



## First Peter Temporary Residents in a Foreign Land

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### THE DRAMA OF REJECTION AND EMBRACE

I Peter 2:4-10

June 2, 2019

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**Theme:** We continue our “Temporary Residents in a Foreign Land” series on the Epistle of 1 Peter by considering 1 Peter 2:4-10. Here the Epistle gets “geological” as it veers rather unexpectedly into the topic of stones to explore a striking paradox (*living stones*) and a grand reversal. Once again, Christ sets the pattern—discarded by people as worthless, but in the end the very cornerstone of what God is building. Spoiler alert: His followers may have parallel experiences—disdained by their fellow - citizens, but treasured in God’s sight.

#### **Outline:**

1. Introduction
  
2. Two Categories of Stones: Christ and Christians (verses 4-5)
  
3. CHRIST AS THE LIVING STONE (the One)
  - a. Rejected by Society (verse 4)

- b. Chosen by God (verse 4)
  - c. Valued by God (verses 4 & 6)
  - d. Made Useful by God (verses 6-7)
4. CHRISTIANS AS LIVING STONES (the Many)
- a. Made Useful by God (verse 5)
  - b. Chosen and Valued by God (verses 9-10)
5. Exclusion or Embrace? Why We Must Decide, and Keep Deciding (verses 4-6)
6. Conclusion

**Takeaway:** Social acceptance and approval are seldom reliable indicators of who God values and approves. This text is an encouraging reminder that those the world disdainfully rejects and belittles may actually be the ones God the Father most deeply appreciates, and to whom He is most committed. Whatever happens, God's embrace of us is strong and sure, for He has made us His people.

**Next Cove:**

June 9, 2019

Living as Foreigners and Exiles in a Pagan Society

1 Peter: 2:11-17