

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

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1st Peter 2:4-8

- We ended last week talking about the fact that we are commanded to desire the Word of God.
- It is not optional – just as we are commanded to love others, and to resist sin, we are commanded to seek God through His Word.
- Today, we will turn our attention to the God of the Word and consider His worthiness of our obedience.





1st Peter 2:4-8

- **4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. 5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. 6 As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." 7 Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." 8 And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Isa 28:16** Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.
- **Ps 118:22** The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. **23** This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see.






1st Peter 2:4-8

- **The keepers of the law became men who built upon and added to the law – a sin in itself.**
 - **They are the very ones that rejected Jesus when He came.**
 - **They rejected Him because they did not see a need for what He was offering – His offer was ‘believe and repent’.**
 - **How blind must one be to be ignorant of one’s own sin and not know intuitively that a change is needed.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.**
 - **They (Israel) would have none of what He offered because they were unwilling to acknowledge their sin.**
 - **They stumbled over Him and to this day, this same malady afflicts many.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **“but he was chosen by God for great honor”.**
 - **The builders may have rejected Jesus, but God had already crowned Him with great honor.**
 - **Things are not always as they seem – 1st Cor 1:26 “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Verse #5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.**
 - **When it comes to speaking of God's building, or His dwelling place some scriptures are for the individual stone and others are for the whole temple.**
 - **Each stone must grow, honor God, and be accountable and the whole temple (the church) must also grow, honor God and be accountable.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **1st Cor 6:19** Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.
 - **1st Peter 4:17** For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Verse #5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.**
 - **The church universal is the temple of God today – Jesus is the Cornerstone and we are then added to the temple as we trust Him.**
 - **As it turns out, the God of the universe wants to live with us. - John 1:14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Matt 21:43 I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. 44 Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on.**
 - **Jesus is the Living Stone and in the end He will be seen universally as the victorious God that He is.**
 - **He is the Cornerstone and if we stumble (or get it wrong) over who He is, we will be crushed.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **He is the rock upon which we want to build our lives – He is very safe to stand upon, but to ignore Him and stumble over Him is eternal loss.**
 - **All through the O.T. God was slowly, but surely revealing Himself and His redemption plan.**
 - **And when Jesus showed up in history there really wasn't much doubt about who he was – but there was disappointment.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **1 Cor 3:5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 7 It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. 9 For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building. 10 Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.**






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- **12** Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. **13** But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. **14** If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. **15** But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. **16** Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? **17** God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Verse #5 “And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple”.**
 - **God is building His church – He started with Jesus as the Cornerstone and ever since He has been adding other living stones to His church.**
 - **So why the emphasis on ‘living’ – because just as we saw in verse #2 we are to be growing in grace and godliness.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Verse #5 “What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God”**
 - **What is a priest, but one with access to God – when Jesus died the veil on the temple that separated the holy of holies was torn from top to bottom.**
 - **The writer of Hebrews calls us to come boldly to the throne of grace – come as though we belong!**
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- **1 Tim 2:5 For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.**
 - **In the O.T. the believer always approached God through the priest – in the N.T. we approach God through His Son, the Great High Priest.**
 - **Heb 4:14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **A spiritual sacrifice is that which we offer to God of ourselves.**
 - **It must be freely given.**
 - **It must be something of value to us.**
 - **It must be left on the alter for God to use as He chooses.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Verse #5b and #6 Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. 6 As the Scriptures say, “I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”**
 - **So what are these spiritual sacrifices?**
 - **The O.T. sacrifice was a physical offering by a lesser one to a greater one as an act of obedience and worship.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Rom 12:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.**
- **In the O.T. it was “bring an animal” – in the N.T. it is “bring yourself”.**
- **Instead of laying down the life of an animal on the alter, we are called to lay down on the alter ourselves.**






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- We are not normally called to bleed and die on an altar as an act of sacrifice to God – but, we are often called to allow God to ‘consume’ us as He see fit.
 - Heb 13:15 Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. 16 And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.
 - Yes, there is a kind of equality between praising God and doing good for other people.
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **Phil 4:18 At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God.**
 - **Gifts offered to Paul were considered sweet and acceptable to God.**
 - **Think of the two great commandments – sometimes loving God is accomplished by loving people.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- 8 And, “He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they do not obey God’s word, *and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.*
 - Jesus is set in history as the great Unifier and the great Divider at the same time.
 - As Unifier – upon our belief in Him as Savior we are united with the God from whom we were separated.
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **As Divider – when one rejects Jesus as Savior they are forever separated from God.**
 - **And Peter says, “so they meet the fate that was planned for them”.**
 - **Heb 10:26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. 27 There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.**
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1st Peter 2:4-8

- **We eagerly speak of the things that God has planned for the believer, but it is much harder to fathom that God also has plans for those who reject Him.**
 - **From the core of all men comes forth the sense that we are accountable to a God somewhere and that if He is not pleased we are in jeopardy.**
 - **Jesus steps into history and proclaims that He is that God and then went on to prove it – rejecting Him has consequences.**
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Questions

