



"A Chosen People" (1 Peter 2:1-12)(4.30.23)

LET US PRAY.

INTRODUCTION:

The Apostle Peter has been building an argument from the beginning of this letter.

Construct a building with large picture Bible as cornerstone with the cross in the center. Use pew Bibles and hymnals.

BODY:

1 Peter 2:1-12 Amplified Bible

So put aside every trace of malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander *and* hateful speech; ² like newborn babies [you should] long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may be nurtured *and* grow in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfillment], ³ if in fact you have [already] tasted the goodness *and* gracious kindness of the Lord.

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in respect to salvation [its ultimate fulfillment], ³ if in fact you have [already] tasted the goodness *and* gracious kindness of the Lord.

Sincere love for our brothers and sisters in the faith will lead us away from malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Additionally, the more we build upon our obedience and live into our salvation, those sins will naturally be displaced by God's goodness coming to life within us.

Here, when Peter speaks of salvation, he is not addressing our justification. Peter is thinking along the same lines as fellow Apostle, Paul, who exhorted the Philippians “to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”



Psalm 34:8 (NIV84)
Taste and see that the LORD is good;

Peter is following up the reverence of scripture with which he closed chapter 2. The spiritual milk is God’s Holy inspired word.

⁴ Come to Him [the risen Lord] as to a living Stone which men rejected *and* threw away, but which is choice and precious in the sight of God. ⁵ You [believers], like living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house for a holy *and* dedicated priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable *and* pleasing to God through Jesus Christ.

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Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV84)

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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Romans 12:1 tells us to offer our whole lives as spiritual sacrifices. We are to offer a sacrificial offering of faith and the services of love as a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. Our church mission statement tells us to model a life-giving gospel.



GREAT THEMES

JESUS' TEACHINGS IN PETER

Jesus (Matt. 5:16)

1. "Let your light shine"
2. "before men"
3. "that they may see"
4. "your Father in heaven"

Peter (1 Pet. 2:12)

1. "Keep you behavior excellent"
2. "among the Gentiles"
3. "as they observe"
4. "God in the day of visitation"

⁶ For this is contained in Scripture:
"Behold, I am laying in Zion a chosen stone,
a precious (honored) Cornerstone,
And he who believes in Him [whoever
adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] will
never be disappointed [in his expectations]."
⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who
believe [in Him as God's only Son—the
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⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe [in Him
as God's only Son—the Source of salvation];

That is the option you and I chose...

but for those who disbelieve,
"The [very] stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief Cornerstone,"
⁸ and,
"A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense";
for they stumble because they disobey the
word [of God], and to this they [who reject
Him as Savior] were also appointed.

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OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES IN 1 PETER 2:6-10	
2:6b	Isa. 28:16
2:7b	Ps. 118:22
2:8a	Isa. 8:14
2:9a, c-d	Deut. 10:15
2:9a-gb	Isa. 62:12
2:10a-b	Hos. 1:6, 9; 2:23

The integration of the Old Testament into the New Testament is repeated by all the Apostles and the Lord Jesus too!

1 Corinthians 10:2-4 (NIV84)

² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and **that rock was Christ.**

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Matthew 21:42 (NIV84)

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

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⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a [special] people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are *God's* people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV84)

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

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God Chooses! God chooses how He will work in this world. God chooses who He will work with in this world.

Deuteronomy 7:6-7 (NIV84)

⁶ For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. ⁷ The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

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Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV84)

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers [in this world] to abstain from the sensual urges [those dishonorable desires] that wage war against the soul. ¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the [unsaved] Gentiles [conduct yourself honorably, with graciousness and integrity], so that for whatever reason they may slander you as evildoers, yet by observing your good deeds they may [instead come to] glorify God in the day of visitation [when He looks upon them with mercy]

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A Chosen People 1 Peter 2:12

BUT YOU ARE A *chosen people*,
A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION,
God's special possession,
THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES
OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF
DARKNESS INTO HIS *wonderful light*.

Many of you know that Emmaus Church has been struggling. The culture has changed. We have not recovered from the effects of COVID-19. Our attendance has declined. The giving has declined. We are getting older and our desire to reach the next generation has not produced the fruit for which we hoped. I personally wonder if I have failed you and the Lord. In our leadership discussions there is an element of frustration. **But maybe**, this is part of our being built up into a spiritual house of God.

Listen to a devotion from My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers: As Christian workers, worldliness is not our snare, sin is not our snare, but spiritual wantoning is, viz.: taking the pattern and print of the religious age we live in, making eyes at spiritual success. Never court anything other than the approval of God, go "without the camp, bearing His reproach."

Jesus told the disciples not to rejoice in successful service, and yet this seems to be the one thing in which most of us do rejoice. We have the commercial view—so many souls saved and sanctified, thank God, now it is all right.

Our work begins where God's grace has laid the foundation; we are not to save souls, but to disciple them. Salvation and sanctification are the work of God's sovereign grace; our work as His disciples is to disciple lives until they are wholly yielded to God. One life wholly devoted to God is of more value to God than one hundred lives simply awakened by His Spirit. As workers for God we must reproduce our own kind spiritually, and that will be God's witness to us as workers. God brings us to a standard of life by His grace, and we are responsible for reproducing that standard in others.

Unless the worker lives a life hidden with Christ in God, he is apt to become an irritating dictator instead of an indwelling disciple. Many of us are dictators, we dictate to people and to meetings. Jesus never dictates to us in that way. Whenever Our Lord talked about discipleship, He always prefaced it with an 'IF,' never with an emphatic

assertion—‘You must.’ Discipleship carries an option with it.

