

The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People

I Peter 2:4-10

I Peter 5

Introduction

In the Old Testament the temple was built by humans out of stone to house the presence of God. Nowadays the Holy Spirit indwells Christians. We are living stones.

We are spiritual houses that God is building.

We are being built on the foundation stone of Jesus.

He is the cornerstone.

Psalm 118:22- ***The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.***

Matthew 21:33-46- ***"Listen to another illustration. A landowner planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, made a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to vineyard workers and went on a trip. "When the grapes were getting ripe, he sent his servants to the workers to collect his share of the produce. The workers took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned a third to death. So the landowner sent more servants. But the workers treated them the same way. "Finally, he sent his son to them. He thought, 'They will respect my son.' "When the workers saw his son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him and get his inheritance.' So they grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. "Now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those workers?" They answered, "He will destroy those evil people. Then he will lease the vineyard to other workers who will give him his share of the produce when it is ready." Jesus asked them, "Have you never read***

in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord is responsible for this, and it is amazing for us to see'? That is why I can guarantee that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce what God wants. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken. If the stone falls on anyone, it will crush that person." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his illustrations, they knew that he was talking about them. They wanted to arrest him but were afraid of the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.

Acts 4:10-11- You and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands in your presence with a healthy body because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Jesus Christ, but God has brought him back to life. He is the stone that the builders rejected, the stone that has become the cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:20- You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone.

(Read I Peter 2:4-10)

I. Spiritual Sacrifices

(Read vs 5)

In the Old Testament the priests offered sacrifices that were physical: animals, food, drink- on behalf of the people.

Now we are to offer spiritual sacrifices to God:

Our bodies to do His work.

Romans 12:1- ***...I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.***

Our money to spread the gospel.

Philippians 4:18- ***...I am completely satisfied with the gifts that you had Epaphroditus bring me. They are like a sweet-smelling offering or like the right kind of sacrifice that pleases God.***

Our praises to glorify God.

Hebrews 13:15- ***Through Jesus we should always bring God a sacrifice of praise, that is, words that acknowledge him.***

Our good works and generosity to represent Him in a lost and needy world.

II. Jesus Is A Stone

(Read vs. 7-8)

People will either see Jesus as a stumbling stone who offends their personal freedom, or as a stone who frees them of the slavery of their sin and who is worthy of worship and obedience.- or as the chief cornerstone.

Truth offends those who do not want to know it, but to a growing Christian truth is life.

III. The People of God

(Read vs. 9-10)

The people of God are no longer just the Jews.

Both Jew and gentile have been called out of darkness in order to witness to

the world about the light of Jesus.

Exodus 19:5-6- *Now if you will faithfully obey me, you will be my very own people. The whole world is mine, but you will be my holy nation and serve me as priests. Moses, that is what you must tell the Israelites.*

Isaiah 61:6- *But they themselves will be priests and servants of the LORD our God. The treasures of the nations will belong to them, and they will be famous.*

Hebrews 4:16- *So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.*

Hebrews 10:19-20- *My friends, the blood of Jesus gives us courage to enter the most holy place by a new way that leads to life! And this way takes us through the curtain that is Christ himself.*

Revelation 5:10- *You let them become kings and serve God as priests, and they will rule on earth."*

Conclusion

We live in a world that rejects Jesus and the Word of God.

They perceive Him as a stumbling stone rather than a stone of salvation.

However, as Christians, we are the opposite. As we walk with Jesus daily, we are to bring (and be) the sacrifices- or stones that the Lord uses to build His kingdom.

We sacrifice ourselves for this.

This is the only way that lost people will ever see the real Jesus.

That will be what our next session is about.

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I Peter Session 5

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(Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:33-46; Acts 4:10-11; Ephesians 2:20)

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_____ is the cornerstone.

I. Spiritual Sacrifices

(Romans 12:1; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15)

In the Old Testament the priests offered sacrifices that were _____: animals, food, drink- on behalf of the people.

Now we are to offer _____ sacrifices to God:

Our _____ to do His work.

Our _____ to spread the gospel.

Our _____ to glorify God.

Our good _____ and generosity to represent Him in a lost and needy world.

II. Jesus Is A Stone

People will either see Jesus as a _____ stone who offends their personal freedom, or as a stone who frees them of the slavery of their sin and who is worthy of worship and obedience.- or as the chief cornerstone.

Truth _____ those who do not want to know it, but to a growing Christian truth is life.

III. The People of God

(Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 61:6; Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-20; Revelation 5:10)

Both Jew and gentile have been called out of _____ in order to witness to the world about the light of Jesus.

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Possible Answers: stumbling, bodies, living, Jesus, money, offends, darkness, praises, physical, spiritual, works