

I Peter 2:4-10
"As Living Stones"

Introduction

1. Have you ever thought, 'What's the use...why go on?'
2. I Peter 2:4-10 Do you realize that you are a stone in a greater building project?

Have you ever thought, *What's the use...why go on?* Realize: you are part of something bigger.

I. AN APPOINTED POSITION 2:4-6

A. The Foundation 4,6

1. Our Approach *To whom coming*

- *As you come to Him...it's not Christ coming to us. It is us approaching Him.
- *The word implies a continual action. It is a continual coming for wisdom...for direction...for encouragement...for strength.
- *It is a daily, moment by moment habit in the Christian life.

2. Our Appropriation *A or the living stone*

- A) The Character** Living and stone are a paradox. How can a stone be living? This stone is a person. *Living* because He is alive and He gives life. In verse 6 *on Him* states that He is a stone of judgment that grinds and crushes those who reject Him.
- B) The Contrasts** This One was *disallowed* but also *chosen and precious* (had honor) Men *disallowed, rejected* but God *chose* and *considered precious*.
- C) The Construction** (Isaiah 28:16) There is a 3 fold description:
 - **Chief cornerstone* (Eph. 2:20) It is that which holds the structure together.
 - **Elect* is the same word as *chosen* (1:1; 2:9)
 - **Precious* means to hold in honor.

3. Our Approval *To believe in this One...you shall not be put to shame.*

- A)** The object of our faith will honor our dependence on Him.
- B)** He will never let you down.

B. The Function 5

The main verb: *You are built.* We are now let in on the process of building God's spiritual house. How it is built:

1. *Living stones*...Jesus is the *stone v. 4*. Stones are placed by God. We (believers) are the building stones for God's house. He made us alive!
2. *Built up a spiritual house* (Eph. 2:19-22) Someday the building will be complete. God is the agent who builds this house. Who you are...where you are is by design and for a purpose.
3. *A holy priesthood*...I am a *living stone* and now a *priest* unto God!
 - **Holy* speaks of totally surrendered, totally set apart unto God (1:16, 17)
 - **Priest* is one who can approach God personally.
 - *What is the task of the priest? *To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* There are many sacrifices, but here are a few: *Sacrifices of gratitude...Sacrifices of service...Sacrifices of praise...Sacrifices of our life* (Rom 12:1, 2)
 - *Why is God pleased? **He sees a reflection of His Son in us!!**

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II. AN APPRECIATED POSITION 2:7-8

Unto you therefore who believe **He is precious** (worthy of honor)...*Not so with the disobedient:*

A. The Rejection (Psalm 118:22) Peter borrows a figure from the building trade and stone used in the building trade.

1. Rejected Stone Stones used in the building trade had to be a given size and dimension. They were cut with the aid of a hammer, chisel or even a saw. Stones that did not pass inspection were rejected by the builders. To those who are disobedient, Jesus does not measure up. So it was then and so it is today. To the lost, Jesus does not measure up. He is not what they want or is not what they expected. They are the standard!!

God, the chief architect, takes this rejected stone and puts it as the capstone. He holds everything together. The capstone was the preeminent position in the building. Either the capstone or cornerstone held the building together or took the place of prominence. Both are true with Jesus!!

2. Stumbling Stone This was a loose stone in the pathway. Jesus is an annoyance. He is something to stumble over. To the disobedient...they stumble...step on...Jesus is so annoying!!

3. Rock of Offense This was a ledge rising out of the ground. We either put out faith in Jesus Christ or we dash our foot against Him. One thing for sure is He is not going to be moved by puny man!

B. The Reason *Who stumbles at the Word...being disobedient* which is unable or unwilling to be persuaded.

1. The problem is the disobedient are unwilling to accept God's Word as their authority.

2. They stumble...*being disobedient*. They want to go their own way and do their own thing. That is why they are lost!

C. The Result *Whereunto also they were appointed*

1. If you stubbornly refuse...the outcome is sure.

2. The unpersadable are appointed to stumble at the Word which is the penalty for refusing to believe it.

3. They have made their choice. They will stumble. They will fall.

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III. AN APPROVED POSITION 2:9-10

The contrast: *But you* which is the opposite of unbelief. You are *living stones*, placed there by God!

A. The Placement 9

1. *You are a chosen generation (1:1; 1:23) Being born again:*

**Chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4; 1 Pt. 1:2)*

**Since He chose me...He is responsible for me.*

**As Israel is a chosen nation. He chose me and you.*

2. *You are a royal priesthood*

*We are a priest by birth and consecrated by blood. Blood was placed on 3 places (ear lobe (hear)...thumb (do)...big toe (go)).

*We can present 4 sacrifices: Our own body (Rom 12:1, 2)...Praise to God (Heb. 13:15)...Our substance (Heb. 13:2, 16)...Our service (Heb. 13:16) which is to do good.

3. You are a holy nation

**Holy* is absolute surrender. It is totally being set apart unto God.

**Nation* is a multitude of people with the same nature. They are citizens who obey the same rules and regulations and strive for the well being of their society. We became part of that *nation* at the new birth.

4. You are a peculiar (people who belong to God) God's own possession

*These belong to Him. They are not their own.

*Each saint is God's unique possession. He can do with us what He wants. God knows what is best and wants the best for us.

B. The Purpose 9b

That you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1. There is a purpose behind our placement. *Show forth (vocally) ...bring praise:* Praise for His deeds, power, glory, goodness, hope, peace, love, joy...*Praise the Lord!*

2. *He called me out of darkness.* What a word picture of one who is lost!

3. *Into His marvelous light...I can see!*

C. The Privilege 10

There is a series of contrasts as *darkness and light*

1. *Not a people...now a people of God...a nobody became somebody!*

2. *Had not received mercy (But now) you have mercy.* Mercy is God not giving me what I deserve, but giving me something better.

What's the use? Why go on?

*We are Living Stones...*placed by design for a specific purpose.

He took nobodies and made them somebody: I am chosen...a royal priest...a surrendered nation...a people that belong to Him. He called us out of darkness. **God has been so good to me!**

I am somebody because of Jesus!