

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 15

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Last week in our study of 1 Peter we were looking at Jesus as THE LIVING STONE.

Notice 1 Peter 2:4

The words "to whom coming" actually mean "to keep coming". We are to constantly be coming to Jesus because He is:

1. **The chief corner stone of the church.**

Isaiah 28:16

¹⁶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

2. **The Rock of security.**

Psalms 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

² From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

⁴ I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.

Psalms 18:2, 31, 46

² The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

³¹ *For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?*

⁴⁶ *The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

3. The Rock of refreshment.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ *And did all eat the same spiritual meat;*

⁴ *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

Now as we move on Peter is going to continue his thought as he provides encouragement to his readers who were being persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

The Church of Lively Stones

Notice 1 Peter 2:5

The words "Ye also" look back to the previous verse. There are three things said about Jesus in the previous verse that are also true of the church and its members.

1. Disallowed of men.

The word "disallowed" means "disapproved or rejected". That was exactly what was happening to these believers. They were disapproved of. They were hated for their faith and their teaching long before they were blamed for the fire of Rome.

2. Chosen of God.

The church is the bride of Jesus which God chose to have before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:3-5

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

God chose to have a bride for His Son before the world began and whosoever accepts Jesus Christ as Savior becomes a part of the chosen church.

3. Precious

This word means "held in high honor, prized". The church is precious to God because for all eternity we shall magnify the grace of God.

Ephesians 1:5-6

⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Ephesians 2:5-7

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

⁶ *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

⁷ *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Getting back to 1 Peter 2:5 the first two words "**Ye also**" would be comforting to Peter's readers. Just like Jesus, they were disapproved and rejected. Therefore, they were in good company. Just like Jesus they were "chosen" of God, in the sense that they were members of the body of Jesus Christ. Just like Jesus they were precious. They were and will be for all eternity, trophies of God's grace.

Notice 1 Peter 2:5 again.

Peter tells us we are "lively stones" and the word "lively" means "living". But let us consider the word "lively" first. This is what the church is to be. We are to be lively, not busy. We are to be abiding in the Vine and bearing fruit for the Lord as a testimony to the unsaved.

John 15:1-5, 8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

This is what the world is to see when they look at the church. They are to see lively stones that are bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

Notice 1 Peter 2:5 again.

Peter next reminds us that we are BEING built up as a spiritual house. This is speaking of the body of Christ or the church. Let us notice the words of Paul on this:

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The started with Jesus the chief corner Stone, then the apostles and the prophets who made up the foundation, and now us who are the building. The church is currently being built as people are added each day. The church is the dwelling place of God today.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Notice 1 Peter 2:5 again.

Not only are believers a spiritual house but we are also an "holy priesthood". This is such an encouraging statement. In the Old Testament only those of the tribe of Levi could be priests and it was ONLY the High Priest who could come into the presence of God once a year. No matter what offering the common man brought to God he could not enter into God's presence.

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

With us however it is different. When Jesus died, He took our sins completely away.

John 1:29

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 John 3:5

⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Romans 3:21-22

²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Our sins have been removed and now we are covered with the righteousness of God. Because of this we can now enter into the presence of God at any time.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Back to Peter, the word "holy" means separated. This is a reminder as to how we are supposed to live, separated from sin and the world. Peter now goes on to tell us what we are to do as believer priests.

Notice 1 Peter 2:5 again.

We are "*to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*" Let us notice that these sacrifices are BY JESUS CHRIST. In other words these sacrifices are made in the power of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of bringing glory to Jesus Christ and not to us.

What do these sacrifices consist of?

1. Our bodies

Romans 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.

2. Prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Communion with and care for fellow believers.

Hebrews 13:15-16

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.*

¹⁶ *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

3. Giving of material gifts to further the Kingdom of God.

Philippians 4:18

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

4. Brokenness due to sin.

Psalm 51:15-17

¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Conclusion:

Peter is writing to encourage his readers and this verse certainly would do that. They are reminded that they are:

- **Lively stones, that make up the temple of the Living God.**
- **A holy priesthood and they have access into the presence of God at all times.**
- **Believer priests who can offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God.**