

Readings

Scripture

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:1-12 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

The Parable of the Prodigal Son

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.”

Luke 15:11-16 (English Standard Version)

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Psalms 34:8-14 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Growing Up
1 Peter 2:1-12

A New Way of Living
Brad Anderson

As followers of Jesus we are called to embrace a new way of life... (1 Peter 2:2-3)

That new way of living stands against an old way of life... (1 Peter 2:1, 11)

That new way of living is built upon faith in Jesus Christ... (1 Peter 2:4-8)

- By faith we are like living stones in the temple of God...
 - By faith we serve as a holy, royal priesthood to the world...
 - By faith we are part of a holy nation belonging to God...
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That new way of living embraces a life of exile... (1 Peter 2:4, 9-12)

- Having no place to lay your head...
 - Leading an attractive life...
 - Knowing that Jesus will return...
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Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is your “dream house” like? Where would it be?
- What similarities does Peter show between Christ’s experience and that of these people?
- How is Christ a cornerstone? Why would people stumble over the stone rather than build their lives on it?
- How could you repaint, practically, what Peter meant by his pictures in 1 Peter 2:5, 9? In what ways would it be difficult for Peter’s readers to think of themselves in these terms?
- How is their new status with God to influence the way they live? (1 Peter 2:11-12)
- If you were a war correspondent reporting live from the front, how would you describe the war going on within yourself? (1 Peter 2:11)
- How does it make you feel to be chosen, royalty, and God’s possession? When is it most difficult to remember what God has made you?