

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.” 1 Peter 2:17-20 KJV



Before Christ found me, I was just as rude and crude as my bosses! Some excuse their rudeness saying, “That’s just the way I am. Deal with it!” It is the epitome of selfishness! It is unnatural to treat abuse with honor. It requires godliness to honor abusive people, but *“I can do all things through Christ (God’s Word).”* We are only as strong as God’s Word in our thoughts. *“Meditating day and night”* will allow the *“the mind of Christ [to] dwell in you richly in all wisdom.”* You will be able to submit as Christ did, because *“GREAT PEACE have they which love Thy Law and NOTHING shall offend them!”* Unbelievers are often influenced by demons who delight to abuse believers. Honoring abusive people displays Christ. Pray for deliverance and your *“Heavenly Father which seeth in secret shall reward you openly,”* but it may not be what you expect. I prayed this, and a day later, the boss invited me to lunch. Fearing the worst, I accepted. He paid for our burgers to go, and we drove to a nearby park. As we sat at a picnic table he began asking me about my faith. I told him of Christ, His sacrifice, His Love, and that what He had done for me, He can do for anyone. As we finished, he asked, “Can we do this again tomorrow?” I replied, “Absolutely!” That same day I purchased a large print Bible, took it with me the next day, and showed him God’s Word on the subject. He asked, “How can I get to heaven?” So I showed him how to know and be assured and he abruptly started praying out loud to God asking for salvation and forgiveness, eyes wide open, and without a tear, but with a softness in his voice I had never heard. When he finished, I opened the new Bible, wrote the day’s date and time in the front, and handed it to him saying, “This is yours. I bought it for you.” He was speechless. He stood up shook my hand warmly and asked, “What do I do now?” I said, “Join with local Bible believes, get baptized, and find others with whom to share the Gospel.” He said, “What church do you go to?” I told him and he said, “I’ll go with you.” He was baptized and joined the church. He is now Home with Father, but never missed an opportunity to share *“Christ and Him crucified.”* His whole family turned to Christ as a result of his faith! God’s Word can change anyone!

Undeserving, wicked men,
May find deliverance from sin,
If saints will simply honor them,
With Christ’s own strength indwelling them. ~CGP

I had no clue what lunch was about that day. In my mind, I was fired, but God had been at work! God had plans for my boss. I stood rebuked, because I had been self-righteous and offended, not remembering what I had been before Christ delivered me. I look forward to seeing Ken Bertucci again when we meet in Glory!

“But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify (keep exclusively) the Lord God in your hearts (mind/thoughts): and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the Hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” 1 Peter 3:14-17 KJV