

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Our Privileges 1 Peter 2:4-10 Part Five

We are continuing our study of **1 Pet. 2:4-10**. We are continuing to consider the many privileges that we enjoy as the children of God.

What have we seen so far?

1) UNION (**VV. 4,5a**) “**And coming to Him as 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 but it is also true of us corporately as we see here.

2) ACCESS (**V. 5b**) “..... **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.**” As we examined our priesthood we discovered that just as the O.T. priests were chosen, cleansed, anointed and ordained we also have been chosen, cleansed, anointed, and ordained. We also discovered that just as the function of O.T. priests was to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God we also are to offer up acceptable sacrifices to god. The significant difference however between O.T. priests and ourselves it that they offered dead animal sacrifices while we are are to offer up spiritual sacrifices.

A few spiritual sacrifices that are mentioned in the N.T. are:

- a) Our bodies (**Rom. 12:1**)
- b) Prayers (**Rev. 8:3-4**)
- c) Praise (**Heb. 13:15**)
- d) Good works (**Heb. 13:16**)
- e) Souls (**Rom. 15:14-16**)

3) SECURITY (**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.**” When we place our faith in Christ, God’s choice and precious corner stone, we have a secured future. This is not so for those that reject God’s choice and precious corner stone. 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)**

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(8) A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” (Is. 8:14,15). For those who reject God’s choice and precious corner stone that very corner stone becomes to them a stumbling stone and a rock of offense. That very stone becomes for them an instrument of judgment. **PEOPLE CANNOT AVOID CHRIST BY THEIR UNBELIEF.** Their doom is certain which was made clear at the end of **V. 8** **“.....for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”**

We are now ready to continue in our study with **V. 9**, but before we do this I would like to go back to **V. 7** and make a comment about a significant difference in the various translations of the phrase **“this precious value.”** We can see the difficulty when we compare the NAS, KJV, and NIV with one another. The KJV and the NIV translations suggests an emotional response of believers to the stone. These translations communicate a heartfelt affection for the stone. See how this is done let us first of all look at the KJV **“Unto you therefore which believe he is precious...”** and then we see the same thing being done in the NIV. **“Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.”** It is a wonderful thing to feel affection. And it is a wonderful thing to have feelings of affection for Christ. And to see Him as truly precious. But a number of different scholars raise questions about this translation. Bigg insists that the noun, He is never used “of that value of affection which we call ‘preciousness.’” Supporting his viewpoint is a man named Grudem who asserts, “The word TIME never takes this sense of preciousness in any of its forty one New Testament occurrences. His observation is supported by the fact when Peter is referring to Christ as the Lord’s **“choice and precious corner stone”** Peter does not choose the the Greek word TIME but he rather chooses the word ENTIMON. It would be better to understand TIME not as the predicate of the sentence but rather as the subject. And since the most natural meaning of TIME is “value” the best translation I believe would be **“this value then is for you who believe.”**

And what is this “Value” or as the NAS translates it “This precious value?” It is the honor , the joyous privilege OF NEVER BEING DISAPPOINTED.

I want to make it clear however that just because I do not believe that TIME is not referring to the preciousness of Christ in this passage but rather to the value that we have received in Christ. This does not change the fact that Christ is in fact precious and we as believers need to view Him as such. In fact the Bible teaches us that love for Christ is basic in a believer’s Christian experience..... **John 8:42 “.... If God were your Father, you would love Me.”** And how extreme would this love be? **Mt. 10:37** tells us that it is a love that surpasses our love for our Father or mother , brother or sister. And how would this be demonstrated? It would be manifested in the area of obedience. **John 14:15 If you love Me you will keep My commandments.”** The love for the things or even the people of this world should not overpower our love for and affection and sense of allegiance we have for Christ..... It should not even be close to it.

