

A Right Relationship With the Son of God 1 Peter 2:4-10 (Part 3)

I. Introduction:

A. Turn to 1 Peter 2 and read 4-10

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious [stone] in the sight of God,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For this is contained in Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone.”

8 and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

B. More I study this passage

1. MORE Privileged I feel about WHAT I HAVE in JESUS CHRIST!
2. MORE SEPARATED I FEEL FROM THE WORLD.
 - a) With EACH DAY – WORLD knows LESS of the BIBLE
 - b) Peter ASSUMED these GENTILES knew MUCH of the OT
 - (1) Wrote this ASSUMING
 - (a) They KNEW this
 - (b) COMFORTED BY IT!
 - c) TODAY – Could you imagine witnessing and someone ASKS – What does it MEAN to be a Christian?
 - (1) ANSWER: We’re living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
 - d) What are the BENEFITS of being a Christian?

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession,
 - e) EVEN SADDER – MOST CHRISTIANS would find these answers FOREIGN to their thinking!
 - f) CHRISTIANITY is SOOOO SHALLOW
 - (1) Start with a UTILITARIAN GENIE GOD who is PRIMARILY WORLDILY MAKE ME FEEL GOOD LOVE
 - (2) Church = Social club of ACTIVITIES for the WHOLE FAMILY

- (3) And, JESUS CHRIST is the PERSON who seems to NEVER GET INVITED to each EVENT
 - (4) AT LEAST not the JESUS with NAIL holes in His hands and feet AND a SPEAR SCAR in His side
 - (5) OR
 - g) Churches are SO DEAD people FILE in-and-out NEVER SLOWING DOWN to KNOW let alone GET INVOLVED with OTHERS – WONDER if CHRIST HAS EVER VISITED THERE!
3. BUT – Peter says that the ONLY WAY to have a VITAL, PERSONAL, ONGOING Relationship with JESUS CHRIST is
 - a) THROUGH HIS WORD
 - b) CONTINUALLY COMING BACK for more and more as you TASTE His KINDNESS
 - c) KNOWING that APART FROM HIM – you are NOTHING
 - (1) I.e. EVERYTHING that you are is because of EVERYTHING that HE IS!
 - d) ALL of this WHILE He is WORKING His GREAT ETERNAL PLAN THROUGH each ONE OF US!
 - e) ALL of this OLD TESTAMENT truth is MEANT to be UNDERSTOOD, MEDITATED on – TO ENRICH / GROW your relationship WITH JESUS CHRIST
 4. We think of Jesus Christ MOSTLY from the NT view we have of HIM.
 - a) From His life in the Gospels
 - b) This man who walked, was severely persecuted, and died and rose again.
 - c) WE CAN ACTUALLY MODERNIZE HIM when this is ALL we see – ALMOST put an AMERICAN face on Him.
 - d) BUT that's NOT WHO HE WAS – PHYSICALLY or SPIRITUALLY!
 5. First – PUT A GOOD JEWISH FACE ON HIM.
 - a) With a great Jewish Family behind Him.
 - b) More in common with David, Ruth, Rahab, Jacob, than with US!
 - c) Do you have any REALLY JEWISH friends – REALLY CULTURALLY JEWISH?
 - (1) They're different than us!
 6. Second, - PUT the ROBES of A PRIEST on HIM
 - a) Do you understand what an OT priest was and what they DID daily?
 - (1) Like you understand what YOUR SPOUSE or PARENTS do daily?
 - b) He IS the GREATEST Priest and now we are priests!
 - c) Do you understand what that means?
 7. Third, - PUT a CROWN on HIS HEAD – He's a KING
 - a) His throne will be FOREVER.
 - b) Do you understand the OT King and His Role?

- c) He is the GREATEST KING – KING of KINGS and LORD OF LORDS
 - d) Now you are ROYALTY.
 - e) Do you understand what that means?
8. IF we DON'T KNOW these things
 - a) HOW CLOSE ARE WE to our SAVIOR and LORD?
 - b) HOW much can the WORLD KNOW if WE DON'T?
 9. Keep that in mind as we continue this RICH passage tonight!

