—a holy Father with holy children—vv. 3, 15, 17.
 - 2. As holy children, we should walk in a holy manner of life (vv. 15-16); otherwise, in His government God the Father will become the Judge and will deal with our unholiness—4:17; Heb. 12:9-10.
- E. The disciplinary judgment in the government of God begins from the house of God—1 Pet. 4:17:
 - 1. God judges everything that does not match His government; therefore, in this age we, the children of God, are under the daily judgment of God—1:17.
 - 2. God uses fiery ordeals to deal with the believers in the judgment of His governmental administration, which begins from His own house—4:12, 17.
 - 3. The purpose of this judgment is that we would live according to God in spirit—v. 6.

II. In his writings Peter combines the Christian life and God's government, revealing that the Christian life and the government of God go together as a pair—1 Pet. 1:17; 2:21, 24; 3:15; 4:17; 5:5-8:

- A. The Triune God has passed through a long process in Christ and has become the life-giving Spirit to indwell us; this is for our Christian life—John 1:14; 14:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.
- B. At the same time, the Triune God is still the Creator of the universe and its Ruler—1 Pet. 4:19.

- C. Although we have been born of God to have a spiritual life and to be a new creation, we are still in the old creation—John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-6; 2 Cor. 5:17:
 - 1. For this reason we need God's governmental dealings—1 Pet. 1:17.
 - 2. In order for the Christian life to grow, we need the discipline of God's government—2:2; 4:17; 2 Pet. 1:5-7.

III. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He lived a human life that was absolutely under the government of God, and He committed everything related to Him to God's government—John 6:38; 1 Pet. 2:21-24:

- A. The Lord kept committing all His insults and injuries to Him who judges righteously in His government, the righteous God, to whom He submitted Himself; He put His trust in this righteous One, recognizing His government—v. 23.
- B. When God counseled Christ as a man, Christ's inward parts were one with God and instructed Him through His contact with God—Psa. 16:7; Isa. 50:4.