

## A Living Hope - Week 3

### 1 Peter 2:1-12

#### And this word is the good news preached to you...

- Born again to a living hope
- Imperishable, undefiled, unfading inheritance kept in heaven by God for you
- Shielded by / guarded by God's power through faith
- Suffering strengthens / authenticates / refines our faith
- Set our hope fully on the grace of God; our faith and our hope are in God;
- Love one another earnestly / sincere brotherly love

#### In light of this salvation and living hope - Peter begins to speak into their identity as the people of God.

#### **A Living Stone and a Holy People**

**2** So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

<sup>8</sup> and

*“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”*

*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

(1 Pe 2:1–12)

**2 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.**

- Feeling of hostility and strong dislike - implication of wanting to do harm
- Do away with all trickery and falsehood
- False impressions and motivations; pretending to be someone you are not
- Put all jealousy away
- Speaking evil; speaking evil of others

**<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

- Breastfeeding is an image of trust, intimacy, dependence and purpose
- Like a child longing for milk, we too are to trust and draw near to the Lord; growing up into our salvation as we taste and see the Lord is good
- **How do we draw near?** In our hearts, in His Word, in His presence, in prayer, in worship

**<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

- As you come to him
- Active response of faith = drawing near to the Lord
  - The Lord is good to those who seek him (Lam. 3:25);
  - Those who seek the Lord will not lack (Ps. 34:10);
  - The hand of our God is on all who seek him (Ezra 8:22);
  - I sought the Lord and he answered me (Ps. 34:4);
  - Let those who seek the Lord rejoice (1 Chr. 16:10; Ps. 105:3);
  - Let those who seek you rejoice (Ps. 40:16; Ps. 70:4);
  - Happy are those who seek him (Ps. 119:2);
  - Those who seek him will praise him (Ps. 22:26);
  - Those who seek the Lord understand all things (Prov. 28:5);
  - You have not forsaken those who seek you (Ps. 9:10);
  - You who seek God, let your heart revive (Ps. 69:32);
- Jesus - the living stone rejected by men - but **IN THE SIGHT OF GOD chosen and precious**
- As you come to Jesus this chosen, precious living stone YOU are being:
  - Built up as a spiritual house
    - <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope. (Heb 3:4-6)
  - To be a holy priesthood
  - To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
    - This is the whole life response to Jesus we talk about
    - No one else can offer a word of praise from YOUR mouth
    - No one else can give generously from YOUR resources
    - No one else can serve sacrificially from YOUR body
    - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Ro 12:1)

**Peter then again reminds them of this salvation that prophets of old talked about, reminding them again of God's sovereignty over salvation, pointed back to verses from Isa 28, Psalm 118, Isa 8.**

**<sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:**

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

*<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,*

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”*

*<sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

**Peter uses four OT images, again to remind these new believers facing hostility, of God's sovereignty and power of salvation, of God's faithful reach throughout history.**

- **Chosen race**

- <sup>14</sup> To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. <sup>15</sup> Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. <sup>16</sup> Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. <sup>17</sup> For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. <sup>18</sup> He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. <sup>21</sup> He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. <sup>22</sup> Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

[The New International Version](#). (2011). (Dt 10:14–22) NIV

- **Royal priesthood**

- <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’

[The New International Version](#). (2011). (Ex 19:3–6)

- **A holy nation**

- <sup>6</sup> For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.  
*[The New International Version](#)*. (2011). (Dt 7:6)

- **A people for his own possession**

- <sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. <sup>17</sup> “On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup> And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.  
*[The New International Version](#)*. (2011). (Mal 3:16–18)

- **Why: That you may proclaim the excellencies of HIM who called YOU out of darkness and into his marvelous light.**

<sup>10</sup> **Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

- Not a people, now a people – now you are God’s people
- Once no mercy - now you have received mercy
- Peter is again calling back to the OT and the prophet Hosea, who was called to marry a harlot – the Lord used Hosea and this woman of ill repute to point out judgment against Israel. The children she had were given names like
  - Son - “Jezreel” indicating avenging punishment
  - Daughter - “Lo-Ruhamah” which means “not loved”
  - Son - “Lo Ammi” which means “not my people”
  - <sup>10</sup> “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ <sup>11</sup>  
*[The New International Version](#)*. (2011). (Ho 1:10–11)

<sup>11</sup> **Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

- Sojourners and exiles -> abstain from the passions of the flesh waging war against your soul
- Remember where you are and who is around you - that how you live and the good you do will lead to the glory of God

### What will you walk away with today?

1. **There is a very clear line in life – between people of God and people of the world.** All are sinners but some are redeemed. The redeemed know what it means to pursue true love, to walk in humility before God, to put away the old ways (and keep putting them away). So repentance is our way of life; we fight against sin and sinful behaviors, but when we sin, we confess, repent, and once again endeavor to walk in newness of life. The way we live matters, and in this life – our present and eternal aim is to enjoy God and glorify Him forever.
2. **Only you can make the choice to seek God and to bring an offering.** Peter's word, "as you come to Him" remember that actively seeking God is always for your good; no one can speak a word in your place, no one else can give from your heart. Just like David says in Psalm 63, "<sup>1</sup>You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup>I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. <sup>3</sup>Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. <sup>4</sup>I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. <sup>5</sup>I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
3. **Our identity in Christ is not individual - we belong to Christ and to one another ;** we are living stones being built into one house, we are sons and daughters, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, once we were not a people, not we are a people, once we had not received mercy but now we have received mercy, we are sojourners and exiles together.