

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"**Part 16****1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

Introduction: In our study of 1 Peter we have been looking at the encouragement which the Holy Spirit provided through the pen of Peter for the believers who had received this letter. The last time we were together we looked at just one verse.

Notice 1 Peter 2:5

Here we learned that as believers we are:

1. Lively Stones.

The word "lively" means "living". We are living stones and as living stones we are to be producing spiritual fruit. We have within us the Holy Spirit and therefore, the fruit of the Spirit should be seen in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

2. A Spiritual House

This was a Truth that Paul taught the believers at Ephesus.

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.

3. A Holy Priesthood

This statement is a reminder to these believers that they had something that only the high priest of the Old Testament had and that was access into the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:16

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.

Peter then went on to explain what his readers were to do as believer priests. They were to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. We then consider four things which these sacrifices consist of:

1. Our bodies
2. Prayers of praise and thanksgiving. Communion with and care for fellow believers.
3. Giving of material gifts to further the Kingdom of God.
4. Brokenness due to sin.

This now brings us to where we are this evening in our study. Peter will now move on to look at Jesus Christ as Chief Corner Stone and in the next three verses he gives several points of encouragement to his readers.

I. We are encouraged by God's faithfulness.

Notice 1 Peter 2:6

Here Peter quotes from Isaiah 28.

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.

Combining what Peter wrote and what Isaiah wrote we are told two Truths concerning the Chief Corner Stone. Peter tells us those who believe in Him will not be confounded and Isaiah tells us that those who believe in Him will not make haste. We will consider both of these in a moment.

Earlier we had considered Jesus as the Chief Corner Stone. The corner stone of a building was the most important stone of the entire building. It was cut perfectly square on all six

sides. It was the first stone placed in the foundation and it was set level and plumb, and it would be used to determine the placement of each stone that was placed after it.

Jesus, as our Corner Stone is the One whom we measure our lives by. Everything in our lives is to be determined by Him. We are to go to the Word to be sure what we do is in line with His teaching. Now, Peter's readers were in line with the Corner Stone, and this is what was bringing the persecution. They were being rejected and hated because their lives were being built upon the Chief Corner Stone. They believed in Him as their Savior and King.

Notice 1 Peter 2:6 again.

This now brings us to the meaning of the word "confounded". This promise tells the reader that whosoever believes on Him shall not be confounded. The word means, "Will never be ashamed or will never be disappointed".

Isaiah 50:5-7

⁵ The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

⁶ I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

⁷ For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

The idea that Peter is setting forth to his readers is that as followers of Jesus Christ they could rest assured that they would NEVER be disappointed, nor would they ever be ashamed. The reason is because He is faithful to His Word. All the promises that He has made to those who believe on Him will come to pass.

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Titus 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

² In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Hebrews 6:17-19

¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

The two UNCHANGABLE THINGS in which it is impossible for God to lie are His Word/Promise and His Oath.

Getting back to Peter's thought, he is telling us and his original readers that we shall never be disappointed or ashamed because we are followers of Jesus Christ. The world may attempt to belittle us and to steal away our hope but there is coming a day when we shall inherit all that God has promised and the world will know who we are.

Romans 8:16-19

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Now let us consider what Isaiah wrote.

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.

The word "haste" here means "to show haste, to hurry, to be excited". The idea here is that those who believe on Jesus Christ and are rooted deep in their relationship with Him

will not panic or run in fear. As we walk close to our Lord, we become grounded and stable in our lives. We learn to rest in Him as we face the trials and the storms of life.

Hebrews 6:18-19

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Notice the words of MacDonald:

"In the storms and trials of life this hope serves as an anchor of the soul. The knowledge that our glorification is as certain as if it had already happened keeps us from drifting on the wild waves of doubt and despair. The anchor is not cast in the shifting sands of this world but takes hold in the heavenly sanctuary. Since our hope is the anchor, the meaning is that our hope is secured in God's very Presence behind the veil. Just as sure as the anchor is there, we shall be there also."

Getting back to the main point, we find encouragement in the faithfulness of God.

II. We are encouraged by our spiritual sight.

Notice 1 Peter 2:7a

The word "precious" here means "highly valued, honorable". The idea that Peter is setting forth here is that to the true believer Jesus Christ is priceless.

Notice the words of Spurgeon:

"He is preciousness, He is an honor, He is everything that is glorious to you. You can never think highly enough of Him, or speak well enough concerning Him. All the world beside may disallow Him, but unto you He is precious."

It is only the believer who sees Jesus Christ as being PRECIOUS. This is the mark of a true believer. The world has rejected Him but to the person who knows Him as Savior, He is irreplaceable and worth far more than any silver or gold. He is the believer's Rock and Solid Foundation. The true believer would not give up Jesus for any comfort of this world. The true believer loves the Lord.

John 8:42

⁴² Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Love for Jesus is one of the evidences of salvation. Another evidence is obedience to His Word.

John 14:15, 23-24

¹⁵ *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

²⁴ *He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

Matthew 10:37

³⁷ *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

Now let me get back to our point. It is our spiritual sight that allows us to see Jesus Christ as precious. Before salvation we were spiritually blind and we did not see the value in Him.

1 Corinthians 2:13-15

¹³ *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

¹⁴ *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

¹⁵ *But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.*

Notice 1 Peter 2:7-8

In contrast to us who believe, the unbeliever has rejected Jesus and He has become a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offence.

God had announced in the Old Testament that He would send the Chief Corner Stone. He sent the prophets to announce His coming. God sent John the Baptist to let them know the Corner Stone had arrived. But the scribes and the Pharisees rejected Him. They were like the builders on a construction site. They were waiting for the corner stone but when it

arrived, they examined it all over and finally concluded they did not want it. They had in their mind how the kingdom should be built and what the King should look like. But Jesus did not fit their blueprints. He was perfect and He brought conviction into their lives. They hated this and so they rejected Him.

Jesus, therefore, has become a stumbling stone and a rock of offense. What does this mean? It means those who reject Him will fall into judgment and wrath.

Notice 1 Peter 2:8 again.

Peter changes words in this verse. He goes from stone (a small building stone) to a rock (a huge rock cliff) to make his point. The point is that those who reject Him fall over Him as a stumbling stone and then they are crushed against a cliff.

Luke 20:17-18

¹⁷ And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

¹⁸ Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Conclusion:

Every person will one day come to the Rock. They will either accept Him as the Chief Corner Stone or they will stumble over Him and be crushed. This happens because when they reject Him this crushing is then appointed to them.