

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 13

1 Peter 2.7-8 Peter shows how the Old Testament ideas of temple, priest and sacrifice now have new meanings because of Jesus.

God is building a spiritual temple... the Church...with Christ as the corner-stone...and Christians are “stones” in God’s Church.

God has created a new “chosen people” ... Now...not a particular family or race, but out of those who are now in Christ!

All Christians (you) are part of the spiritual temple and priesthood. All Christian believers offer prayers and spiritual sacrifices...The believer’s life itself.

“Sacrifices aren’t dead animals any more, but the committed lives of Christians who love and serve the Lord. No wonder Christians feel strange. They are living as God’s people in a pagan world. Peter encourages them to live in such a way that the only thing they can be accused of is being good!”¹

To illustrate this hope, Peter quotes *Psalms* 118.22, describing both Jesus’ rejection, and because of this human rejection, Jesus’ becoming a “stone of stumbling” for those who will not believe.

This leads to Peter’s third Old Testament quote, taken from *Isaiah* 8:14, which affirms that:

“Rejection of Jesus Christ is fatal and is connected with disobeying the message of God’s Word (1 Peter 2:8b). To disobey the message (cf. 4:17) is to reject it; and to obey it is to believe...All who do not receive Christ as their Savior will one day face Him as their Judge. Because of sin, all disobedient unbelievers are destined for a “stumbling,” which will lead to eternal condemnation.”²

1 Peter 2.9-10 As we can see in *vs.9*, another contrast is being made by Peter.... While God knows there are some who have (will) reject the Gospel ...Believers have been...are...a “chosen people.”

Peter also quotes *Exodus* 19:6 in identifying the church as a “holy nation”...

ἔθνος (*ethnos*)... “People” (Nation)...ἅγιος (*hagios*)... “Clean.” (Set Apart)

The church of Jesus is a people now set apart for the Lord, enjoying His special presence, favor, and mission.

Finally, the purpose of God’s people as a called and claimed people for God is explicated. God has...

“...chosen them to be his people, established them as a royal priesthood, appointed them as a holy nation to be his special possession, so that they would “declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. As God formed Israel to praise him, now the church has been established to praise his wonders...They proclaim God’s praises for calling them “out of darkness into his wonderful light.” This is a description of their conversion and employs the language of Genesis 1, where God utters the word and light becomes a reality (Gen 1:3–5), pushing back the darkness...Just as God’s word creates light, so God’s call creates faith. Calling is not a mere invitation but is performative, so that the words God speaks become a reality.”³

¹ A. Knowles. *The Bible Guide* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg, 2001).

² J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985).

³ T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

1 Peter 2.11-12 Verse 11 begins a new section in Peter's exhortations, as Peter now seeks to emphasize that God's people are "beloved of God" even though they are facing serious trials and struggles.

It is precisely that they (we) are God's beloved, that we (they) experience life in this world as "sojourners and exiles."

In light of being "strangers in a strange land," Peter now exhorts believers to live accordingly!

While it is never easy to live the life of faith, particularly when you are being persecuted and challenged in many ways, the struggle is necessary and a part of the Christian journey.

"The depth of the struggle in which believers are engaged is explained by the words "which war against your soul." Obviously the desires of the flesh that emerge in believers are quite strong if they are described in terms of warfare, as an enemy that attempts to conquer believers. Such desires must be resisted and conquered, and the image used implies that this is no easy matter. The Christian life is certainly not depicted as passive in which believers simply "let go and let God." The "soul" here does not refer to the immaterial part of human beings. The whole person is in view, showing that sinful desires, if they are allowed to triumph, ultimately destroy human beings."⁴

Just as Jesus commanded His disciples to "Let your light shine..." Peter adds a similar command.

Christians are to live in such a way that, paradoxically, the very accusations of evil in the sight of unbelievers are really God's ways of salvation, which will ultimately vindicate the believer and bring God glory as well!

Going Forward...

- "The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit, where He dwells...All Christians are priests, having direct access to God through Christ...Priests offer sacrifices; thus Christians offer the sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. These are acceptable to God because of the greatest sacrifice, Jesus Christ (cf Heb 9–10)."⁵
- Martin Luther..."We must recognize in our hearts and believe that we receive everything from Him and that He is our God. Then out with it, and freely and openly confess this before the world—preach, praise, glorify, and give thanks! This is the real and only worship of God, the true office of the priest, and the finest, most acceptable offering" (AE 14:32)."⁶

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2009).

⁶ Quoted in, *The Lutheran Study Bible*.