

As Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4-10

- We should think often about why it is a blessing to be a Christian.
- A theme that Peter repeats over and over as he endeavors to encourage early Christians.
- Christians are a people chosen by God, a special people.
- A people suited for service and being prepared eternity!

To Whom Coming...

- Designed to be in a close relationship with God.
- God is approachable only through Christ – Jn. 14:7 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- Christ is approachable – Mat. 11:28-30 “Come unto me...”
- God has always desired it – Mic. 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”
- We should desire it – Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
- Jesus was rejected by many - Jn. 15:18-21 – His disciples would be hated because He was hated, because they would not be “of the world”, but “chosen...out of the world”, because the world does not know God.
- What mankind thinks is of no value, is most valuable in the sight of God! 1 Pet. 2:4 “disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious”; v. 5 “elect and precious”
- What mankind thinks is of great value, is useless! Mat. 16:26b “...or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Ye Also, As Lively Stones Are Built Up A Spiritual House

- Christ is not a king as the world counts kings; the church is not a building as the world counts buildings!
- Christians are living stones, like their Lord – chosen and precious to God through Christ.
- V. 5 “an holy priesthood”; v. 9 “a royal priesthood” Compare Exo. 19:5-6

- All Christians are priests, chosen, holy & royal, not separate from the rest of God's people, like Levi.
- All Christians are saints – Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; etc!
- But, only through Christ – The only Way (Jn. 14:6); only Name (Acts 4:12); only Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

To Offer Up Spiritual Sacrifices

- “Spiritual sacrifices” are our worship and service. Mat. 4:10; Jn. 4:24.
- Prayers – Rev. 5:8b “and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”
- Praise – Heb. 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”
- Manner of life – Heb. 13:16 “But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
- A living sacrifice – Rom. 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
- Living for God – Rom. 6:10 “For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.”

Decision...

- Jesus is our high priest who opens the way to the Most Holy place, the place where God is and where we shall be forever!
- Only through Jesus is our worship accepted.
- Only through Jesus will he hear our prayers!
- Only through Jesus will our souls be saved!