

Sermon 10: “Now the People of God” Part 2

Text: 1 Peter 2:5-10 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 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. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: 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. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

Purpose: The purpose of this section was to remind these Christian’s that though their new position in Christ was full of rich blessings, this relationship to Christ would put them in a volatile conflict with the world around them and leave them with significant responsibilities.

Proposition: God wants us to be prepared to live faithfully because of the position we have in Christ.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Review from Last Time

Truth 1: The church forms two distinct and glorious functions: we are God’s priesthood and temple.

Truth 2: God accepts our worship entirely because of our union with Christ:

Truth 3: Our relationship to Christ puts it in constant conflict with the world: 2:6-8

“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. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: 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...”

His threefold description of Christ: 2:6 “Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious...”

- **Focal point: “Chief corner stone...”** Building construction. The first stone is the most important. Everything else in the building is related to that initial stone, and the
- **Well-favored: “Elect...”** Something that is choice, well favored,
 - The most common way we tend to find this word used in the NT is a description of God’s People/His Elect
 - Another example: **Genesis 41** 6 times in Joseph’s dream the term is used to describe the cattle and produce in his dream.
- **Priceless: “Precious...”** Something that is immensely valuable that cannot be purchased
 - **Example:** You can put a price tag on a piece of property a house or a new car, but you cannot put a price tag on the gift of a child.

The Contrast Between the way you view Christ and the way the world views Christ: 2:7
“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient...”

The believer:

- **Precious:** Something that is immensely valuable that cannot be purchased
- **Shall not be confounded:** You will not be ashamed
- **A stone of stumbling:** Something that causes some to fall

The Unbeliever:

- **Rock of offense:** **σκάνδαλον** Something that causes anger because it is offensive
- **Disobedient:** They reject Him because he is offensive to them

Application:

- **Christ is the center of all that we hold dear as Christians**
- **All Christian doctrine flows directly from our understanding of Him.**
 - **How God reveals Himself:** He is the in flesh revelation of God the Father
 - **How God saves people:** He is the one who purchased our redemption and in whose righteousness we stand
 - **God’s nature:** He is the second person of the Trinity who created all things, and who holds all things together by the word of His power
 - **How God orders His People:** He is the head of the church and the Savior of the body who is purifying unto himself a people/a bride
 - **How God will ultimately deal with His creation:** He is the rightful owner of the Creation who is coming at His second coming to judge the world in righteousness, establish His rightful rule over the nations, and to restore the creation to its original beauty and glory.
- **His is precious to us:**
 - We feel a sense of indebtedness to Him, because of what He has accomplished on our behalf.
 - We have an overwhelming sense of the need to submit ourselves entirely to His authority because He has the right to demand our absolute obedience.
 - We have an overwhelming sense of His value, and we want to worship Him exclusively.
- **He is offensive to the world around us:**
 - They don’t like the concept of the cross
 - They don’t like the need for the cross
 - They don’t like His commandments
 - They vehemently reject His person, work, and the people associated with Him.

Truth 4: The church’s relationship to Christ should humble and mobilize it: 2:9-10 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy...”

Peter emphasizes the mercies of God towards us:

- “But...” There is an incredible contrast between the Christian and the unbeliever
- We are well favored: “Chosen generation...” Something that is choice, well favored

- We are set aside to rule and represent Him: “Royal priesthood...” Ruling priests
- We are set apart to Him: “Holy nation...” Set apart people to God
- We are His own special/personal possession: “Peculiar people...” A people that is personally possessed by God
- We are rescued from darkness and spiritual blindness into a knowledge of God and clarity about the world we live in: “Called out of darkness into his marvelous light...”
- We are His people: “In times past were not a people but are now the people of God...”
- We have been the objects of His compassion: “Had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy...”

The driving thrust of this passage: “That we should show forth the praises of him...”

- God is good, and has dealt mercifully and lavishly with us.
- Because He has dealt lavishly with us, and we have responded in repentance and faith toward the gospel, we treasure Him.
- Those who are disobedient to the gospel’s call to repentance and faith, are troubled by it and therefore antagonistic to God’s people.
- Because He has dealt lavishly with us, we ought to proclaim His excellencies in the gospel to the nations.

Conclusion: Through this passage of scripture, we have been reminded that though our position in Christ is full of rich blessings, this relationship to Christ will put us in an inescapably volatile conflict with the world around us. Let us purpose today by God’s daily grace to proclaim His excellencies in the gospel to the world around us.