

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 11

2:4-8— “*Christ, the Living Stone*”—May 17, 2015

“Thou art He who, for our salvation, was made the head stone of the corner, precious and honorable, declared before to Zion.”
—Methodius of Olympus, 3rd Century

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-12

The Christian's Life in Relation to God—1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The Christian's Position in the People of God—1 Peter 2:4-10

Before we came to Christ we had no part in the promises of God. As Christians, we are now part of God's people through Christ. He has secured for us an inheritance (1:4) and made us a part of all that God had predicted through the prophets (1:11). We should live holy lives now (1:16) because God has chosen us and made us His. Knowing this privileged position helps Christians to further understand how to live during our time of exile.

Christ, the Living Stone—1 Peter 2:4-8

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.*

- There are two subjects in view: 1. _____
2. _____

1. Christ: The Living Stone

“rock-stone” imagery in scripture: Is. 8:14— The stumbling stone; Is. 28:16— The foundation stone; Is. 51:1— The parental rock; Ps. 118:22— The rejected but vindicated stone; Dan. 2:34— The supernatural stone that fills the earth; Zech. 12:3—The burdensome stone.

Contrast:

⇒ He is *rejected* by men.

⇒ He is *chosen* and precious in God's sight.

2. Christians: Living Stones

⇒ Built up as a spiritual house—The imagery is that of a _____

⇒ To be a *holy priesthood*

⇒ To offer *spiritual sacrifices*

Peter is reorienting worship away from a place and towards a _____.

⁶For 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...

- The scriptural basis: Is. 28:16

⇒ Christ is the *cornerstone*.

- Christians are not put to shame because they have been chosen in Christ.

⇒ His honor is *imputed* to Christians.

...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.

- Ironically, ultimate dishonor is reserved for those who reject Christ and dishonor His people.
- The scriptural basis: Ps. 118:22

Is. 8:14

Christ is the object of the Christian’s _____ and the unbeliever’s _____.

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter wants Christians to understand that their worship of Jesus Christ is the _____ of the shadows in Old Testament worship.

Peter wants Christians to know that their faith in Christ has brought them _____ in God’s sight, even if they are currently experiencing rejection by the wider culture.