

LIVING Stones

1 Peter 2:4-11

Psalm 118:22-24

Ephesians 2:13-22



17 November 2024

A Letter to the Elect

Review: Since You Have Tasted GRACE (1 Peter 2:1-3)

- ❶ (v. 1) Lay aside ALL malice, ALL guile, hypocrisy, envy and ALL evil speaking”.
 - The ELECT PURSUE holy living. (Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Thess 4:7; 1 John 2:3-4)
 - The ELECT PURIFY themselves. (2 Cor 7:1; 1 Jn 3:3; 2:6; 2 Peter 3:14)
 - BECAUSE they have “tasted that the Lord is gracious”.
 - GRACE changes a person into a NEW CREATURE (2 Corinthians 5:17) with a NEW HEART (Ezekiel 36:26) with God’s LAW written on it (Hebrews 8:10) and God’s Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27) so that this person now will DO God’s commandments! (1 John 2:3-4; 5:3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10)
- ❷ Earnestly desire the PURE milk of the Word.
 - The ELECT value the Word of God “more than their necessary food.” (Job 23:12)
 - The ELECT “love” the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)
 - The ELECT LIVE on EVERY WORD that comes from God. (Deut 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 42:1)
 - The ELECT use God’s Word to guide everything that they do. (Psalm 119:105; 43:3; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:9-11; 2:6)
 - The ELECT TEST EVERYTHING and EVERYONE by the **written** Word of God. (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Isaiah 8:20; 1 John 4:1; Revelation 2:2)
- ❸ Grow. The ELECT GROW in the knowledge and grace of God.
 - 2 Peter 3:17-18; Hebrews 5:12-14; Psalm 92:12; Colossians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Peter 2:2)
- ★ Either one is **PRESSING FORWARD** (Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-26; Hebrews 6:1; 12:1-2) or **GOING BACKWARDS** (Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6; 32:33; Hosea 11:7)

Coming to Christ (v. 4)

- **NO ONE CAN COME TO CHRIST** in his/her own strength/ability! (John 6:44, 65; Romans 5:6)

- BUT **ALL** who have been “given to Christ” (John 6:37-39; 10:27-29; 17:2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 24) will come to Christ! (Acts 13:48)
- BUT, one might ask, about Christ’s invitation in Matthew 11:28 –
 - ① This is NOT an invitation but a command!
 - ② This command is not given to everyone, but to those who “labor and are heavy burden”. They feel the burden of their sins!
 - ③ He follows His command of “Come” with the command “Take My YOKE and LEARN from Me.” (v. 29)
- What does it mean for someone to come to Christ?
 - ① The person acknowledges his sin and forsakes all his/her own righteousness and realizes he/she is “without strength” to save him/herself. (Romans 5:6)
 - ② The person must confess Christ as **LORD**. (Romans 10:9)
 - One must SURRENDER his/her whole life to Christ as OWNER, RULER, and MASTER. (Romans 10:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20) He/she “yokes” him/herself to his/her Lord. (Matt 11:28-29)
 - One must NOW live according to His Master’s will. (Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - ③ The person must NOW PURSUE a holy life. (Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16) == This is called REPENTANCE. (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:1-5; Matthew 4:17; **Luke 24:47**; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 2:3-4)
 - ④ The person must be in TOTAL AGREEMENT with his/her Lord. (Amos 3:3) The person walks in the LIGHT just as He, the LORD, walks in the light. (1 John 1:6-7)

Christ: The LIVING Stone (1 Peter 2:4)

- Peter, moved by the Holy Spirit, describes the Christ that the ELECT come to —
 - ① He is LIVING. He came to live and die for sinners and rose again for their justification, and now is making intercession for them. (Romans 4:25; Galatians 2:20; Titus 2:11-14; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
 - ② He was/is REJECTED by men. (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 118:22; John 19:15)
 - ③ He is God’s CHOSEN Servant. (Isaiah 42:1; Matthew 12:18)
- Christ was rejected by men, but chosen by God! (v. 4; Psalm 118:22-23)
- The ELECT CHOOSE CHRIST though all others reject Him! (Hebrews 11:25-26; 13:13; 1 Peter 4:14)
 - ④ He is PRECIOUS. (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 3:17; 1 Peter 1:19)

Cornerstone and Living Stones (1 Peter 2:4-8)

- Peter was speaking of a SPIRITUAL TEMPLE – not one made of DEAD STONES.
- A cornerstone is one set down FIRST and “defines” ALL other stones. (See Isaiah 28:16-17) A plumb line and measuring line sets all other stones by the Cornerstone. (See Amos 7:7-8)

