

VISION

Seeing Ourselves

1 Peter 2:4-9

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I. Stone Quality

- a. Building Analogy
 - i. Stones play an essential role in construction.
 - ii. Throughout Scripture, a common analogy used to describe us as believers is the word *stone* – building analogies.
- b. We are the stones:
 - i. Peter draws a comparison between Christ and His followers as “living stones.”
 - ii. Jesus’ spirit in us.
- c. Our “quality and qualification” is based on Jesus!
 - i. Jesus is the “Living Stone,” referring to the resurrection of Jesus.
 1. In Matthew 16, Jesus referred to Peter as a “rock...upon this rock I will build my church.” Matthew 16:18.
 2. The “rock” is Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus Christ—this is the Rock we build upon.
 - ii. This is the Gospel.
- d. Peter is inspecting the stones.
 - i. Previous to this chapter, Peter instructs them/reminds them of what God has done for them:
 1. God chose you and cleansed you (1 Peter 1:2).
 2. God secured your future, giving you an inheritance (1 Peter 1:4).
 3. God has secured your present, protecting you (1 Peter 1:5).
 - ii. Be Ready:
 1. Step up to the calling: “So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.”
 2. Live for God: “...be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy” (1 Peter 1:12-16).
 - iii. Builders ALWAYS inspect the foundation: The foundation affects EVERYTHING!
 1. The main cause of a bridge failing is foundation failure.
 2. Peter is addressing the importance of “holy living.”
 3. There is “fruit,” or evidence, in our lives. We are known by what we do: “Faith without works is dead...you will know them by their fruit...test the spirits...”
 4. Hold each other accountable (Proverbs 27:17, James 5:16).

II. Stone Construction

- a. Stone success is found in its placement—fulfilling God’s purpose in us.
- b. Jesus is the “Cornerstone.”
 - i. The **cornerstone** (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.
 - ii. All construction begins with Jesus (last week’s sermon).
- c. God’s plan: US.
 - i. “And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.” (vs. 5)
 - ii. We are all “partners with Christ” (Hebrews 3:14).
 - iii. We are the Body of Christ, each member doing their part/role (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- d. Following God’s plan is vital to SUCCESS:
 - i. Our success is in hearing and obeying the plan God has for our lives.
 - ii. We are always building—intentionally or unintentionally. You can tell if there was a designed plan in place before building.
- e. Main Question: Ownership – who owns you?
 - i. Jesus will not share our life. He desires to own and fill every part of our life, 24/7.
 - 1. There is no compartmentalization.
 - 2. Bridge Analogy: When there is a lack of commitment to your role in the foundation, the foundation is compromised.
 - ii. God has called all of us to lead. Before we can do this, we have to settle the question of ownership.
 - iii. The big question: Who owns me?
 - iv. We have to settle who has the primary authority and audience in our life.

WAYS TO RESPOND			
			
COMMUNION	PRAY	JOURNAL	PRAYER WALLS
Visit stations to partake of the bread and cup.	Pray with your neighbor or one of our prayer teams.	Write out a prayer or journal a reflection.	Write prayer requests on the prayer walls.