

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 2:4-8— Living Stone & Living Stones

March 6, 2016

“...Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” -1 Peter 2:6 (cf. Isa 28:16)

I. JESUS, WHO ARE YOU?

- I am a living stone rejected by men - 2:4 (Ps 118:22).
- I am chosen by God and precious to him - 2:4.
- I am the Cornerstone - 2:6, 7 (Ps 118:22; Isa 28:16).
- I am a rock of offense - 2:8 (Isa 8:14-15).
- I am the Spiritual House - 2:5 (Mark 15:29; John 1:14; 2:18-22; Rev. 21:22-23).

II. BELIEVERS, WHO ARE YOU IN CHRIST?

- We are living stones - 2:5.
- We are part of a spiritual house - 2:5.
- We are a holy priesthood - 2:5.
- We are a holy nation - 2:9.
- We are a people owned by God - 2:9-10.
- We are a people who have received mercy - 2:10.
- We are an extension of the people of Israel - (Ex. 19:5-6).

III. AND NONBELIEVERS?

- We stumble because we refuse to believe and we disobey the gospel - vss. 6, 8 (Acts 2:21; 7:51; 14:2; 19:9).
- We were destined to do so - vs. 8 (Luke 22:22; John 17:12; Acts 1:16).

IV. WHAT IS THIS BUILT UPON?

- We are honored, as Christ-followers, to be built into God's house, with Christ as the foundation and the head (Eph. 1:22-23; 2:17-22).

KNOW: We are being built into the house of God, a house built on a solid foundation. This is our honor. But for those who reject the honor, the foundation stone becomes a stumbling stone.

DO: As living stones, set your foundation on the Living Stone.

Suggested Reading:

The Church, by Edmond P. Clowney

The Cross of Christ, by John R.W. Stott

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 2:4-8

1. Read Matthew 21:33-44. How does this parable help us understand how Peter uses the Old Testament in 1 Peter 2:4-8?
2. Based on 1 Peter 1, why would Peter turn to the image of a foundation stone rejected by men but honored by God when writing to these believers? What is it about them that might welcome this particular metaphor?
3. Does the metaphor of the foundation stone speak to you in any particular way? Is it encouraging to you?
4. Talk a bit about verse 8. Is it a troubling statement for you? Why or why not?
5. Why is it an “honor” for us to believe? What does that mean?
6. What did you learn from this text that can be applied to your life today?