



BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

The Living Stones of a Spiritual House

Message #9 in the 1 Peter Series

1 Peter 2:9-10

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Pastor Jason Pilchard

INTRODUCTION

- **3 Parts to this Message**

- The Living **Stone** (vs.4-8 – Last Week)
- Two **Responses** to the Living Stone (vs.4-8 – Last Week)
- The Living **Stones** (vs.5, 9-10)

- **Three Key Interpretation Helps**

- Peter clearly uses Old Testament descriptions, originally given to Israel, to describe New Testament principles which apply to the church.
- This does not mean the church **replaces** Israel.

“In contrast to the disobedient and rebellious nation of Israel, God’s people today are His chosen and holy nation. This does not suggest that God is through with Israel, for I believe He will fulfill His promises and His covenants and establish the promised kingdom.” – Warren Wiersbe

- The immediate context of these descriptions is the entire **body** of **Christ** – not individual believers or local churches.

“In these verses, Peter was not thinking of his readers as individuals, nor yet as a number of isolated local congregations in Asia Minor, but as members of the body of Christ.” – D. Edmond Hiebert

5 Descriptions of the Spiritual House

Description #1 – In Christ, you are a **chosen race**. (vs.9)

- **Description:**
- **Encouragement for Sufferers:** Do not be discouraged in your suffering and persecution; you have been given **identity** and **security**. Just like Christ was God's chosen cornerstone, you are God's chosen race – sharing a common heritage and a common life. You are secure in Him!

Description #2 – In Christ, you are a **royal priesthood**. (vs.5, 9)

- **Description:**
- **Encouragement for Sufferers:** Do not be discouraged in your suffering and persecution; you have been given **access** and **authority**. As priests, you have access to God and as royal priests, you will reign with God.

Description #3 – In Christ, you are a **holy nation**. (vs.9)

- **Description:**
- **Encouragement for Sufferers:** Do not be discouraged in your suffering and persecution. For although you are suffering at the hands of the wicked and sojourn as strangers, you are a community of people that is **pure** and has much in **common**.

Description #4 – In Christ, you are a **people** . . . the people of God. (vs.10)

- **Description:**
- **Encouragement for Sufferers:** Do not be discouraged in your suffering and persecution. Although you may have been rejected and despised by your country, your own friends, and your own family, you are a people **possessed** and **treasured** by God Himself.

Description #5 – In Christ, you have received **mercy**. (vs.10)

- **Description:**
- **Encouragement for Sufferers:** Do not be discouraged in your suffering and persecution. You were, in fact, as your persecutors contend, **miserable** and **pitiful**. But not so now! God has **poured** out His **mercy** upon you through His Son, Jesus Christ.

How should you respond to all of these descriptions?

- We are to offer **spiritual sacrifices** to God.
 - We offer our **bodies** as living sacrifices. (Rom. 12:1-2)
 - We offer the **praise** of our mouth. (Heb. 13:15)
 - We do **good** unto others. (Heb. 13:16)
 - We **share** our resources with others. (Heb. 13:16)
- We are to **proclaim** the excellencies of God.

Our Message: “God called me out of **darkness** and into the **light**.”

REVIEW AND CONCLUSION:

1. Remember: In context, this passage is intended to **encourage suffering** Christians who are being challenged to live a lifestyle of **sojourning obedience**.
2. The Gospel was proclaimed unto you. (1:24-25)
3. God called you (vs.9) and you obeyed (1:22) by believing (vs.7).
4. You are now part of the church – which is special to God. These descriptions of the church are precious to you. They should encourage you in your suffering and amidst your persecution.
5. The proper response to all of these precious realities is a life of spiritual **sacrifice** and robust, faithful **praise** and **proclamation**.