

***“The Crisis Of The Cross!”***  
***1 Peter 2:7-10***

**Introduction:**

1. We Are Going To 1 Peter Again This Morning!
    - Remember One Of The Primary Reasons For Peter Writing: To Encourage Christians Who Are Going Through Or Will Be Going Through Suffering!
      - Relevant To All Of Us! We All Suffer!
    - Another Term We Could Use For Suffering Is: Crisis!
  2. **IE:** We’ve Heard A Lot About Different “Crises,” Haven’t We!
    - There Is The Economic Crisis!
      - The Banks Are About To Collapse!
      - The Auto Makers Are About To Collapse!
      - The Dollar Is About To Collapse!
      - How Are We Going To Survive This Crisis?
    - There Is The Health Care Crisis!
      - The Swine Flu Is Sweeping Across The Country / World!
      - There’s Not Enough Vaccines Available!
      - There’s Not Enough People With Insurance!
      - How Are We Going To Survive This Crisis?
    - Could Go On & On!
      - Crisis After Crisis! **IE:** “You Don’t Ever Want A Crisis To Go To Waste; It’s An Opportunity To Do Important Things That You Would Otherwise Avoid!” (Rahm Emanuel - President Obama’s Chief Of Staff)
  3. Whenever There Is A Crisis – There Is A Choice!
    - “Crisis” - “A crucial or decisive point or situation; a turning point!” (American Heritage Dictionary)
    - Peter Knows That We All Will Experience Different Crises!
      - And We Will All Make Different Decisions To Get Through Them!
      - To Get Through The Economic Crisis:
        - Get Out Of Stocks! Banks! Into Gold / Silver!
      - To Get Through The Health Care Crisis:
        - Get The Vaccine! Wash Hands! Sneeze Properly!
    - But, There Is An Even Greater Crisis That You Must Deal With!
      - The Crisis Of The Cross! Or The Crisis Of Jesus Christ!
      - When God Sent His Son Jesus Christ Into This World, He Created A Spiritual Crisis!
        - A “Crucial / Decisive Point – A Turning Point!”
    - Whenever There Is A Crisis – There Is A Choice!
      - Question: ***What Will You Do With Jesus?***
  4. Read 2:1-10! Focus On 2:7-10 As Text!
    - In Verses 7-10, We Have A Series Of Different Contrasts!
      - That Show That There Is No “Middle Ground” When It Comes To Jesus Christ! No Sitting On The Fence! You Are Either For Him Or Against Him! Loving / Serving / Living!
    - Most Of You Have Heard The Message Of Jesus Many Times!
      - So The Question Becomes: ***What Have You Done With Jesus?***
      - Whenever You Are Faced With Jesus Christ:
1. ***There Is A Choice!***
    - There Are Only 2 Choices To Be Made, When You Come To The Crisis Of The Cross!
    - 2:7 - “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!”
      - There Are Only 2 Choices! There Are:
    - Those Who Believe!
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice! Wise! A Receiving Of Jesus Christ!
      - But Not A Jesus Of Your Own Design & Making!
        - The Jesus Of God’s Design!

- The One Who Has Been Set As The “Chief Cornerstone, Elect, Precious!” (2:6)
- Many “Believe” In Jesus – But Not The Right One!
  - Matthew 16:13-16 - “Jesus . . . asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”
- Those Who Believe Not! (Already Made This Choice! John 3:18 - “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God!”)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice! Unwise! A Rejection Of Jesus Christ!
  - His Coming / His Claims / His Call!
- This Is The Crisis That Jesus Christ Brings!
  - Only 2 Choices! You Must Make The Right Choice!
  - You Can Either Believe!
  - Or You Can Remain In Your Disobedience & Unbelief!
  - ***What Have You Done With Jesus?***
    - Your Eternal Future Hangs In The Balance!

\*Because, Whenever You Are Faced With Jesus Christ:

