

A Living Hope: Defending the Faith Without Being Defensive

The Greatest Nation on Earth

1 Peter 2:4–12

The Lord's Day Morning

July 12, 2020

The believers to whom Peter is writing were born and raised in the Roman Empire, arguably the greatest nation on earth in the first century. Yet when they came to Christ and bowed to him as their sovereign King, they experienced the sting of rejection from their countrymen. While they were precious in the sight of God, they were despised in the eyes of man. To keep them from discouragement, Peter directs their attention to Christ himself, rejected by men but chosen by God. While unbelievers may despise and marginalize these believers, they are in fact honored citizens of the greatest nation on earth: the church of the living God. In this, Peter agrees with Paul who recognized the church as “the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16; cf. Ex. 19:5,6; 1 Timothy 3:15). As citizens of the greatest nation on earth, we are called to be:

1. M_____ who _____ peace between the nations and the King.
2. M_____ who _____ the Scripture (the Word written) and the Savior (the Word incarnate).
3. M_____ who _____ integrity that fosters the peace and prosperity of the nations.