C. Proposition: The elements of a right relationship with the Son of God is

1. Through the word of Christ
2. Because of who He is
3. Based on Continuously drawing near to the Christ of the Word!
4. Building you up as living stones
5. NEXT WEEK: Precious Value to you who believe

II. A right relationship with the Son of God is Through the word of Christ

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

3 if (since) you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

1. V.3-4 could read: SINCE you have tasted the kindness of the Lord KEEP ON COMING BACK to the WORD to GET MORE OF JESUS CHRIST.
 - a) KEEP COMING BACK FOR THE CHRIST OF THE WORD.
2. a relationship with Jesus Christ IS THROUGH HIS WORD!
 - a) You come to the WORD to spend time with Christ!
 - b) Reading Scripture = READING A LIVING BOOK
 - c) COME HERE TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS CHRIST!
 - d) The LIVING, ABIDING, ENDURING WORD of GOD – JESUS CHRIST!

B. Transition.

1. So, First, a Right relationship with the Son of God is THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD...
2. Second...

III. A right relationship with the Son of God is because of who He is

A. Already Seen – Passage is FIRST / FOREMOST about GOD'S ELECT / PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE – THE LIVING STONE – JESUS CHRIST

B. The WHOLE point of this passage TO US: EVERYTHING THAT WE ARE IS BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

C. He's a living stone, we are "as living stones"

1. Point: I am ONLY as a LIVING STONE because I AM IN HIM who is A LIVING STONE

D. He's elect of God, we are elect of God

1. **Point: The ONLY reason YOU and I are CHOSEN is BECAUSE He was first Chosen! HIM FIRST!**
2. **Jesus Christ is the chosen / elect of God!**
 - a) **See that word “choice” in v.4 & 6? = ELECT**
 - b) V.9 CHOSEN! = ELECT
3. GREATNESS is IN HIM – NOT IN US!

E. And of course: 1 Peter 2:9...

1. “A royal Priesthood”
 - a) He’s king and makes us royalty!
 - b) He’s the High priest and we become priests (also seen in v.5)
2. “holy” – He’s holy – we become Holy
3. He’s God’s possession – We’re God’s possession!
4. Jesus proclaimed the excellencies of His Father – Now we do it!

F. The WHOLE point of this passage TO US: EVERYTHING THAT WE ARE IS BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

IV. THIRD - A right relationship with the Son of God is based on Continuously drawing near to the Christ of the Word! (vs. forever rejected)

1 Peter 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

A. “And Coming” = “Continuously coming” = “Continuously drawing near”

1. NO “And” there.
2. Continuously Coming (Present Middle Participle)
 - a) Present = Continuously
 - b) Middle = You participate in the action
 - c) Participle = picks up the context of the imperative “LONG FOR” in v.2
 - (1) Participles following imperatives detail out HOW the imperative is to operative
 - (2) “Long for” / Insatiably thirst / Crave is SEEN in the CONTINUOUSLY COMING TO THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE SON OF GOD!
 - (a) Continuously come for more!
 - d) WORD means to COME and STAY = DRAW NEAR
 - (1) Usage in HEBREWS!
 - (a) Verb used 7X
 - (b) At least 5X translated “draw near”

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - e) So come with EMPHASIZE on continuousness and drawing near / staying / abiding
 - f) CONTINUOUSLY DRAW NEAR TO JESUS CHRIST!

- g) John 6:35,37,44,45,65; 7:37 = BELIEVERS are those WHO “COME” to Christ
 - (1) What do we say? “I came to Christ!” = saved!
- h) You’re being told to CONTINUOUSLY come to CHRIST - THROUGH HIS WORD!

B. “To Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God”

1. “To Him” refers back to the “Lord” of V.3
2. Who is the “Lord” of V.3?
 - a) “a living stone which has been rejected by men”
 - (1) Root Verb means “tested for the sake of approval”
 - (2) Here: form means EXAMINED / TESTED and then REJECTED / DISCARDED.
 - (3) Interesting that EVERY OTHER TIME this verb is used it just points out the act of rejection
 - (a) Here it is a perfect tense
 - (b) ALL THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE REJECTION AND ITS CONTINUING RESULTS OF ONGOING REJECTION
 - b) “but is choice and precious in the sight of God”
 - (1) Greek is MUCH more BLUNT than this!
 - (a) Literally: “by men, indeed rejected, BUT BESIDE GOD – CHOICE, PRECIOUS!
 - (i) SHARP, BLUNT CONTRAST
 - (2) God chose Him!
 - (a) “choice” = ELECT as we spoke of
 - (3) “precious” =Costly, highly-prized, rare!
 - c) All through the book of Acts – the Apostles kept reminding them
 - (1) You nailed Him to the cross – GOD RAISED HIM!
 - (2) God exalted Him – Made Him both LORD AND CHRIST!
 - (3) Story of ACTS: You guys PICKED THE WRONG CORNERSTONE!

