

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript*

### **Our Privileges 1 Peter 2:4-10 Part Four**

We have recently finished a financial series. As we examined various biblical principles that should govern our stewardship we mentioned the words of Jesus found in **Acts 20:35** **“It is more blessed to give than receive.”**

These words on the part of Christ were spoken not only from the standpoint of principle but also from His personal experience. “Who has given more than Christ?” No one! (**Phil. 2:5-8**). And who has received more than Christ? No one! (**Phil. 2:9-11**).

Sometimes we fail to see this clearly because of Christ’s abounding goodness toward us is so overwhelming. We might think we have been blessed more in receiving than Christ was in giving and this is not true. The blessing of giving will always exceed the blessing of receiving when it is done in the name of the Lord.

May God give us the grace to understand that because of God’s gift to us through His Son we are now in a position to give and follow the example of Christ. Because of our spiritual privileges granted us in Christ we are in a position to give even as He gave to us.

What are some of these privileges? A number of these privileges are found in the passage that we have begun to examine in **1 Pet. 2:4-10**. In this passage we find numerous privileges that we enjoy as Christ’s disciples.

1) **UNION (VV. 4-5) “And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, (5) you also, as living stones are being built up a spiritual house.”** Having been joined to Christ at the point of our salvation everything that is true of Him becomes true of us. And since He is identified as a “living stone” we become “living stones” in Him. And as “living stones” we are being built up into a “spiritual house.” Or in other words we have become the very habitation of God. We have become the very temple of the Spirit. This is not only true of us individually as we see in **1 Cor. 6**, but this true of also corporately as we see here.

2) **ACCESS (V. 5) - “.... for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”** Not only have we in Christ become God’s temple we have also become His **“holy priesthood.”**

A) Their person

Chosen  
Cleansed  
Anointed  
Ordained

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B) Their work

**“... to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”** As New Testament priests we have the privilege of not offering up the blood of bulls and goats on an altar but rather based upon Christ’s finished work we have the privilege of offering up **“spiritual sacrifices.”**

1) Our bodies (**Romans 12:1**)

2) Prayers (**Rev. 8:3-4**)

3) Praise (**Heb. 13:15**)

4) Good works (**Heb. 13:16**)

5) Souls (**Romans. 15:14-16**)

This week we are continuing on in our study of this passage and we are continuing to seek to identify other spiritual privileges we are enjoying since we have become Christians.....

SECURITY

### SECURITY

Disappointment is a common phenomenon. We plan on certain things happening and they don’t. Sometimes those things are rather routine like coming home and expecting that your car that you left parked in your driveway would be there when you return. Believe me any expectation at all in matters of this world can only set you up for disappointment. You will remember that on New Year’s day this year we had our van stolen, well guess what? It happened again. We had left for our growth group on Tuesday night just before 7:00 O’clock and when we returned just before 10:00 expecting to find our van in the driveway it was not there.

The Lord gave us our van. And then the Lord took our van. Then having taken our van He gave it back only to take it again. Why? Maybe to give me an illustration of how we can’t count on anything in this world. If you do then you will only be set up for disappointment.

This is not even the end of the story. At this very moment Lynn is picking up our van the sheriff’s impound yard.

Could we suffer the same fate in respect to our expectations in Christ? Hopefully you remember the words of Peter exhorting us to look to Jesus in **2 Peter 1:16-19** **“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of His majesty. (17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” - (18) and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.**

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**(19) and so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.**” Peter certainly does not believe that it is possible for those who have placed their trust in Christ to be disappointed. In terms of the matters of this world certainly we may be disappointed but in matters of what we have received in Christ we will never be let down.

This was not the first time Peter spoke of our security in Christ he did the same thing in the passage that is before us.

Look at **V. 6** **“For this is contained in Scripture. “Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and He who believes in Him shall not be DISAPPOINTED.** For all of us who have placed our faith and trust in Christ will not be what ? Disappointed!! ..... Let us take a few moments now and develop this verse.....

**“For this is contained in scripture”** introduces to us the biblical support from the Old Testament for the truths stated in **VV. 4-5.....**Peter does not say “It is written” but only that the above thoughts are “contained” in scripture. This is because the O.T. texts Peter will be introducing to us are not direct quotations. The first O.T. passage that Peter alludes to is now introduced.

