



HOPE

A SERIES IN 1 PETER

Session Three – LIVING STONES IN GOD'S HANDS

God's Word

Our new birth was a beginning. As a child of God, the Bible implores us to grow to maturity. Central to that growth process is the Word of God. We are to "be renewed in the spirit of [our] mind" (Eph. 4:23). We do not face life as when we before knowing the savior. Instead we are to be "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine." (1 Tim. 4:6) As we face the day by day and moment by moment decisions of life on the basis of God's Word, we grow and in the process take hold of our inheritance in Christ.

A New Identity

Peter calls believers living stones, a holy (and royal) priesthood, a chosen generation, a holy nation, and a peculiar people. It is obvious that we are to be remarkably different than who we were without Jesus. Not only is our identity different, but our purpose. We are no longer bound to the world, but are strangers and pilgrims speaking God to the lost.

Studying 1 Peter 2:1-12

a. LIVING STONES IN GOD'S HANDS (2:1-10)

- **Desiring** and growing by the Word of God (2:1-3)

MORE KEY VERSES: Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 1:9-11, 4:8-9, Col. 2:6-8, 3:16, 1 Tim. 4:6, 13, 16, 2 Tim. 2:15-16, 3:16-4:4, Titus 2:1, Hebrews 5:13-14

- Coming to Jesus, the Living Stone (2:4-5)
 - Jesus the Living Stone, rejected of men
 - Believers as living stones in a spiritual house (see also Eph. 2:19-22)
 - A holy **priesthood** to offer spiritual sacrifices
- Two groups of people (2:6-8)
 - Those that reject the **cornerstone** are dishonored
 - Those that count him precious are not dishonored
- The new humanity in Christ (2:9-10)
 - Chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy **nation**
 - They are now the people of God

b. GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE WORLD (2:11-12)

- A people on **mission**
 - As temporary residents not entangled by worldly **lusts**
 - Providing a living testimony before an unbelieving world