**2. *There Is A Consequence!***

- To Your Choice & Your Decision! To Receive Or Reject Him!
- 2:7-8a - “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, / 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence!”
  - A “Consequence” Is Not Always Something Bad! It Is Simply The Natural Result Of Something
    - Like A Choice! There Is:
- The Consequence Of Honor!
  - To Those Who Believe!
  - “Unto You Therefore Which Believe He Is Precious!”
    - “Precious” - Something Of Honor & Great Value!
  - If You Are A True Christian:
    - You Know What Peter Is Talking About Here!
  - Jesus Christ Is Precious To You!
    - But This Further Teaches That You Are Precious To Jesus Christ!
- The Consequence Of Humiliation!
  - To Those Who Believe Not!
    - Peter Now Quotes Psalm 118:22 & Isaiah 8:14 & Applies Them To Jesus Christ!
  - Rejection Of Jesus Christ As The “Stone” / “Living Stone”:
    - And Building Your Life Upon Him!
    - Will Only Lead To:
  - Disappointment!
    - “The stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner!”
    - Everything They Have Built Up In Their Lives, Without Christ, Has Been For Nothing! Is Nothing!
    - Futility In The End! **IE:** Throwing Away The Part That You Needed All Along!
  - Distress!
    - “And A Stone Of Stumbling!”
      - “Stone” - Building Stone / Block
    - “An Obstacle In The Way Which Of One Strikes His Foot Against He Stumbles Or Falls!” (TDNT)
    - Frustration In The End! **IE:** Keep Tripping Over What You Have Already Rejected!
  - Destruction!
    - “And A Rock Of Offense!”
      - “Rock” - Petros - Large Boulder!

- Can Bruise! **IE:** Kicking It – Doesn't Move!
- Can Break! Fall & Crush! **IE:** "Beware Of Falling Rock!"
- Failure In The End!
- There Are Only 2 Consequences!
  - Believe – You Will Be Honored By The Lord!
  - Believe Not – You Will Be Humiliated By The Lord!
  - ***What Have You Done With Jesus?***

\* If & Only If You Believe:

**3. *There Is A Change!***

- 2:8b-9 - "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 shew forth the praises of him who hath called you!"
  - This Change Is:
  - Not For Those Who Have Stumbled!
    - At The Word Of God! Want Nothing To Do With It!
    - There Is Only One Outcome For Them! (Already Seen)
      - Because:
        - They Have Denied God's Word!
        - They Have Disobeyed God's Word! Therefore:
        - They Are Doomed By God's Word! No Other Outcome For The One Who Does Not Believe!
        - Why Would You Remain In Unbelief Any Longer?
  - But For Those Who Are Saved!
    - Acts 16:31 - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!"
    - What A Change! **IE:** "Badges Of A New & Heavenly Nobility, Brighter than Ever Shone On King Or Emperor!" (Lillie)
    - In Your Family! "Chosen Generation!"
      - As God Chose The Jewish Race Through Abraham As Their Common Ancestor / God Has Chosen – "Elected" A New Race – Of Christians – Through Jesus Christ!
      - Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus!"
    - In Your Function! "Royal Priesthood!"
      - Kings & Priests Were Very Exclusive Positions! Now, These Positions Are Open To You Through Jesus Christ!
      - Revelation 1:6 - "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father!"
    - In Your Form! "Holy Nation!"
      - That Which Was Applied To The Jewish Nation Is Now Fulfilled Through You! Holy & Separate!
      - Exodus 19:6 - "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation!"
    - In Your Future! "Peculiar People!"
      - Or A People Preserved & Reserved As God's Own Possession & For God's Own Use!
      - Isaiah 43:21 - "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise!"
    - In Your Focus! "That Ye Should Show Forth!"
      - "Praises" - The Virtues! The Excellencies!
  - Have You Been Changed In These Ways?
    - Then, ***What Are You Doing With Jesus?***
      - Are You "Showing Forth" His Praises / Virtues?

\* What Else Had Jesus Done For Those Who Believe In Him?

**4. *There Is A Compassion!***

- 2:9b-10 - "That ye should shew 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!"
  - How Can We Not Respond This "Crisis" – This "Turning Point" – By Turning To Jesus & Living For Him?

- See His Compassion:
- In Your Call!
  - “Out Of Darkness Into His Marvellous Light!”
  - From Gloom!
    - Darkness On The Outside – Darkness Of Sin!
    - Darkness On The Inside – Darkness Of The Soul!
  - To Glory!
    - Light! His Light! His Marvelous Light! Amazing!
    - John 1:5, 7 - “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. / But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin!”
  - He Didn’t Have To Call You! He Could Have Left You In Your Darkness!
- In Your Condition!
  - “In Time Past Were Not A People – But Are Now The People Of God!”
  - Now You Can Be Identified By God / Loved By God / Used By God!
  - He Could Have Left You As A “Nobody” – “Not A People!”
- In Your Cure!
  - “Which Had Not Obtained Mercy, But Now Have Obtained Mercy!”
  - This Is The Only Way That You Could Have Handled This Crisis!
    - If God Had Mercy Upon You! And If You Believe In Jesus Christ & Have Receive Him – You Have Received His Mercy As Well!

**Conclusion:**

1. Now – *What Will You Do With Jesus?*
  - What Will Be Your Choice?
    - Choose Wisely! There Can Be No Middle Ground! Can’t Have It Both Ways!
2. *What Will You Do With Jesus?*

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Stephen Elmer, Pastor**  
 4245 North 200 West  
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
 317-326-2362  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)