

First Peter – Then and Now

(Lesson 2 – Living in Harmony)

God's Grace and Salvation – 1:1-2:10 (WW)

- A. Living in hope – 1:1-12 (WW)
- B. Living in holiness – 1:13-21 (WW)
- C. Living in harmony – 1:22-2:10 (WW)

Introduction

The Bible reminds us that God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble (Ps 46:1). In this day one way we receive that help is through other believers – the Church – of which Jesus Christ is the head (Eph 5:23). The Church may be described as a great generator of power when believers are united together in unity and obedience (1 Cor 12:26). Without unity and obedience there is the sharing of spiritual weakness – instead of spiritual power. We must keep in mind that the Church is an organism and not primarily an organization. In this section of his Epistle Peter tells us how we can contribute to strengthening His ministry as well as receive ourselves.

1. Living in harmony with fellow believers. 1:22-25
 - a. V 22 - Fellowship through cleansing, by obeying the truth and mutual love. ..
1 John 1:7 _____
 - b. VS 22 - 24 – Fellowship through the new birth and the living/enduring Scripture.
John 17:17; Titus 3:5 _____
2. The Christian life in relationship to personal growth. 2:1-3
 - a. V 1 - Growing through rejecting. Eph 4:22-28 _____

 - b. V 2 - Growing through seeking. Is 55:6; Heb 5:12,13 _____

 - c. V3 – Growing through assurance. Psalm 119:68 _____

3. The Christian Life in relationship to the Church. 2:4-2:10
 - a. The basis of our Life: Jesus Christ. V 4
 1. V4 Jesus Christ is the life-giving stone – although rejected by men. Matthew 21:42-45, John 1:11; 1 John 5:11,12. All true believers share the redeeming life of Jesus Christ. _____

2. V4 In contrast to His rejection by men, Jesus Christ is the chosen one for the purpose of redeeming mankind, and therefore highly valued by God. These words, in the light of the trials of the believers, indicate how clearly God and His Church are separated from all non-believing humanity. These passages remind us we live in the presence of two great kingdoms. Exodus 19:6; Matthew 16:19; Colossians 1:13;
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b. The description of believers. 2:5-2:10

Now that Peter has described how we are to live and grow, he describes what resources believers can bring to the “spiritual house” the Church.

1. V 5 - We are Living Stones. Most of the houses in Palestine were made out of stones, and by using that analogy Peter indicates our unity and importance.

2. V 5 - We are a Spiritual House. God is the workman and each believer is a stone prepared to fit into the place designed by God. One spiritual life is shared by all and all have gifts to contribute. Note Paul’s evaluation in Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1,14-21.

3. V 5 – We are a Holy Priesthood. As priests we have the authority and ability to bring people to God through intercession and God into the lives of people. Rom15:16; Phil 4:18,19; Heb 13:15

4. Vs 6-8 – An explanation of this Spiritual House (the Church) in the light of trials. Is. 28:16 All true believers are a part of this Spiritual House. Our trials may not be of our making. They may be due to being in God’s plan. 2 Cor 4:16-18; Job

5. V 9 – We are Chosen People. Consider the honor of being chosen of God to receive eternal grace, with all the benefits, gifts, and power of members of this Spiritual House.

6. V9 – We are a Royal Priesthood. “Royal” speaks of “Kingly in nature.” Revelation 1:5,6.

7. V9 – We are a Holy Nation. The word “Holy” means sacred as “Set apart for God.” Believers belong to God. Deut 10:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19

8. V 9 – We are a people belonging to God. We are not our own. Deut 10:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19

9. V 10 – Summary: Peter now points out the amazing result that God’s love and grace makes in a believers life. It is often called the Great Exchange.