We never know the impact we are having. Have you heard the conversion story of the Prince of Preachers, Charles Spurgeon? He was raised in a Christian home. He had heard his father and grandfather preach. Young Spurgeon was acutely aware of the law and his sinfulness; but, he did not have the Lord Jesus Christ.

“It is without doubt the best known conversion in the history of the Church [because he shared it often]. It was on a wintry Sunday, January 6, 1850, his school being temporarily closed because of an outbreak of fever, that the 15 year-old Spurgeon found himself in Colchester and on his way to the local Congregational Chapel. But the snow and sleet intensified so that he turned down a side lane called Artillery Street and came to the Primitive Methodist Church.

He was thus able incidentally to continue in his determination to visit every congregation in Colchester to find someone who would tell him where he might find relief from the condemnation of the law. His mother had also talked with him positively about this congregation. It is any port in a storm, and so the teenager entered this building for the first time to attend the morning service.

There were no more than a dozen or fifteen people present: even the minister had failed to arrive because of the weather. It was the **wrong** church, the **wrong** congregation, the **wrong** weather and the **wrong** preacher. Into the pulpit climbed a thin-looking man, a

shoemaker or tailor, Spurgeon was never to know anything about him. He announced his text as Isaiah 45:22, 'Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else.'

Spurgeon says, "He had not much to say, thank God, for that compelled him to keep on repeating his text, and there was nothing needed – by me, at any rate – except his text. I remember how he said, 'My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, 'Look.' Now lookin' don't take a deal of pain. It ain't liftin' your foot or your finger; it is just 'Look!.'

Well, a man needn't go to college to learn to look. You may be the biggest fool, and yet you can look... A child can look. One who is almost an idiot can look. However weak, or however poor a man may be, he can look. And if he looks the promise is that he shall live.'

He went on in his broad Essex accent, 'Many on ye are lookin' to yourselves. But it's no use lookin' there. You'll never find any comfort in yourselves. Some say look to God, the Father. No, look to Him by-and-by. It is Christ that speaks. I am in the garden in an agony, pouring out my soul unto death; I am on the tree, dying for sinners; look unto Me! I rise again. Look unto me! I ascend into heaven! Look unto me. I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O poor sinner look unto me! Look unto me! Some of ye say, "We must wait for the Spirit's workin'". You have no business with that just now. Look to Christ. The text says, "Look unto Me".'

The preacher managed to spin that out for ten minutes and then, running out of anything fresh to say, looked at his congregation and picked on Spurgeon, "Young man, you look very miserable," he said. "Well," said Spurgeon, "I did look miserable, but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made from the pulpit about my personal appearance before. However, it was a good blow, struck right home."

The preacher went on, "and you always will be miserable – miserable in life and miserable in death – if you don't obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." And then he shouted at the top of his voice as I think only a Primitive Methodist can, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but to look and live!" And I did look."

"I saw at once the way of salvation. I know not what else he said – I did not take much notice of it – I was so possessed with that one thought. Like as when the brazen serpent was lifted up, the people only looked and were healed, so it was with me. I had been waiting to do fifty things, but when I heard that word, 'Look!' what a charming word it seemed to me.

"Oh I could have looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away. There and then the cloud was gone, the darkness had rolled away, and that moment I saw the sun; and I could have risen that instant, and sung with the most enthusiastic of them, of the precious blood of Christ, and the simple faith which alone looks to him. O

that somebody had told me this before, 'Trust Christ, and you shall be saved.'"

Spurgeon later said, 'I thank God that I owe my conversion to Christ to an unknown person, who certainly was no minister in the ordinary acceptation of the term; but who could say this much, "Look unto Christ and be saved, all ye ends of the earth". Both his sons were to be converted through preachers whom they did not know.

When the congregation sang a hallelujah before they went out Spurgeon could join with them and as he walked back home through the snowy streets the words of David kept ringing through his heart, 'Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' God flooded his heart with joy and assurance.

Spurgeon described it like this: 'I looked to Jesus, and he looked on me; and we were one for ever. That moment my joy surpassed all bounds, just as my sorrow had aforetime driven me to an extreme of grief. I was perfectly at rest in Christ, satisfied with him, and my heart was glad; but I did not know that this grace was everlasting life till I began to read in the Scriptures, and to know more fully the value of the jewel which God had given me.' He said, "I thought I could dance all the way home. I could understand what John Bunyan meant when he declared he wanted to tell the crows on the ploughed land all about his conversion. He was too full to hold; he felt he must tell somebody.'"

CONCLUSION:

Of course, the big question is WHY? For what purpose have we become God's chosen people? Peter tells us, "so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of [God]."

1. **Glorious things of thee are spoken,**

Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near!
Thus deriving from our banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe we feed upon the manna
which God gives us when we pray.

4. Blest inhabitants of Zion,
washed in our Redeemer's blood;
Jesus, whom our souls rely on,
makes us monarchs, priests to God.
Us, by his great love, he raises,
rulers over self to reign,
and as priests his solemn praises
we for thankful offering bring.

This naturally folds into The Great Commission that Jesus gave His disciples right before He ascended to the right hand of our Heavenly Father. Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV84)

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus is with us. Jesus is building His Church. Jesus is using His Chosen People to be the Living Stones of His Spiritual House, where the presence of God Almighty abides with God’s people...You and me!!

Amen and amen. Let us pray.