**“Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone (AKROGONIAION)....”** This passage is based on **Is. 28:16** where Peter is addressing the nation of Israel and is speaking to them concerning their future Messiah and his future rule in **Zion** or in other words “Jerusalem.” And who is the Jewish Messiah it is Jesus. The stone he has in mind is Jesus. Jesus was called a **“living stone”** in **V. 4** but in this verse we see Jesus being called **“a corner stone”** Peter in **V. 4** centered his attention on the **“quality”** of the stone which was described as “living.” Here by referring to Jesus as the **“corner stone”** he is not calling attention to the intrinsic quality of the stone but rather to the stone’s **position** in the building. The corner stone was the single most important stone in the building. It was the first stone that would be placed on the foundation. As the first stone it would subsequently control the vertical and horizontal lines of the building as it was being constructed which, if perfect, would guarantee the structural integrity of the building. From the passage we are looking at, would one be led to believe that this corner stone was especially well suited for its purpose?

**CHOICE ( EKLECTOS) -** God the father, chose Jesus, God the Son to be the cornerstone of his “spiritual house.”

**PRECIOUS (ENTIMON) -** God calls this chosen cornerstone, precious. This is the same word used in **Luke 7:2** to refer to the servant of the centurion who was considered extremely valuable and irreplaceable.

The structural integrity of the bldg. that is presently being erected by the Lord as His “spiritual house” is secured, is guaranteed by Jesus who is the perfect “cornerstone”, “choice and precious” in God’s sight. The integrity of God’s house is not dependent upon us the “living stones” but rather on that “living stone” Christ who has been placed in the corner of the foundation.

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We will never be disappointed in Christ. We are secure in the knowledge that He is our cornerstone. And because He is perfect, the structural integrity of the building the Lord is erecting is guaranteed. IS THIS SECURITY OR GUARANTEE THE PRIVILEGE OF EVERYONE? NO! Look at the verse again , **“Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.”** This security is offered only to those who believe in the Stone.

But what happens to those who reject the stone and disbelieve? Look at **VV.7-8 “This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve “The stone which the builders rejected, this very corner stone (Ps. 118:22) (8) “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” (Is. 8:14-15)** For those who do not value the preciousness of Christ as the corner stone in God’s spiritual house, who have rejected Him, who have not believed in Him will experience spiritual ruin. And the very stone that they rejected, which was God’s corner stone, becomes the means by which they are judged..... **“... this very stone (8) ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’”**

**“Stone of stumbling”** ( LITHOS PROSKOMMATOS) - When people reject Jesus he becomes for them a stone, cut and fitted, to accomplish what? THEIR STUMBLING. Some one might say no big deal but let us go on. Not only does Jesus in their rejection become their **“stone of stumbling.”** But He also becomes their **“rock of offense.”**

**“Rock of offense”** (PETRA SKANDALOU) - The term “rock” does not denote a building stone (LITHOS), but rather portrays a large embedded bolder, a great rock cliff; it is a large rock that human opposition cannot dispose of. Why is this significant? Look at the next word. In classical Greek, the term SKANDALON denoted the trigger stick that released a deadly trap. In New Testament usage, the term is figurative and denotes enticement to sin and apostasy; it is used to denote that which causes one’s fall morally, involving men in sin and its disastrous consequences. The picture that is being presented to us here is people stumbling over Christ in unbelief and as a result being crushed by Him in judgment.

People cannot avoid Christ by their unbelief. Either they come to Christ as a choice and precious corner stone exercising faith and receive honor and vindication or they become disobedient to the Word of God or more specifically the Gospel, rejecting Jesus and receiving the judgment that has been appointed, determined for all those who would reject Him. If there is any doubt concerning this horrible end all we have to do is read **V. 8 “And, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and this doom they were appointed.”** The word “appointed” is the aorist passive of the verb TITHEMI, “to put” or “to place.” Don’t think that those who reject Jesus will not experience a crushing at the hand of God they will. For it has been appointed , God has put them or placed them in that position of judgment already.

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### CONCLUSION

What is Jesus to you? If you have not placed your faith in Him as God's choice and precious corner stone. If you have not placed your faith and trust in Him as God's only provision for our sin and the foundation for His church. Then Jesus though He is choice and precious will become to you a stumbling stone and rock of offense. The sentence for your rejection has already been determined. It has been appointed. Is there hope? Repent and change your mind about Jesus.

We need to understand that just as assuredly we can know that those who reject Christ are doomed to stumble and be crushed by Him in judgment those who believe in Him and embrace Him as God's choice and precious cornerstone will be built into a spiritual house and a holy habitation for God. **AND WE WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**

I really do enjoy the words written to Timothy by Paul in **2 Tim. 1:12** “**For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.**” May the Lord use the message of Peter this morning to build this same kind of confidence with our own lives. And being in this position of strength may we follow in the steps of Jesus and empty ourselves so that others might come to Him also.