

1 Peter Week 8

Christian Togetherness

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, the living Stone-rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him- 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-which is also what they were destined for.

- Walking in hope and holiness should make living in HARMONY easy, but it's not!

Spiritual Growth (v 2)

- Christian growth is in the Christian's CONTROL.
- The old sinful life, or the patterns of sin, must be DISCARDED for us to understand the new life in Christ.
- Most of our old life is UNSUITABLE for the Christian life.
- Our willingness to throw off these things is a picture of life that chooses to WALK WORTHY of the calling.
- This is a natural PROCESS and growth of the Spirit-filled, divine life of Christ in us.
- Strong desires and AFFECTIONS to the Word of God are a sure evidence of a person's being born again.
- Growth and IMPROVEMENTS in wisdom and grace should be the design and desire of every Christian.

God's Goodness (v3)

- Good really means "GRACIOUS".
- Don't put yourself into places where former TEMPTATIONS hang out.
- By "laying aside", in time, you can and will gain full VICTORY by wearing out the temptations.
- When Satan does tempt us, he is looking to open a GATE to a past sin or evil.
- Peter tells us we now have a new NATURE, a new hope, a new birth.

- We still have an old sinful FLESH that needs to be put off to die.
- What holds it together for every believer is God's FERVENT (enthusiastic, passionate) love.

Becoming Spiritual Houses (vv 4-6)

- Today we are LIVING stones in the same building.
- We are living stones because Christ is not dead and was raised in VICTORY over death.
- We are being built into SPIRITUAL houses.
- We are CHOSEN stones.
- We are called to be a holy PRIESTHOOD.
- As "chosen" people, His "priesthood", God claims OWNERSHIP to our lives.
- We acquired great VALUE when we were purchased by God.

Final Thoughts

- Jesus Christ is called a stone, to denote His invincible STRENGTH and everlasting DURATION, and to teach His servants that He is their protection and security, the foundation on which they are built, and a rock of offence to all their enemies.
- Jesus Christ is the very foundation, the stone of all our HOPES and HAPPINESS.
- Jesus communicates the true KNOWLEDGE of God.
- Through Christ we have ACCESS to the Father.
- Through Jesus we are made PARTAKERS of all spiritual blessings.
- There is a calling to be holy and BLAMELESS.