C. We are to just DO what it SAYS TO DO!

1. We CONTINUOUSLY DRAW NEAR to
 - a) The CHRIST OF THE WORD
 - b) Through the WORD OF CHRIST!

D. Transition: A right relationship with the Son of God

1. Through the Word of Christ
2. Because of Who He is
3. Based on Continuously drawing near to the Christ of the Word
4. ...

V. A right relationship with the Son of God is building you up as living stones.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

A. Flow

1. 2:1-3 SINCE the LORD HAS BEEN GRACIOUS
 - a) YOU LONG FOR / CRAVE THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD – THE WORD OF CHRIST
 - b) SO THAT you may be GROWN IN RESPECT TO SALVATION!
2. TO WHOM you CONTINUOUSLY DRAW NEAR
 - a) [SO THAT] you can be BUILT UP
 - (1) as living stones
 - (2) as a spiritual house
 - (3) for a holy priesthood
 - (4) to offer up spiritual sacrifices...
 - b) How do you grow in respect to salvation? Through the building up...!
3. 1:22-2:3 is BIBLO-CENTRIC – ALL ABOUT WORD
4. 2:4 TRANSITIONS from the WORD to CHRIST and Peter SAYS
 - a) I've been telling you all this from the WORD OF CHRIST POV
 - b) NOW – let me SAY the SAME THING from the CHRIST OF THE WORD POV
 - c) Tell you this in terms of JESUS CHRIST
 - d) The PERSON you are COMING TO THROUGH THE WORD!
5. We TRANSITION FROM WORD TO CHRIST here
6. AND – It's the ONLY verse in this section FOCUSED on US!
 - a) Except it is all because of Jesus Christ (acceptable to God thru Jesus Christ)
 - b) ABOUT us BECAUSE of HIM

B. Let's look at this! V.5

1. [you also, as living stones.](#)
 - a) Covered in our understanding the We are ONLY what we are BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS!
 - b) We become living stones
 - c) Come to Christ and become like Christ!
 - d) Being living stones tells us of our UNITY with Him!
 - (1) See this through out the metaphor
 - (2) United as stones
 - (3) United in the same building
 - (4) United in holiness
 - (5) United as priests...
 - (6) Christians = Little Christ's! (literally)

2. are being built up

- a) The verb switches here from the previous command context now to INSTRUCTIONAL / DOCTRINAL teaching on our POSTION!
- b) Passive – GOD IS BUILDING
- c) Verb means “to build a house!”
- d) God IS BUILDING US UP INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE!
 - (1) Jesus Christ is the cornerstone
 - (2) Adding us as stones
 - (3) God is the BUILDER
 - (4) ONE house!...

3. as a spiritual house

- a) “Spiritual House” = figurative description of the CHURCH as a TEMPLE.
- b) This term portrays the NATURE of the Church – it is a spiritual house
- c) Today we say – no big deal!
- d) BUT to PETER and these disciples THIS was the INFLECTION POINT / TRANSITION
 - (1) From physical temple to Spiritual church
- e) For his READERS – SCATTERED SOJOURNERS!
 - (1) YOU are ALL UNITED WITH CHRIST in the SAME SPIRITUAL HOUSE!
- f) 1 Timothy 3:15...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.
- g) Hebrews 3:6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, ...
- h) Eph 2:19-22 same thing:
 - 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,
 - 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
 - 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
 - 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
- i) Or 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

4. for a holy priesthood.

