

1 Peter 2:4-10
“*Hope In A Hostile World*”

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (1 Peter 2:4-10) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I titled today's message: “Special Access”

~ INTRO ~

NOW... OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS...

- We've studied thru the topics of:
 1. Why I am to live different – Ransomed / cleansed / born again.
 2. How I am to live different – Actions & attitudes that set us apart.

AND... THESE TOPICS...

- Have been the conduit for a single theme: Hope in a Hostile World!
- We're learning how to live with HOPE in a changing culture.

PRACTICALLY...

- We've learned that separation from the world's ideas...
 - Does NOT mean... WE isolate ourselves... from the world!

RATHER...

- We're to live in contact with the world...
 - Without becoming contaminated by unbelief OR rebellion!

*[Picture a medical professional during COVID-19]

- Treating infection...
 - Without becoming infected themselves.

HERE'S WHAT THE TEXT SAYS:

- (1 Peter 2:4-10) NLT

WE'RE MOVING...

- From exhortation into an area of privilege.

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IDEA #1 – “LIVING STONES” (vv.4-8) NLT

LET ME ENSURE YOU UNDERSTAND AN UNCOMMON WORD...

- *Cornerstone...*

THIS IS THE VISIBLE...

- Support on which a building relies upon for strength and stability.

PAUL PUT IT THIS WAY IN (Eph. 2:19-22) NLT

- √ Heavenly citizens
- √ Members of God’s family
- √ We are His house
- √ Joined together in Jesus
- √ A holy temple for the Lord
- √ And where God lives by His Spirit

DON’T MISS THE CONCEPT...

- Of close proximity here... because it’s at the CORE of...
 - What Peter is talking about.

(v.4) Is better understood thru the NET version:

- “*So as you come to him...*”

THE IDEA IS...

- A deeply personal, intimate, & habitual interaction with God.

FOLLOWING PETER’S THREAD...

- (1:3) *living hope* (NKJV)
- (1:23) *the living Word* (NLT)
- (2:4) *the living stone* (NLT)

SIMPLE POINT:

- Jesus is life...
 - And He gives life to those that come to Him.
- (Isa. 40:29-31) NKJV

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*[STORY] THIS WEEK A CALL CAME INTO THE OFFICE...

- About blessing a cross for a new house.
 - The person wanted a Priest to bless the object.

- Our receptionist explained they could go to Jesus themselves.
 - And it blew their mind!!!

OK... LETS SWITCH GEARS...

HEAR ME ON THIS!

- For those who reject God...
 - Christ is a source of irritation & cause of trouble...
 - A stumbling block!

(John 5:40) NLT

Jesus said “... *you refuse to come to Me to receive this life.*”

THE PERSON WHO REFUSES JESUS...

- Demonstrates that refusal!
 - There’s no relationship with Jesus.
 - There’s no interaction with His body – Church.
 - There’s no commitment to support His work.
 - There’s no Jesus in daily / weekly / monthly / yearly life.

POINT BEING...

- Jesus is either the source of salvation (life)...
 - OR the means of judgment for those that reject Him!

IDEA #2 – “PRIESTHOOD ACCESS” (v.5) & (v.9) NLT

IN THE O.T.

- The people of God had a Priesthood system to get to God.

- There was an animal sacrifice...
 - And a priest would approach God on their behalf.

AND EVEN THEN...

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- Access into the very presence of God...
 - Was limited to the High-Priest & only done once a year.

IN THE N.T.

- The Church has continual 24/7 access to God...
 - Because we’ve been given a priesthood (v.5)...
 - *Through the mediation of Jesus.*

(Heb. 10:19-25) NLT

CONSIDER THREE N.T. SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES:

1. Our lives are to be a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1) NKJV
2. The sacrifice of praise (Heb. 13:15) NLT
3. Good works & sharing with those in need (Heb. 13:16) NLT

IDEA #3 – “CITIZENSHIP” (vv.9-10) NLT

A PATRIOTIC PERSON...

- Celebrates 4th of July
- Flies an American flag
- Holds to family values
- Preserves American principals
 - You can see their Patriotism by their actions.

SO TOO...

- (v.9) “*show others*” (*Ex – Ang – El’ – Lo*)

WHICH MEANS...

- To declare abroad
 - Divulge
 - Publish
 - ALL of these are actions.
- Here’s the TONE...
 - Praising
 - Proclaiming

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➤ Celebrating

CHURCH...

- It's a spiritual work of JOY to do this!
 - It's the direction in God's word...
 - Coupled together with a willingness to obey.

MY FAVORITE EXAMPLE:

- (Luke 24:32) NLT

~ IN CLOSING ~

(John 15:16) NLT

LET'S GET OUT INTO THIS COMMUNITY...

- And be the Church!

HERE'S TWO WAYS YOU CAN BEGIN:

1. Make use of this week and invite people to Easter
2. Start praying for the 200+ Senior Apartments ½ Mile away.
 - Then somebody get over there...
 - And start inviting people...
 - And pick them up on Sunday mornings

IF YOU'RE LACKING POWER...

- Then raise your hands to the Lord and receive the...
 - Baptism OR empowering of the Spirit right now!

~ LET'S PRAY ~