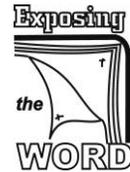


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The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



V- Remember We Are Living Stones and Peculiar People: IPe 2:4-10

Often we can lose our focus on who we are in Christ. Our relationship with God through Christ with the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us is something many Old Testament saints longed for. We certainly live in special spiritual times.

While it is true that without Christ we are hopeless and helpless lost in our sins, and at time we stress the lostness and the fallen nature of men, we must also not ever lose sight of the fact that every man, woman boy and girl are worth immense value. We see this because of what Christ was willing to give to redeem each of us.

Within our text this session we have a couple of important reminders of this value and our position. Peter here reminds us that we are living stones and peculiar people.

I- The Rejected Stone:

When Daniel interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in which he saw the great statue that gave the vision of the kingdom that would come. *Dan 2:32-33 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

The gold represented Babylon, silver Medes and Persian, the brass was Greece with the iron and clay denoting Rome. There was also another competent to the vision that we sometimes do not talk about; the Stone.

Dan 2:34-35 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

The first mention of “the stone” was in *Gen 49:24 But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd,*

the stone of Israel:) This was Jacob’s deathbed prophecy concerning his sons.

Praise the Lord for the Stone, the Lord Jesus. Peter reminds us of several things related to Him.

IPe 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1- He is a living stone. This certainly is rooted in *Isa 28:16 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.*

Now certainly the image here is not to be understood of a literal stone that is alive but of the building block and Christ giving life.

2- Rejected by Men... *Psa 118:22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.*

Act 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

First He was rejected by the Jewish leaders first and then the crowd that cried “crucify.”

3- Chosen and Precious: God chose Christ as the cornerstone of the church. He is the stone, the living stone that is so precious to the plan of God.

II- Building with Living Stones:

As we have stated it may seem silly on the surface to think that stones live. Indeed the stones we find in the field and garden have no life. We are not talking about field stones but living stones that God is using to build a house.

IPe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,

The material is called living stones. *Barnes Notes* says:

The meaning is, that the materials of which the temple here referred to was composed, were living materials throughout. The foundation is a living foundation, and all the superstructure is compassed of living materials.

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Notice also it says the living stones are building a spiritual house. Now this makes sense that the living stones were build a different kind of house than, as we said, field stones.

1Pet 2:5...an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Not only are we built up as a spiritual house but also a holy priesthood. During the time before the institution of the priesthood of Aaron every families head was a priest unto God. With rebellion and disobedience the tribe of Levi became the tribe of priest. We realize now however that with the advent of grace that each believer is a priest. We as Baptist hold strongly to the doctrine of the priesthood of believer. Each believer has direct access to God and needs no mediator with God except Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this priesthood is to offer sacrifices to God. I am reminded that Paul talking about the churches of Macedonia in **2 Cor 8** said about their giving out of their deep poverty, **And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. 2Co 8:5**

Then **Rom 12:1** says **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.**

This build God is building with living stones has for its chief corner stone the Lord Jesus. This stone was selected for the purpose of all the building of the church and yea of life itself to be built upon.

1Pet 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious...

I have a confession. When I read verse 7 I keep reading it as us believing He is precious not when we believe He is precious. It did not make sense to me and I could not get the meaning, until, I realized it was saying unto you which believe, he is precious. The reason I confess this is to simply encourage us all to not get discouraged when we struggle to grasp a verse. God will supply the understanding we need. I still believe He is precious.

III- Stumbling Rock:

One thing that we constantly see evidence of around us is the rejection of Christ. Men continue to reject Him and then He becomes a stumbling block to them and in fact offensive. I am constantly amazed at the disdain that we see concerning Christ.

1Pe 2:7-8 ...but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Peter I don't think would be surprised at this rejection of Jesus and then the offense that people have.

So are we to become sarcastic about those who do not believe? I think not. We should continue to try to love them into the kingdom. When we act unkind or harsh it only fuels their anger. When we act kind and loving it can break down the walls. We should be rolling the stumbling rock out of the way, I do not mean Christ here, so they can see the riches of the faith.

According to a legend, a king once placed a heavy stone in the roadway. Then he hid and waited to see who would remove it. Many who came by loudly blamed the government for not keeping the highways clear, but none assumed the duty of pushing the obstacle out of the way. At last a poor peasant stopped and rolled it into the gutter. To his surprise he found a bag full of gold embedded in the road beneath the spot where the rock had been. A note said it was the king's reward for anyone who removed the troublesome object. Our Daily Bread, April 9, 1998

IV- How God Sees Us:

Many times we are guilty of seeing people as we are and as they are. God I thinks sees us differently. He see our potential and our outcome in Christ.

In addition to Mt. Rushmore, one of Gutzin Borglum's great works as a sculptor is the head of Lincoln in the Capitol at Washington. He cut it from a large, square block of stone in his studio. One day, when the face of Lincoln was just becoming recognizable out of the stone, a young girl was visiting the studio with her parents. She looked at the half-done face of Lincoln, her eyes registering wonder and astonishment. She