- a) Whereas the “spiritual house” portrayed the NATURE of the church

- b) "Holy priesthood" PORTRAYS the FUNCTION of the church.
- c) SETS OUT one VITAL aspect of this PRIESTHOOD – IT IS HOLY!
- (1) = set apart for God
- (2) Sometime read Lev 8 about the preparation of Aaron and Sons for the office of Priest!
- (a) Sin offerings
- (b) Washed by water
- (c) Anointed with oil
- (d) Atoned by blood
- (e) In fact – from EAR to HANDS to TOE!
- (i) Ear – sanctification for the hearing of the WORD of God
- (ii) Hands – sanctification for the WORK of God
- (iii) Toes – sanctification for the WALK of God
- d) What IS a "priest"?
- (1) Priest is an OFFICE (not a gift) FOR ALL BELIEVERS
- (a) Won't find in 1 Cor 12 or Eph 4:1-16
- (b) But here – 1 Peter – see that ALL believers are living stones being built up as a spiritual house INTO A HOLY PRIESTHOOD.
- (c) It is an office just like the Aaronic priesthood – BORN INTO at SALVATION
- (2) Priest is someone who has access to God!
- (a) OT: ONLY the priests went in Holy Place –
- (i) ONLY the HIGH PRIEST into the HOLY of HOLIES! – ONCE a YEAR.
- (b) But Jesus tore the VEIL – SO ALL PRIESTS HAVE ACCESS – ALL THE TIME
- (c) SO – we...HAVE ACCESS!
- [Ephesians 2:18](#)
18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
- [Ephesians 3:18](#)
18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
- [Hebrews 4:14,16; 10:19-22](#)
14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession... 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- [Heb 10:19](#) Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

e) WHAT do HOLY PRIESTS DO?...

5. to offer up spiritual sacrifices

a) Sacrifices:

(1) **Present your Bodies (Rom 12:1-2)**

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(a) God wants ALL OF YOU to His glory!

(b) Previously – Yielded MEMBERS to sin

(c) NOW – Present self as INSTRUMENTS of Righteousness (Rom6)

(d) Classic example: Abraham

(i) Isaac would've been a DEAD SACRIFICE

(ii) Abraham – a LIVING SACRIFICE

(a) *Sacrificed his son*

(b) *Hopes, dreams, etc.*

(2) **Sacrifice of Praise (Heb 13:15)**

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

(a) Praise is a FORM OF FRUIT that we bear to God!

(b) AND Praise is a SACRIFICE

(3) **Doing good and sharing (Heb 13:16; Phil 4:18)**

(a) Heb 13:16

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

(i) = ANY Righteous act

(b) Phil 4:10-19

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; **(=You shared with me!)** indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

...14 Nevertheless, you have **done well to share with me** in my affliction.

15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, **no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alonen (=only you shared!);**

16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

(i) Do you share like this?

(4) Sacrificial Love (Eph 5:2; Phil 2:17)

(a) Ephesians 5:2

2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

(i) Christ's love and death = sacrifice to God!

(b) Philippians 2:17

17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

(i) being poured out.

(a) *verb is in the present tense,*

(b) = *he is referring to his sacrificial ministry among the Philippians.*

(ii) drink offering. =

(a) *Paul's entire life as a drink offering,*

(b) *Here it was poured on the Philippians' sacrificial service= **service of your faith.***

(iii) "Service" comes from a word that refers to sacred, priestly service and was so used in the Gr. OT. (cf. Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 9:12)

(iv) Paul sees the Philippians as priests who were offering their lives sacrificially and faithfully in service to God = 1 Pet. 2!.

(5) Sacrifice of Prayer (Rev 8:3-4)

3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

(a) Angel standing at the altar where the prayers were! = sacrificed up to God

6. acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

a) Sacrifices are acceptable

b) All "through" Him = because of Him

c) Your sacrifices are acceptable ACTS OF WORSHIP to God!

VI. CONCLUSION**A. CONTINUE meditate on these points by WORKING through the SCRIPTURE**

1. The passage will really come alive to you!
2. You're love for JC will grow immensely

B. TAKE THESE VERSES TO PRAYER

1. MANY things to THANK GOD for HERE
2. GREAT SPIRITUAL POSITION / PRIVILEGES
3. Pray these verses back to God in THANKS!
4. "DRAW CLOSE" to God PERSONALLY with these verses.