- Christ is the cornerstone, the apostles and prophets (the Word of God) the foundation, and the ELECT are the “living stones” of the Church. (Ephesians 2:20-22)
- The Church is the Temple of God! (Eph 2:20-22; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-20)
 - ★ The CHURCH is a LIVING building.
- Living stones do not build themselves – GOD builds His Church. (Matthew 16:18)
 - Fitted perfectly by God! - go back to 1 Peter 1:6-8
 - 1 Kings 5:17; 6:7 - chiseled to fit perfectly in God’s Temple.
- Lord GOD chose and laid the Cornerstone for His Church. (v. 6; Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42)
- (vv. 7-8) The contrast is between those who BELIEVE and those who DISBELIEVE; between those who OBEY and those who DISOBEY; between those who LOVE and those who do not LOVE. (See 1 Corinthians 16:22)
 - ★ BELIEF - OBEDIENCE - LOVE are all intimately connected! The one who believes will obey. The one who loves will obey. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3)
- (v. 7) What men have rejected God has made the CHIEF CORNERSTONE!
- (v. 8) **For those who are DISOBEDIENT THIS Stone is a STUMBLING STONE.**

Chosen By God (1 Peter 2:9)

- (Matthew 16:18) “I will build MY Church.” HOW IMPORTANT IS CHRIST’S CHURCH TO YOU?
- JUST AS the Cornerstone was chosen and laid by God (Isaiah 42:1; 1 Peter 2:4) so too are the ELECT! We were CHOSEN IN CHRIST. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

We Are Royal Priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

- In verse 5, God’s elect are called a “*holy priesthood*”.
- Here, the elect are called ROYAL PRIESTS.
- “Royal” because we minister to the KING in His Temple - the Church!
- “Royal” because we are God’s children. (Romans 8:16-17; 1 John 3:1)
- God has made us KINGS and PRIESTS! (Revelation 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6)
- (v. 5; Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:6) The ELECT are PRIESTS in the Temple of God (the Church). As such, we offer up sacrifices unto our LORD:
 - ① We offer up our bodies as living sacrifices. (Rom 12:1; 6:13, 16, 19)
 - ② We offer up the “sacrifice of praise”. (Hebrews 13:15)
 - ③ We offer up our “good works”. (Hebrews 13:16)
 - ④ We offer up our financial offerings. (Philippians 4:18)
 - ⑤ We offer up our prayers as sweet incense. (Psalm 141:2; Rev 5:8)

We Are A Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9)

- “holy” - “set apart”; “separated”
- A (one) NATION - NOT MANY NATIONS!
 - ★ Ephesians 2:19

- ★ ONE NATION has ITS own traditions, language, dress, etc.
- ★ ONE mind, understanding, judgment, etc. (1 Cor 1:10; Philipp 1:27; 2:2; 1 Peter 3:8; Romans 12:16)
- “nation” – ethos - “people group”. The Church is a HOLY (set apart) people group.
- Our citizenship is in heaven! (Philippians 3:20-21)
- We were called to live HOLY. (1 Thess 4:7; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Heb 12:14)

We Belong to God (1 Peter 2:9)

- “special” is “peculiar” in the KJV. Consider the definition of “peculiar”:
 - (1) Belonging **exclusively** to **one** person. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 7:23; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 9:12; Ephesians 1:14)
 - (2) Felt to be a characteristic of only one: distinctive - Eph 4:4-6
 - (3) Different from the usual or normal. (HOLY - Eph 1:4; Col 3:12; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14)
 - (4) Something exempt from the ordinary jurisdiction of whose territory it lies. (Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- We are God's **jewels**. (Malachi 3:16-17; Zechariah 9:16)

BEING Living Stones and Priests

- ❶ GRACE demands a response - obedience. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3)
- ❷ “Coming to Christ” is PURE GRACE. No one can come to Christ unless God, the Father, DRAWS him. Has God drawn you to Christ? (John 6:44, 65; 37-40; Hebrews 7:25)
- ❸ EVERY person that God saves is put into His Church as a living stone aligned with Christ with God's Word as their foundation. (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- ❹ ALL born-again Christians are PRIESTS. ALL priests have duties to perform DAILY. (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:5)
- ❺ To be chosen by God is a HIGH PRIVILEGE. High privilege comes with high responsibility. (1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:3-4)
- ❻ ALL born-again Christians BELONG (body, spirit, soul, time) to GOD. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- ❼ In obedience to Christ, we must be praying daily Luke 21:34-36.