

Session 3: HUNGRY FOR MORE OF JESUS...AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU?

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER, Chapter Two, “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame. ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ⁸ and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. “They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. ¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵ For “you were like sheep going astray, ^f but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To note what is necessary in order to grow spiritually***
- 2) To reflect upon our privilege and duties as God's special people, living as sojourners and pilgrims in a world not our home***
- 3) To review our duty to submit to governmental authorities, and to make application of the instructions to slaves in our lives as employees***

SUMMARY

(1-3) Having described how they were born again by the incorruptible Word of God, Peter admonishes his readers to put aside sinful attitudes and to grow spiritually with an infant-like longing for the Word

Remember when you first became a Christian?

You were excited and hungry for more. You were ready to tell the world what Christ had done for you

(4-10) He then depicts Jesus as a living stone, and Christians as living stones. The latter are being built up as a spiritual house and holy priesthood in order to offer spiritual sacrifices through Christ. As foretold in the Scriptures, Jesus is the chief cornerstone that is precious to those who believe, while a stone of stumbling to those who are disobedient. Christians are called on to proclaim the praises of God as they are now a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people who have now obtained mercy

(11-17) As the people of God, Christians are sojourners and pilgrims in this world. Their duties as such involve abstaining from fleshly lusts, and keeping their conduct honorable among the Gentiles (nations) through good works designed to glorify God. They are to honor and submit to governmental authorities, and honor all people while loving the brethren and fearing God

(18-25) Christian slaves are told to submit to their masters, even when they are harsh and cause them to suffer grief wrongly. Peter reveals that such submission is commendable before God and follows the example of Jesus whose own suffering delivered us from sin

OUTLINE

I. A CALL TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH (1-3)

A. WHAT TO LAY ASIDE (1)

- 1. All malice, all deceit*
- 2. Hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking*

B. WHAT TO DESIRE (2-3)

- 1. The pure milk of the word*
 - a. As newborn babes*
 - b. That you may grow thereby*
- 2. If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious*

II. OUR PRIVILEGE IN CHRIST (4-10)

A. AS LIVING STONES (4-8)

- 1. Coming to Christ as to a living stone*
 - a. Who was rejected by men*
 - b. Who is chosen by God and precious*
- 2. We as living stones are being built up as a spiritual house*
 - a. To be a holy priesthood*
 - b. To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*
- 3. Christ is the precious cornerstone*

a. As foretold in Isaiah 28:16

- 1) God would lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious*
- 2) He who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame*
- 3) Precious to those who believe*

b. As foretold in Psalms 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14

- 1) A stone rejected by the builders, which has become the chief cornerstone*
- 2) A stone of stumbling and rock of offense to those who are disobedient*
- 3) To which they were appointed*

B. AS PEOPLE OF GOD (9-10)

1. They are now:

- a. A chosen generation*
- b. A royal priesthood*
- c. A holy nation*
- d. His own special people*

2. They are now:

- a. To proclaim the praises of God, who called them:*
 - 1) Out of darkness*
 - 2) Into His marvelous light*
- b. The people of God, who once were not the people of God*
 - 1) Who had not obtained mercy*
 - 2) But now have obtained mercy*

III. OUR DUTIES IN CHRIST (11-25)

A. AS SOJOURNERS (11-12)

- 1. To abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul*
- 2. To have conduct honorable among the Gentiles*
 - a. That when they speak against you as evildoers*
 - b. They may glorify God in the day of visitation*
 - c. Because of your good works they observe*

B. AS CITIZENS (13-17)

- 1. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake*
 - a. To the king as supreme*
 - b. To governors as those sent by the king*
 - 1) For the punishment of evildoers*
 - 2) For the praise of those who do good*
- 2. For this is the will of God, as bondservants of God*
 - a. That by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men*
 - b. As free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice*
- 3. Therefore:*
 - a. Honor all*
 - b. Love the brotherhood*
 - c. Fear God*
 - d. Honor the king*

C. AS SERVANTS (18-25)

- 1. Submissive to your masters with all fear*
 - a. Not only to the good and gentle*

- b. But also to the harsh*
- 2. For this is commendable before God*
 - a. If because of conscience before God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully*
 - b. What credit is there when beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?*
 - c. If when you do good and suffer, yet take it patiently, that is commendable*
- 3. For we were called to follow in the steps of Jesus our example*
 - a. Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth (Isaiah 53:9)*
 - 1) When He was reviled, did not revile in return*
 - 2) When He suffered, He did not threaten*
 - 3) He committed Himself to Him who judges righteously*
 - b. Who bore our sins in His own body on the tree*
 - 1) That we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness*
 - 2) By whose stripes you were healed*
 - 3) You were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls*