

1 Peter 2:1-12

Outline

I. Be Hungry for the Word because God is good (1-3)

II. Jesus is the rejected cornerstone chosen by God (4-8)

III. Believers are God's chosen people (9-10)

IV. Live a new life for God's glory (11-12)

I. Be Hungry For The Word Because God Is Good (1-3)

* What is the "therefore" There for? Look on pg.30

* Based on the previous verses, what is the motivation for putting aside these evil things such as malice and slander.

* What motivates people to practice deceit, envy, and slander?

* Why should we be different now?

* How should we desire the Word? Why do you think Peter uses the comparison of a baby desiring milk? What can God's Word do for us?

* Do you desire the spiritual food of the Word to this degree?
What are some things that keep us from desiring the Word as we should?

* How does verse 3 connect with verse 2?

Cross-References

Ephesians 4:31-32 — Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Psalms 1:1-2 - Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night.

Job 23:12 - I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread .

Psalm 19:7-11 - The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decree of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Acts 20:32 - Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Teaching Points

1. Therefore — knowing that Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice (His own Life) to redeem us from sin, this should motivate us in turn to love the people around us.

Also, knowing that God's Word endures whereas the physical materials around us are temporary, also motivates us to love others.- James calls the demonic wisdom of "selfishness" and reminds us of God's wisdom - to treat others as we want to be treated.

2. Malice / deceit / hypocrisy/ envy/ slander. This is a brief sampling of many of the works of the flesh that Galatians 5 lays out an exhaustive list of evil attitudes toward others. These demonstrate outright ill will towards others (malice), lack of integrity, likely for the sake of getting ahead (deceit), insincerity (hypocrisy), wrong desires (envy), and an unedifying tongue (slander).

3. You may not realize just how powerful of an analogy verse 2 is until you have a baby of your own.

Illustration: pg.; 31.

II. Jesus is the rejected cornerstone chosen by God (4-8)

Discussion Questions

- Why is Jesus referred to as a living stone?
- And how are we living stones? In what way are we priests? What sacrifices can we offer that are pleasing to God?

What is a cornerstone? Is Christ the cornerstone/foundation of your life? If we want to examine to see what is the foundation of our life, what could we look at?

* Why does verse 8 say Jesus is a rock of offence and a stone of stumbling ?

* What does it mean "to this doom they are appointed?"

* What doom?

Cross References

2 Samuel 22:3 - My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge, and my savior -from violent people you save me.

Psalms 18:2 - The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2 Samuel 22:47 - "The Lord lives ! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!

Isaiah 8:14 - He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah He will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem He will be a trap and a snare.

Isaiah 28:15-16 - You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the realm of the dead we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place." So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.

Teaching Points

1. A stone. What do you think of when you think of a stone? Jesus often used figurative language to refer to Himself such as when He said, "I AM the living water," and when He said, I AM the bread of life." These references point us to specific character qualities He embodies.

A stone is something that is hard and solid. Stones are used for flooring or foundations because they don't break easily. They provide strong support and are durable . Most stones also don't change very much. Trees, flowers, etc. all change. A stone is about as unchanging as you can get here on earth. Jesus is about yesterday, today, and forever.

In ancient times, stones were used to build walls and fortresses. Often, God is called a rock and a refuge. Fortresses were often made out of rocks. These were the most durable and resistant materials to protect a village or city from its enemies. Arrows and weapons break against the rock, but cannot penetrate it. Try hitting a rock with a sword and see what happens. A rock is even stronger than metal.

Similarly, a wife might view her husband as a "pillar of strength" and lean on him for support. Emotionally and physically, he is tough and can help her to get through difficult situations. Well, that is what Christ is to be like for us. He is our safety and security.

2. This stone, which should be the foundation of Israel and all believers, was rejected by men. They rejected the strong foundations of the building their lives on Christ and His promises. Instead, they opted for the easy way of following their own pleasures and pride.

They decided to build their own lives on earthly materials and pursuits such as money, respect, or fame, which pass away and collapse. This rejection of the Messiah should not come as a surprise. Throughout the history of mankind, people have rebelled against God continually. God wants to hold us to a higher standard and as sinners, we don't want to follow this high standard.

3. Although this stone was rejected by men, He is the most precious and valuable in God's sight. Of course, God's opinion is the one that matters.

4. In this passage we also called living stones. Since we are followers of Christ, we are to take many of His characteristics as our own. For example, we are called lights, and Christ is the light of the world. We are to love others as Christ loved us.

So, what does it mean that we are living stones?

It means we are to be strong in our faith, not like a reed blown and tossed by the wind (James 1). It means that our lives are to be secure and stable because we build them on Christ. We are stones on a stone. It also means that we each are one part (one stone) out of a large building of stones, that is the church. Each one is to fulfill his responsibility of bearing part of the weight. Each one of us is to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God. Romans 12 defines the sacrifice we are to make to God as a living sacrifice. We are to give our very lives to Him.

5. The Jews have a tradition about Solomon's temple. The builders carefully chose every single stone for the project. Some stones were tossed out and not chosen. Each stone were allotted a specific place. The tradition says that one stone was originally discarded. They decided it would not be part of the temple. However, later on they changed their mind. This stone that was first put into the trash heap was later chosen to be the cornerstone of the entire building.

This is an apt analogy of Christ as the cornerstone. He was originally rejected, but He is the foundation. One day in the future, the Jewish nation will see their mistakes and accept Christ as their King and Savior.

6. This stone, who is our salvation, has another role. He is the rock of offence and the stone of stumbling. Stones can also be used to smash. Christ will "smash" those who rejected Him. He will judge all of those who didn't believe. After they reject Christ, they are appointed (set aside) for this coming doom. Their actions of rebellion and disbelief seal their fate, much like a criminal who has been found guilty of murder is appointed for electric chair.