Let us move on So far we have seen the following privileges that believers enjoy in Christ..... **UNION WITH GOD, ACCESS TO GOD, AND SECURITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.....** and now we see that we also enjoy the privilege of **ELECTION.**

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ELECTION

Do you remember back to when you were in school and when you would go out to the playground to play ball? Two captains would begin to choose who they wanted on their team. If you were particularly athletic you would be chosen very quickly, but if you were not particularly athletic you would be chosen near the end. The feelings that young children go through as they are being passed over can be very painful. As you grow older and become a young person. And you find yourself being passed over in terms of social situations can be very painful. Young people will begin to become very critical of themselves. They will often times begin to feel that they are unimportant and without value. As an adult even there continues to be the sense of rejection that continues to raise it's ugly head as you are passed over for promotion or for pay raises. What a wonderful thing it would be that people could experience the joy of being chosen. To know that you have been valued. That we are special to someone.

Well for us as believers we have the joy of knowing that we have been chosen not just by a boy baseball captain, or by a beautiful young woman or a handsome man for a date, or by a boss for a promotion but the King of glory to inherit eternal life and to be for ever is child. This is our joy.

Let us examine **V. 9** **“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”**

The verse begins with the word **“but.”** The Greek is emphatic. In contrast with those who are doomed you and I are a chosen race. The word translated **“chosen”** is the Greek word EKLECTOS from which we get our English word, election. This is not the first time in this epistle that Peter has stated that we are a “chosen people” or an elect people. We saw the very same thing in **1 Pet. 1:1**, **“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are CHOSEN.**

WE ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A CHOSEN RACE IN VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY AS ISRAEL IS A CHOSEN PEOPLE OR CHOSEN RACE. This close relationship with the nation of Israel is evident by the words that Peter chooses in **V. 9**. The words that he chooses are words that are found in a very similar O.T. text addressed to Israel in **Deut. 7:6**, **“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”** Some people might find this concept difficult to accept. People as a whole want to take credit for their accomplishments or their honors. But no matter how much we the church or Israel might want to take credit for our special standing before the Lord as His chosen people or race it just isn't true.

ISRAEL - Deut. 7:7 **“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.”**

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CHURCH - 1 Cor 1:26-31 “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; (27) but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, (29) that no man should boast before God (30) But by his doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, (31) that, just as it is written, Let Him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

We are now Christians, not because of us, but because God has chosen.

THE FACT OF IT

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but **I chose you**, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain....” Paul was chosen and he went out and bore fruit and the fruit that was born was born by God’s choice..... **1 Cor. 1:9**, “**God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.** We are a part of that abiding fruit and we should appreciate that our present status is the result of God’s choice. **1 Thess. 1:4**, “**knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.**”

THE TIME OF IT

Eph. 1:4 “**Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love.**” How long before the foundation of the world? A long time.... **2 Thess 2:13** “**But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.**” How did God go about making this choice before time in eternity past?

BASIS OF CHOICE

1 Pet. 1:1-2 “..... who are chosen (2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.” The basis is foreknowledge.

Some people think when the scriptures speak of “foreknowledge” that God somehow anticipated what we were going to do and chose us on the basis of our anticipated future actions. This initially might sound logical, but in fact it is totally illogical. If God’s choice is based on us this makes man sovereign and gives him credit for his own faith, that assumes that man can and does seek God, it makes salvation a human work, and relegates God to a second class deity. The Bible teaches us that He is sovereign, that man cannot take any credit for believing, that man cannot and does not seek God, that salvation is not a human work at all. And that God is never a victim of the choices. When the Bible speaks of knowing many times it has nothing to do with knowledge as much as with relationship. This is why in **Gen. 4:1** it says that “**Adam knew his wife Eve.**” Does this mean that he became aware of her for the first time. No it means that he established an intimate relationship with her.

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God foreknew us in the sense that he had eternity past established a relationship with us even before we were born, even before we were conceived. And this relationship had nothing to do with anything about us. **2 Tim. 1:9, “Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.”**

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHOICE

Isn't this a mind boggling privilege? Does this mean I am a Christian because of God's decision before the foundation of the world?..... Yes.

This is the most pride crushing truth of scripture. Our salvation had nothing to do with ourselves at all.

Secondly it is the most God exalting doctrine. It is all of God.

Thirdly it is the most strength producing doctrine. We have nothing to fear for who shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ.

God the Father chose. And how special were we to Him in His choice of us. He was willing to send His only begotten Son Jesus into this world to die for us.....