

As Living Stones

040818AM

1 Peter 2:4-10

- Christians are chosen by God, His special people.
- A people suited for service and being prepared eternity!
- How often do we think about the blessings of being a Christian?
- A recurring theme in Peter's letters.

Coming to Him

- Mat. 11:28-30 – Christ is approachable “Come unto me...”
- Jn. 14:6 – God is approachable only through Christ.
- Mic. 6:8 – God has always desired it.
- Heb. 10:22 – We should desire to be with Him – “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.”
- 1 Pet. 2:4 – Jesus was rejected by men - a reminder that not all will accept Christians! (Jn. 15:18-21).
 - 1 Pet. 1:18 – What mankind thinks is of no value, is precious in the sight of God!
 - Mat. 16:26 – What mankind thinks is of great value, is useless!

Living stones, built up a spiritual house

- As 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”
- Cf. Exo. 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
- All Christians are saints – Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1;

Phi. 1:1; etc!

- Only through Christ – The only Way (Jn. 14:6); the only Name (Acts 4:12); the only Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).
- 1 Kng. 8:5; 2 Chr. 5:6 – Temple dedicated with countless sacrifices and stands no longer.
- Acts 20:28 – The church was purchased with One and it will never fall (Mat. 16:18).

To offer up spiritual sacrifices

- Acts 17:25 – Not worshiped with men's hands!
- Jn. 4:24 – “Spiritual sacrifices” are our worship and service.
- Prayers – Phi. 4:6 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”
- Praise – Heb. 13:15 “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”
- Manner of life – Heb. 13:16 “But do not forget to do good and to share, 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 you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
- Living for God – Rom. 6:10 “For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”
- Rom. 6:11 – Because we are alive to God in Christ!

Decision...

- Jesus our high priest opened the way to the Most Holy place.
- Only through Him will our worship be accepted.
- Only through Jesus will God hear our prayers.
- Only through obedience to Jesus can our souls be saved.